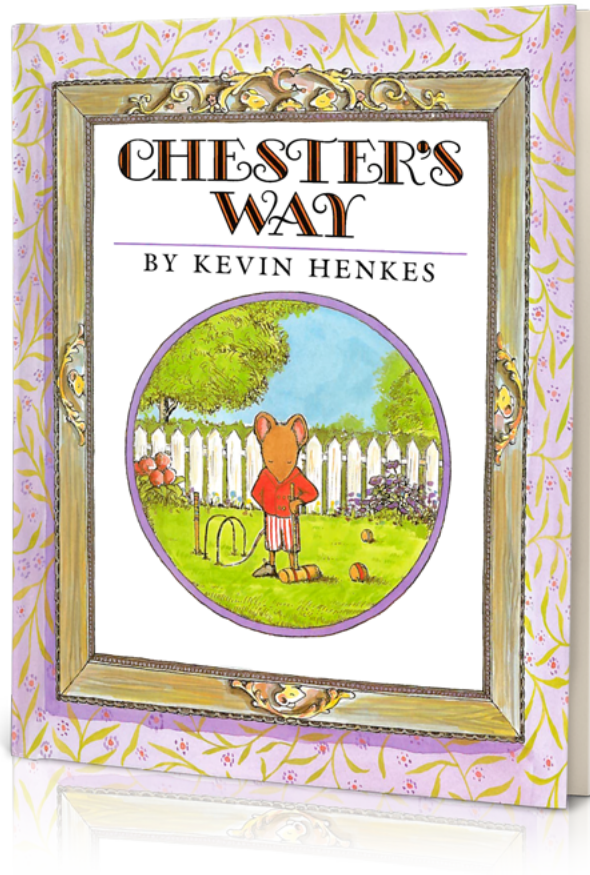


SAG FOUNDATION PRESENTS

# Storyline online



## CHESTER'S WAY

Written by: Kevin Henkes

Watch online video of actor

**Vanessa Marano  
& Katie Leclerc**  
reading this story at  
[storylineonline.net](http://storylineonline.net)



## BOOK SUMMARY

Chester and Wilson had their own way of doing things, and they did everything together. When they cut their sandwiches, it was always diagonally. When they rode their bikes, they always used hand signals. If Chester was hungry, Wilson was, too. They were two of a kind, and that's the way it was—until indomitable Lilly, who had her own way of doing things, moved into the neighborhood.

## DISCUSSION POINTS

- In what ways can you relate to Chester? Wilson? Do you have your own ways of doing things? What are they? (You don't have to give away any secrets!)
- Which illustration is your favorite? Why?
- If you were the illustrator of this story, what animals would you have chosen to be your characters? Why?
- Do you have a close friend as Chester does in Wilson? Describe what you and your friend like to do together.
- How old do you think the characters in this story are? How do you know?
- What feelings do you share with Chester and Wilson and then with Lilly?
- How did Chester and Wilson react to Lilly at first? Why do you think they did so?
- How would you describe the friendship that develops between Wilson and Chester and Lilly? How do you know they have become friends?
- Have you experienced a similar situation—having a new kid come into your life when you have a well-established relationship with a friend? Describe it using only gestures (pantomime).
- What good habits can you practice that are demonstrated by the characters in this story? What can a person do to establish and ensure lasting friendships?
- Are there classmates who show personality traits similar to those of the characters in this story? Describe them.
- What is a “Christmas List”? Do you make one?
- Have you ever heard the expression “two peas in a pod”? What does it mean? What is a pod?

## DISCUSSION POINTS CONTINUED

- Do you like Lilly's outfits? Why or why not? What about her disguises? What are her favorite shoes? Do you have some favorite shoes? Describe them or draw them.
- What effect will Victor have on the friendship of Chester, Wilson, and Lilly?
- What can you guess from the illustration on the outside back cover of the book? Does this illustration give anything away? Explain.
- Long, long before there were written letters and words and languages for people to use to describe events and feelings, there were actions and pictures. Use body and hand gestures to retell a part of the story you enjoyed.
- What did you think of Katie Leclerc's sign language? Why did she sign the story while Vanessa Marano was reading it?
- Did you notice any of the sign language gestures being repeated? Which ones?
- Do you know any words in American Sign Language?

## ACTIVITIES

- Draw your own illustration for one of the incidents in this story.
- Play charades using topics or scenes from [this story](#).  
([http://www.charades-ideas.com/rules\\_of\\_charades.php](http://www.charades-ideas.com/rules_of_charades.php))
- Do you think that the three friends ever flew kites together? Try making a paper kite or an origami model of a kite [here](#).  
(<http://www.instructables.com/id/Easy-Paper-Kite-for-Kids/>)
- Have you ever made a "friendship" bracelet? Lilly might suggest that they make a bracelet for each other some rainy day. [Make a few friendship bracelets for your friends](#). (<http://friendship-bracelets.net/>)
- Draw a scene from the story using the animals you would have chosen as the characters.
- Find some pictures in magazines that illustrate friendship or activities among friends.
- Make a list of what gifts you'd like to receive for a holiday or your birthday. Make a list of what you might want to give to a best friend. How would you earn the money to buy a gift or would you make it yourself? Explain or illustrate.

## THEMES AND CONCEPTS IN THIS BOOK

- Acceptance
- Friendship
- Manners
- Honesty
- Courage
- Loyalty

## INTERNET RESOURCES

### **In the Studio With Kevin Henkes**

<http://www.kevinhenkes.com/meet-kevin-henkes/in-the-studio-with-kevin-henkes/>

### **Free Sign Language Chart**

[www.start-american-sign-language.com/free-sign-language-chart.html](http://www.start-american-sign-language.com/free-sign-language-chart.html)

### **Why Start Teaching Sign Language When Your Children Are Young?**

<http://kidcourses.com/sign-language-asl/>

### **Sign Language Fun Facts**

<http://www.ics.uci.edu/~mvyawaha/funfacts.html>

### **Online ASL full Dictionary - Free Sign Language Dictionary**

[www.deaflinx.com/ASL/online-asl-full-dictionary.html](http://www.deaflinx.com/ASL/online-asl-full-dictionary.html)

### **History of Sign Language**

<http://www.kidzworld.com/article/6505-history-of-sign-language>

### **Basic ASL: First 100 Signs**

<http://www.lifeprint.com/asl101/pages-layout/concepts.htm>

### **Origami for Kids to Make**

[www.origami-instructions.com/origami-for-kids.html](http://www.origami-instructions.com/origami-for-kids.html)

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Kevin Henkes

[www.kevinhenkes.com](http://www.kevinhenkes.com)

## ABOUT READERS

Vanessa Marano

[http://www.imdb.com/name/nm1404825/?ref\\_=nv\\_sr\\_1](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm1404825/?ref_=nv_sr_1)

Katie Leclerc

[http://www.imdb.com/name/nm1813088/?ref\\_=nv\\_sr\\_1](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm1813088/?ref_=nv_sr_1)

## ABOUT STORYLINE ONLINE

The SAG Foundation's children's literacy website Storyline Online streams imaginatively produced videos featuring celebrated actors to help inspire a love of reading.

Storyline Online receives millions of views every month in hundreds of countries.

Visit Storyline Online at [storylineonline.net](http://storylineonline.net).

## ABOUT THE SCREEN ACTORS GUILD FOUNDATION

The Screen Actors Guild Foundation provides vital assistance and educational programming to the professionals of SAG-AFTRA while serving the public at large through its signature children's literacy programs. Founded in 1985, the SAG Foundation is a national non-profit organization, independent from SAG-AFTRA, and relies solely on support from grants, corporate sponsorships, and individual contributions to maintain our programs and create new ones. For more information, visit [sagfoundation.org](http://sagfoundation.org).

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