

This Way, Charlie Free Activity Packet By Caron Levis

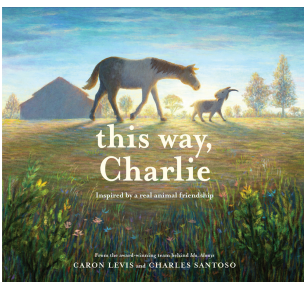
About the Packet: As an author and social worker Caron is always thinking about **Big Feelings, Big Changes, and Big Questions!** Inside, you will find activity sheets (for various ages pre-k—5th grade) written by Caron to support young readers' exploration of social emotional and literacy skills through the themes of friendship, support, and emotion in *This Way, Charlie*. Contents include:

- Coloring Sheet
- Honeysuckle Breath for Bravery & Favorite Field grounding activities
- Moon Medal sheet
- What Friends Are For sheet (2 types)
- Facing Big Challenges (2 types)
- Create Your Animal Story sheet
- Spot the ReVISION activity sheet



Caron will keep adding activities to this packet and her blog, so sign up for [her monthly-ish newsletter](#) or check www.caronlevis.com for updates.

Book a school visit and have your reader get a behind the scenes peek at Caron's writing process and explore Big Feelings, Big Changes, and Big Questions together.
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About the Book:

From the award-winning team behind *Ida, Always* comes a story about a friendship that grows between a blind horse and a gruff goat.

All the animals at the Open Bud Ranch can see that Jack likes keeping his space to himself. But when Charlie arrives, he doesn't see Jack at all. He's still getting used to seeing out of only one of his eyes. The two get off to a bumpy start. At first, Jack is anxious and distrustful. But one day, he summons his courage and guides Charlie to his favorite sunlit field: *this way, Charlie*. And so begins a powerful friendship that will be tested by life's storms—but will ultimately change each life for the better.

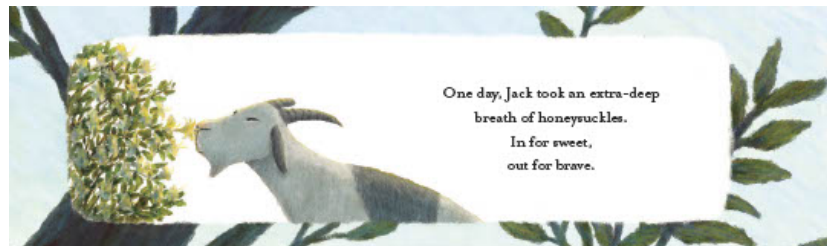
***STARRED REVIEW:** "This picture book has much to offer for young readers about life's challenges and how we handle them. Levis (*Ida, Always*) excels at crafting emotional, but never saccharine, tales of friendship. Strongly recommend." *School Library Journal*



This Way, Charlie

words by www.caronlevis.com - pictures by www.charlessantoso.com
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Honeysuckle Breath for Bravery



In *This Way, Charlie* Jack wants to help the new horse, Charlie, but feels nervous about making a new friend. Taking a deep breath of his favorite flower helps him. Taking deep breaths helps author Caron Levis when she wants to feel brave about making friends, trying new things, or just feels worried. Try it:

- Stand or sit in a balanced steady position. (You can try this lying on your back too!)
- Notice your feet (or bottom) connected to the ground (or chair.) Notice your head is surrounded by air.
- Close your eyes or pick a spot to let them rest in one place.
- Imagine in front of you is a sweet honeysuckle flower or any flower or sweet smell you like.
- Gently breath in the sweet smell through your nose and let it fill your whole stomach.
 - (option: keep one hand on your stomach to see how it moves out a little.)
- Breath out the air from your mouth while saying (out loud or in your head) “braaaaaaave.”
- Repeat 3 times.
- Notice, how does your body feel?
- Let your breath go back to however it wants to be today, and know that anytime you need to feel a bit calmer or braver, you can take another Honeysuckle Breath, it’s always with you.

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FAVORITE FIELD

Jack and Charlie feel safe at Open Bud Ranch and peaceful in their favorite sunny field. Caron and Charles used real places and their imaginations to inspire the calming colors, shapes, sounds, and scents of the ranch. Imagining or drawing a favorite place is one way we can help our bodies and minds feel peaceful and calm, anytime we want! Try it:

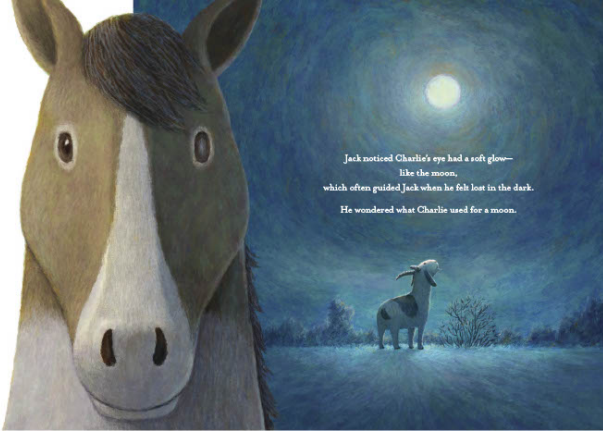
- Close your eyes or pick a spot to rest them on.
- Where is a place you feel safe and peaceful?
 - Choose a real place you know, an imaginary one, or a mix.

There’s no right or wrong. The important part is that this place makes you feel good!

- What colors do you see? What shapes? What sounds are there? Scents? Other people? Animals? Objects?
- Draw it! Give it a special name. (ex. Caron’s Cozy Corner)
- Share your place with a friend or in a group in person or online. (Your trusted adult will help decide.)
- Imagine your place when you are feeling worried, frustrated, or anytime you want to feel peaceful.



MOON MEDAL: Celebrate and remind yourself of who supports you!



In *This Way, Charlie*, Jack observes that Charlie's eye has a "soft glow, like the moon." The moon helps Jack find his way when he gets confused in the dark.

I dedicated this book in part to my "many moons" because just like the moon helps Jack find his way in the dark, my friends help support me when I am feeling confused, scared, or nervous about something (like meeting new people or writing a new book!)

Materials:

- Paper for coloring (construction paper if at hand)
- Crayons, markers, or colored pencils.
- Scissor & (optional) hole punch
- String or ribbon

Steps:

- **Draw & cut** a full moon circle out of paper (trace a large jar or lid if you like.)
- **Think of someone who supports you and helps you feel peaceful or brave!**
- Write and/or draw something that reminds you of them: what colors will you use? Shapes? More Options:
 - use photos, magazines, paper to make your moon medal a collage!
 - Add words to the other side. Example "_____ makes me feel _____ (brave/loved/peaceful.)"
- Holepunch/cut a small hole at the top of your Moon Medal.
- Thread yarn, ribbon, or twine through the hole and make a knot.
- **Remember & Celebrate!** Hang your moon somewhere as a reminder of who supports you OR give your special friend the medal as a thank you!

Moon Medal for

You make me feel

Thank You!

from, _____

**"The way I see it,
that's what a friend like you is for."
-This Way, Charlie**



"The way I see it, that's what a friend like you is for."

In *This Way, Charlie*, Jack guides Charlie to a sunny field and finds help when Charlie is stuck. Jack protects Charlie from the rain and encourages him to make new friends. Caron's friends have helped her by doing things like: show her how to do cartwheels, bring her tissues when she is sad or sick, and encouraging her to keep trying when she makes mistakes with her writing. She has helped friends by listening to them, sharing good books, and telling jokes to make them laugh. How do you help your friends? How do your friends help you? Draw and write below:

I helped a friend when _____

A large, empty rounded rectangle with a blue border, intended for a child to draw and write about how they helped a friend.

A friend helped me when _____

A large, empty rounded rectangle with a blue border, intended for a child to draw and write about how a friend helped them.

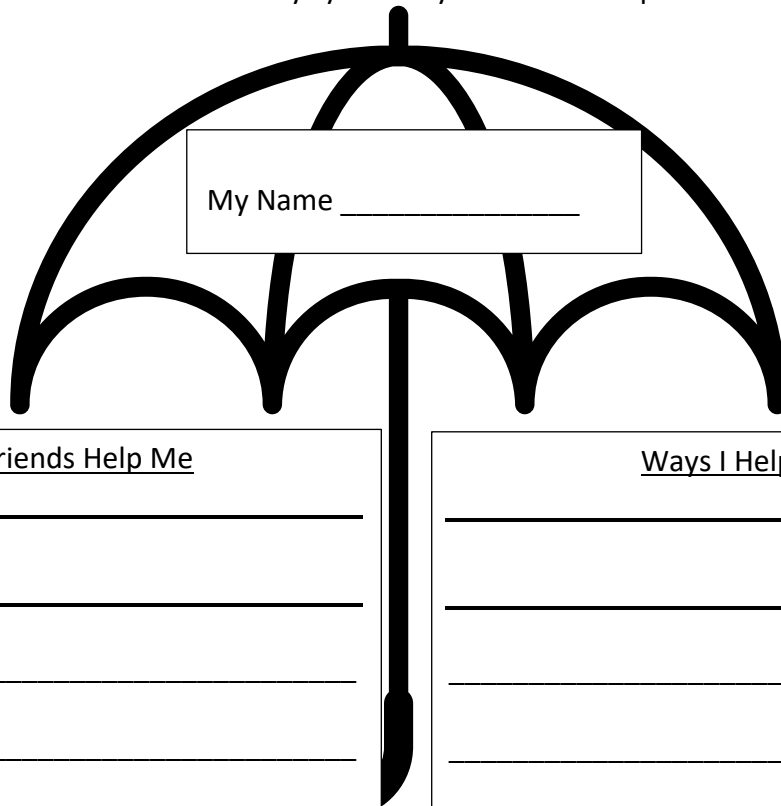
“The way I see it, that’s what a friend like you is for.”

Dear Reader,

There are all kinds of ways friends help each other feel calm, cared for, and even brave! In *This Way, Charlie*, Jack guides Charlie to a sunny field when he can’t see the path; Jack protects Charlie from the rain and encourages him to make new friends. My friends help me by reading rough drafts, reminding me to breath when I’m scared (of spiders!) and trying new things with me (cartwheels!) I help my friends by listening, brainstorming ideas, sending encouraging notes. How do you help your friends? How do your friends help you?

Caron

Use the umbrella below to remember the ways you and your friends help each other! Use words and pictures.



My Name _____

Ways My Friends Help Me

Ways I Help My Friends

“...so Jack moved closer.”

Dear Readers,

Sometimes when I see a friend, my community, or the world facing a BIG challenge—I feel so small! I wonder what can I do? In *This Way, Charlie*, Charlie is a big horse whose body is changing in a big way—Jack can’t stop him from losing his eyesight, but he can use his legs, eyes, and friendship to guide him to the field! Jack has a big fear of making friends that Charlie can’t make go away, but he can use his body and patience to protect him from the rain and help grow his courage!



What is a big challenge you want to help with? _____

What is one important way you do or can help with one part of the challenge? _____

"The mud was thick and the branches were strong,
but the whole ranch working together was stronger."

What challenges have you and your "ranch" faced
together?

Write & Draw!



My name is _____

My ranch is (my family, class, school, neighborhood, etc.) _____

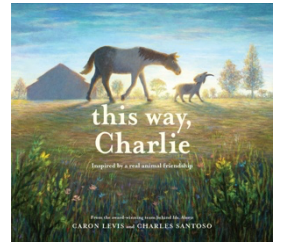
A large rounded rectangular box for drawing or writing.

A challenge we have faced is _____

Some ways we worked together to face our challenge were _____

A large rounded rectangular box for drawing or writing.

Create YOUR Animal Friendship Story!



Name _____ Date _____ Grade _____

1. Characters! Choose and name two animals to be friends in your story:

One animal is a _____ named, _____

The other animal is a _____ named, _____

2. Setting! Where will your story take place?

3. Action! What will your characters do together? (Examples: swim, dance, help somebody.)

The two animals like to _____

4. EMOTIONS! What feelings will be in YOUR story? _____

5. What will the TITLE of your story be? Draw & Write Your Book Cover!

Spot my re-VISION!

Hi Students,

Revision is my favorite part of writing! When I feel stuck or frustrated, I remember that revision is where I get to play and make choices for my stories that will make me feel proud to share them! In *This Way, Charlie* I started by reVISION-ing the real-life story as I turned it into a work of fiction. Can you spot the changes I made? What changes do you make in your stories?

Keep writing! *Caron*

Here is the real story I started with:

Charlie was a very old horse who came to Wild Heart Ranch because he was losing his eyesight and previous owners couldn't care for him. When he first arrived, he couldn't find his way to the field for grazing. Annette and the other caretakers at the ranch felt worried. Jack, an old goat, one day started guiding him. They walked together for over 16 years. Once, there was a storm, Charlie got trapped and Jack ran and communicated to the caretakers in a way that they realized Charlie must be in trouble. They went and got Charlie free.

As you read the book, can you spot some revisions I made as I turned it into the story it is now?

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Acts of Revision

ADD: details, description, 5 senses, new discoveries, suspense, emotion, humor, dialogue, opinion, a surprise!

CUT: unnecessary, repetitive, ideas that don't WORK, too long, extra characters, scenes.

CLARIFY: What's happening, why it happened, when.

Open a New Door: Start from the end, the middle! Change POV, Spotlight a different character.

Re-Order: beginning, middle, end, sentences, paragraphs, events.

Emphasize: What's important, what you care about, clues...

Re-Imagine: Your setting, your character, ASK WHAT IF...?

Re-Search: new facts, details, inspiration.

FIND the HEART: What do you care about? What do the characters want?