

National Youth Foundation *Presents:*

# Jalak's Journey to Success



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Passion

Hard Work

Love What You Do

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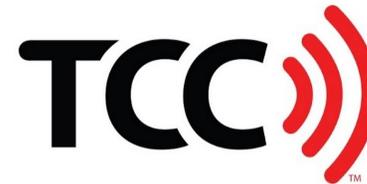
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# 2017

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## Youth Writers Workshop Sponsors

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**SPECIAL THANKS TO:**

**Jalak Jobanputra  
Victoria Hanson**

**This Book is Dedicated to:**  
**ALL THE AMAZING WOMEN OF THE WORLD**



## Foreword

*Jalak has been a leader and innovator in the technology space for many years. I was so honored when we launched the L'Oreal Women in Digital program to have Jalak join us as our first advisor. She constantly inspires other women of all generations to be their best self and create impact in this world. Her intellect, tenacity and good sense of humor makes me proud to collaborate with her and also call her a personal friend and mentor.*

Rachel Weiss

Head of Innovation, L'Oreal

It was a sunny morning in Nairobi, Kenya. The tropical orchids were blooming and, while this was happening, a baby was being born. It was September and a beautiful baby girl named Jalak was born to very proud parents. Kenya is a country in East Africa with a coastline on the Indian Ocean. This very ocean had brought her grandparents all the way to Africa from Gujarat, India.



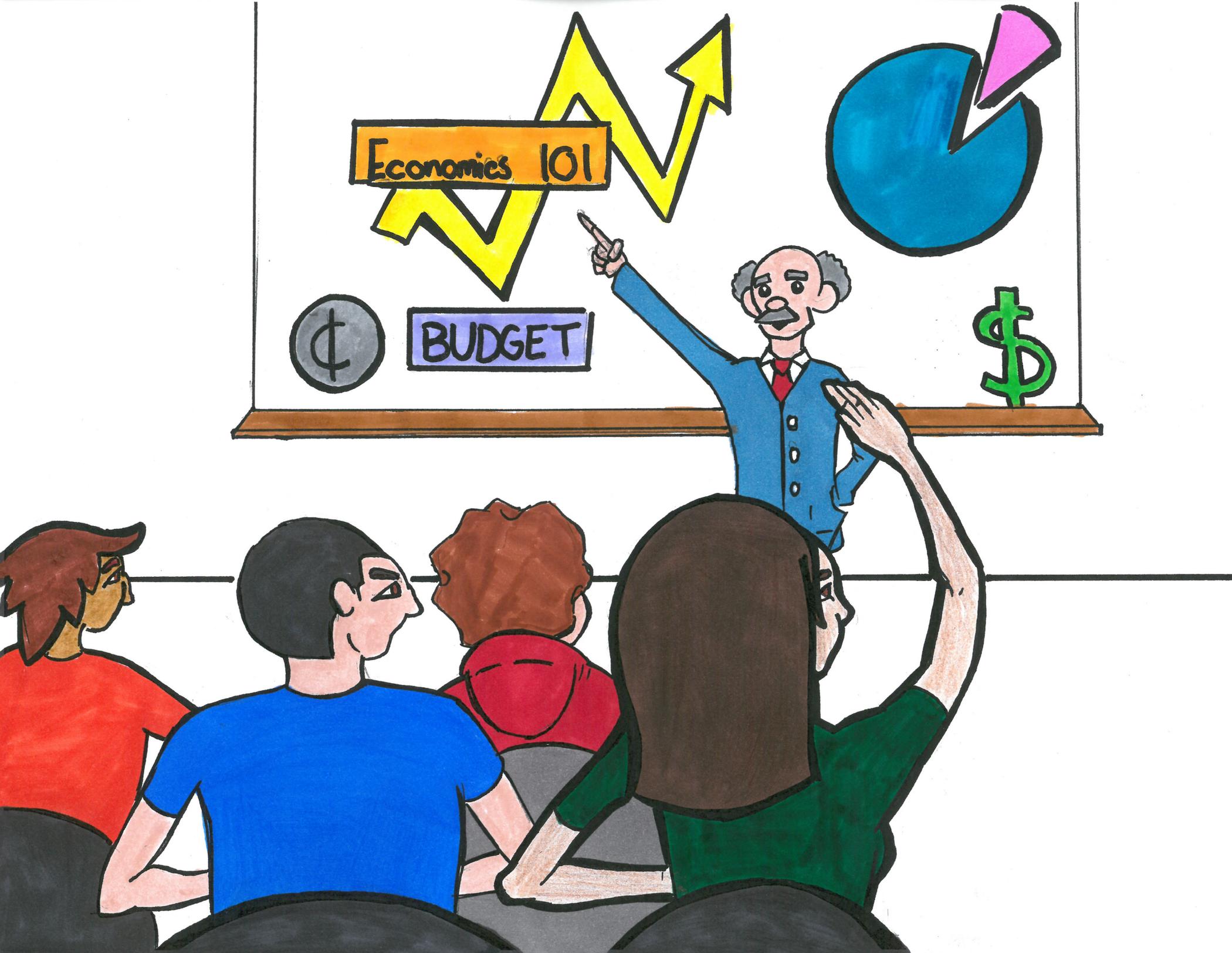
At the early age of five years old, Jalak Jobanputra, her mom Rohini, dad Kishor and her brother Nishith moved over 7,000 miles to New Jersey. Her parents were both doctors and they came to America for better opportunities. It was much colder than where they had lived before, but they learned to adjust. To help her adapt to American culture, her parents signed her up for ballet. It was in ballet class that her parents discovered that their daughter had a hidden talent. She was an exceptional ballet dancer. Jalak liked ballet because when she worked hard, she could see results.



Ballet was not Jalak's only gift. She enjoyed creative writing, especially poetry. When she was ten, she wrote a letter to Indira Gandhi, India's first and only female Prime Minister. More surprising than a ten-year-old writing a letter to a Prime Minister was that Jalak got a response back. On her first trip to India, Jalak and her family were invited to meet Indira Gandhi. This was the highlight of Jalak's trip.

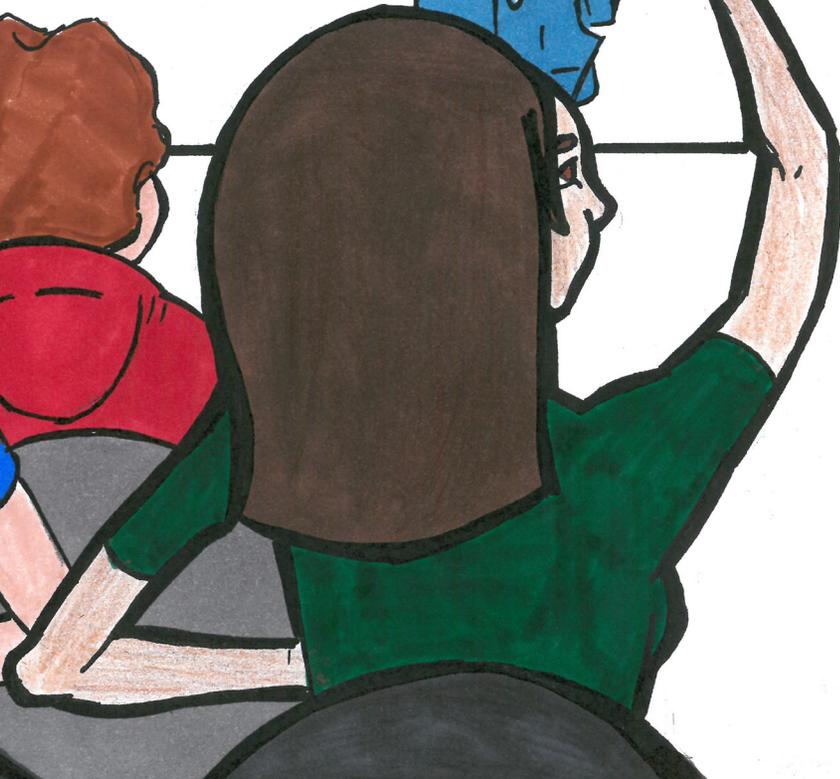
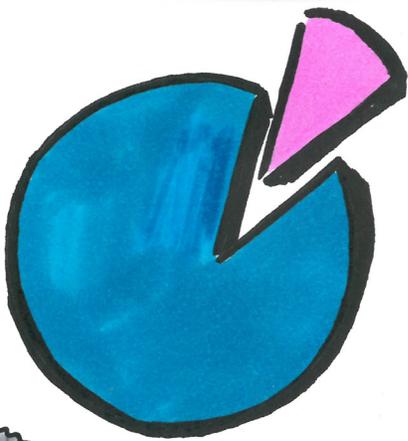


Jalak was an honor student in high school. She went to the University of Pennsylvania for college. This is an Ivy League school in Philadelphia, PA. At college, she continued her love of writing by majoring in English. Early in her college life, boys in her dorm were talking about their Economics class and how it was very hard. Jalak wanted to challenge herself, so she decided to take an Economics class, even though she hadn't been exposed to the subject before. To her surprise, she found Economics to be easier than she had thought. In fact, she decided to change her majors to Finance and Communications.

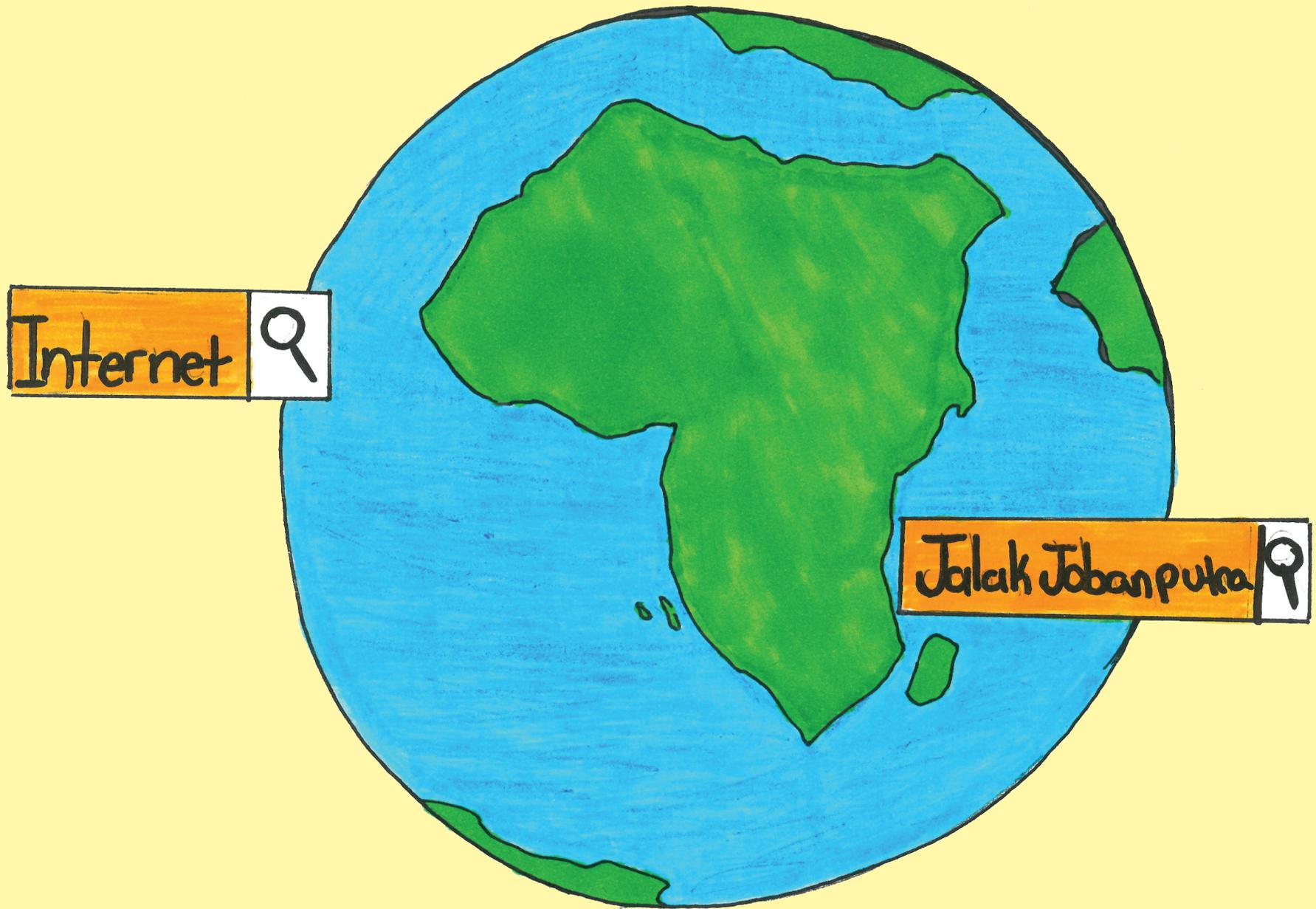


Economics 101

BUDGET

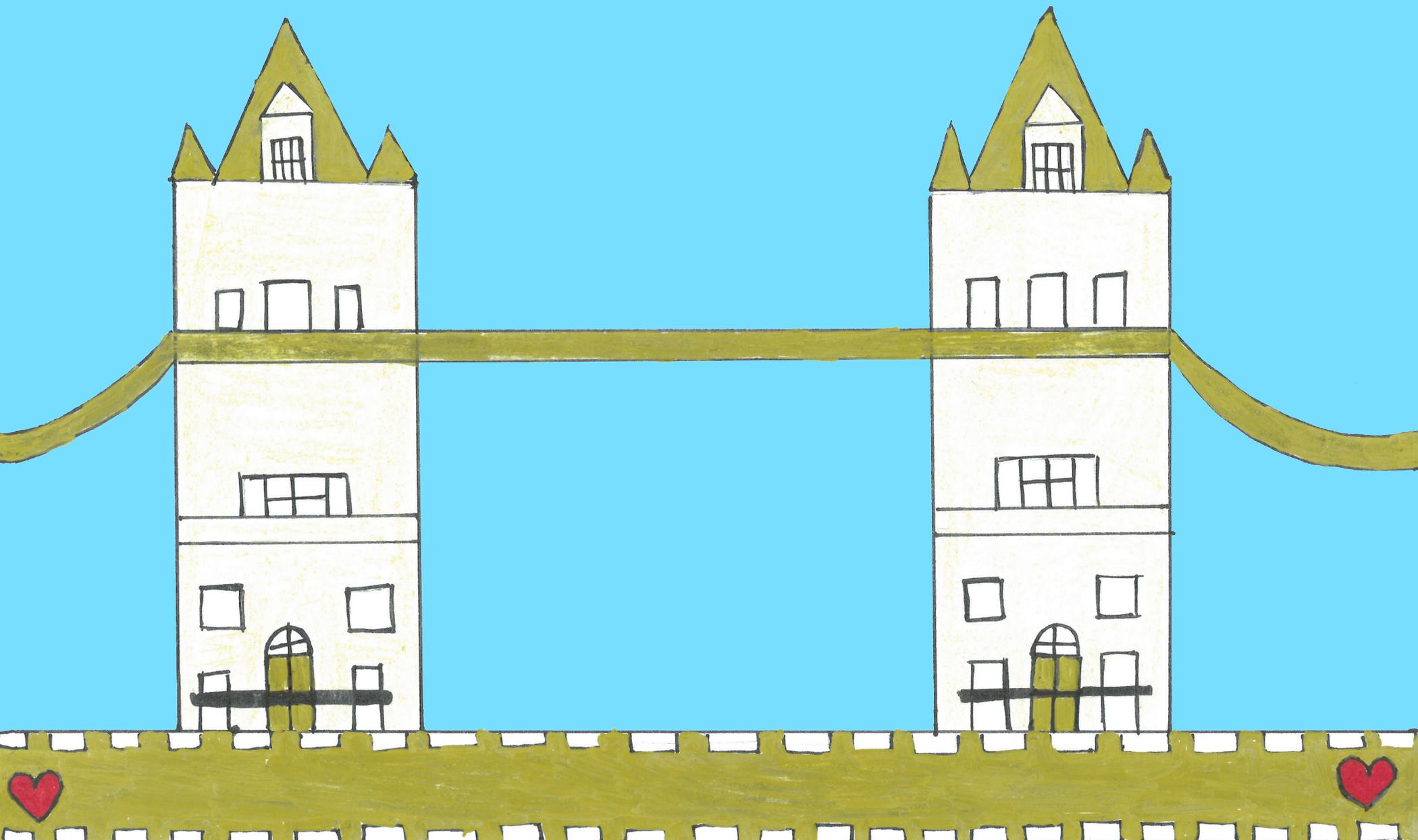


After Jalak finished college, she decided to work in investment banking in London, England. She was one of very few women that worked in investment banking. One of the highlights of her career was that she was part of a team that took Netscape public. Netscape was the original search engine before Google. This was a major step into technology for Jalak, but it would not be her last.



World Wide Web

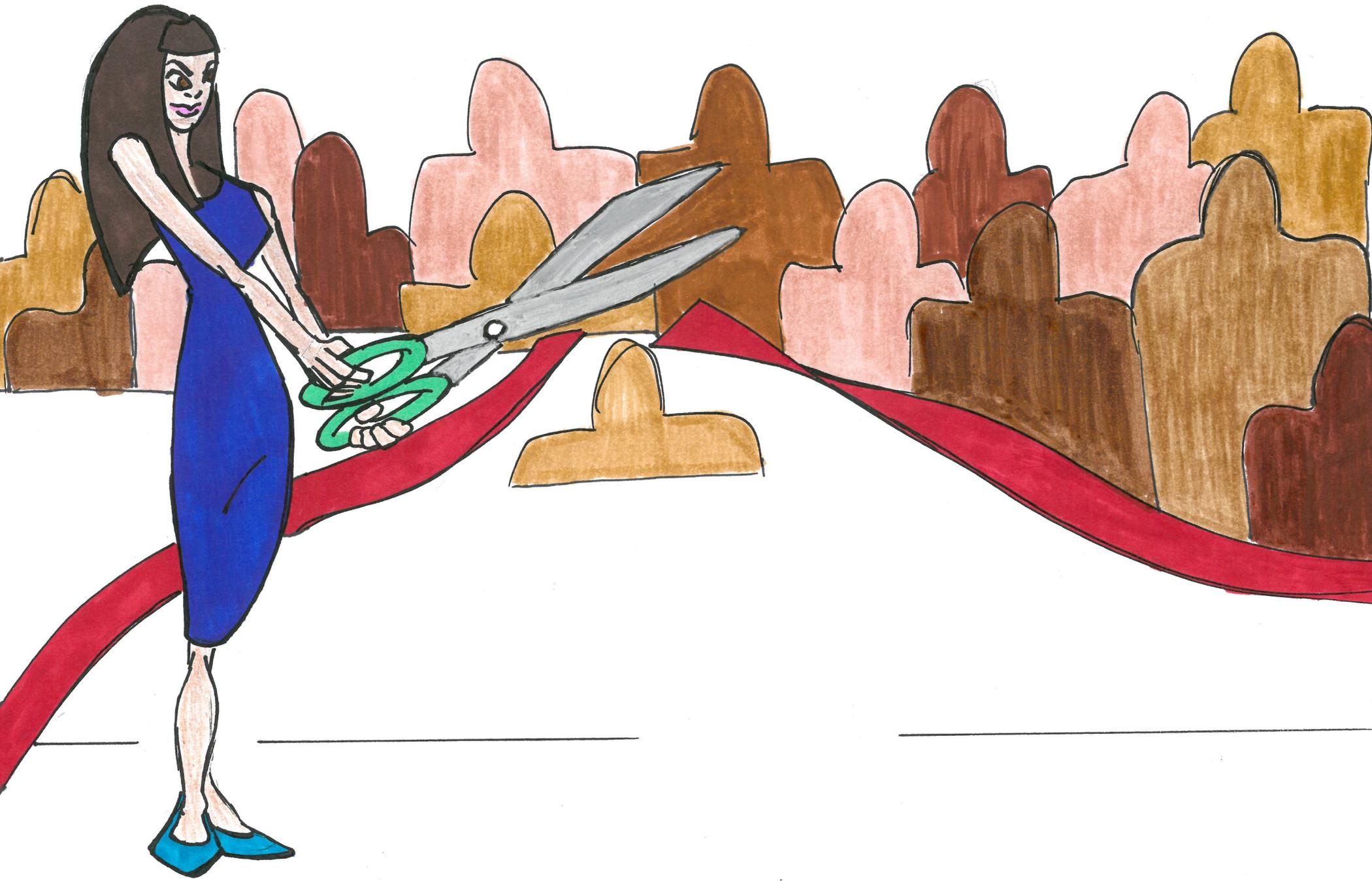
In 1997, Jalak left London to come back to America to learn more about the internet. She went to the prestigious Kellogg School of Management to learn more about technology and business. It was at this point that Jalak decided that she wanted to become a venture capitalist. As a venture capitalist, she raises money from universities, large companies, and wealthy individuals and then invests that money into very small companies in the technology area. She had to be brave because only 4% of venture capitalists in senior positions were women. Lucky for her, her parents taught her that she could do anything!



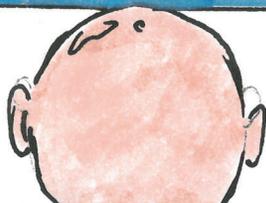
As a venture capitalist, Jalak has held many important positions. She was a Director of Omidyar Network fund, which was started by Pierre Omidyar, co-founder of eBay. Jalak did not get to help the company with buying and selling items on eBay, she was busy working on investing in technology all around the world. She even funded mobile technology that helped to improve communication in her birth area of East Africa.



Building on her success working for others, Jalak became one of a handful of women to start her own venture capital fund. As the founding partner of Future\Perfect Ventures, she helps small technology companies secure funding and become successful. Future\Perfect Ventures is unique because it works with entrepreneurs who are committed to using technology to make the world better. To start her own company, Jalak had to be brave and had to remember to believe in herself.



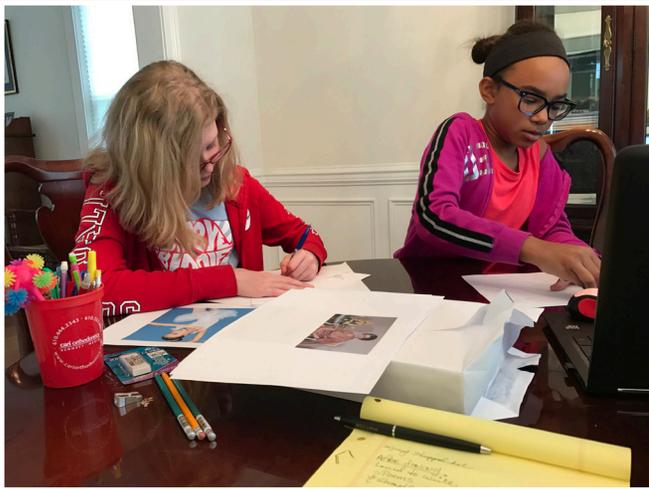
Jalak is not only a venture capitalist, but she has been featured in famous magazines, newspapers, and has lectured at lots of famous places. She has been in the Economist, Huffington Post, Forbes and much more. She also lectured at Bloomberg. Bloomberg is a software, data, and media company. By her taking time to speak and present to the public, she is showing that girls can compete at the highest level in every profession.



Many people think that the secret to success is just good luck, but it's not. In Jalak's words, the secret to success is working hard, being passionate about your work, believing in yourself and loving what you do. She does not believe in taking shortcuts either. Almost everyone runs into obstacles in life. To become successful, Jalak worked hard around the obstacles that came before her. She believes that it is important to embrace our differences and for all people to find their power for success.

# Jalak's Secrets to Success





## OUR MISSION

The National Youth Foundation is dedicated to enriching the lives of children through creative educational programming. Our mission is to promote tolerance and equality while helping young students develop their literary skills through academic and team building projects.





## FUN FACTS

In Hindi, Jalak means glimpse.

When Jalak first moved to the United States, at the young age of five, she didn't know how to speak English. She only knew Gujarati, a dialect of Hindi.

In her free time, she enjoys yoga and at least one rock climbing trip a year.

Throughout middle and high school she was the only girl in her honors math and science classes.

When Jalak was young she won an award for a book she wrote about Mahatma Gandhi.

Jalak finds it exciting to find small companies with leaders who want to change the world and she helps them do just that.

