

# THE LIFE OF FRIENDS

## ADMIRABLE STRENGTHS



NOW HERE IS A TALE OF SOMETHING  
WE FRIENDS LEARNED WHEN HAVING FUN—  
TO PUSH SOMEONE PAST THEIR LIMITS  
MIGHT BE DANGEROUS IN THE LONG RUN.

A LAZY BROOK RAN THROUGH THE FARM,  
A FAVORITE IN SUNNY WEATHER,  
WHERE THERE WAS WATER TO SWIM IN  
AND GRASS TO PLAY IN TOGETHER.

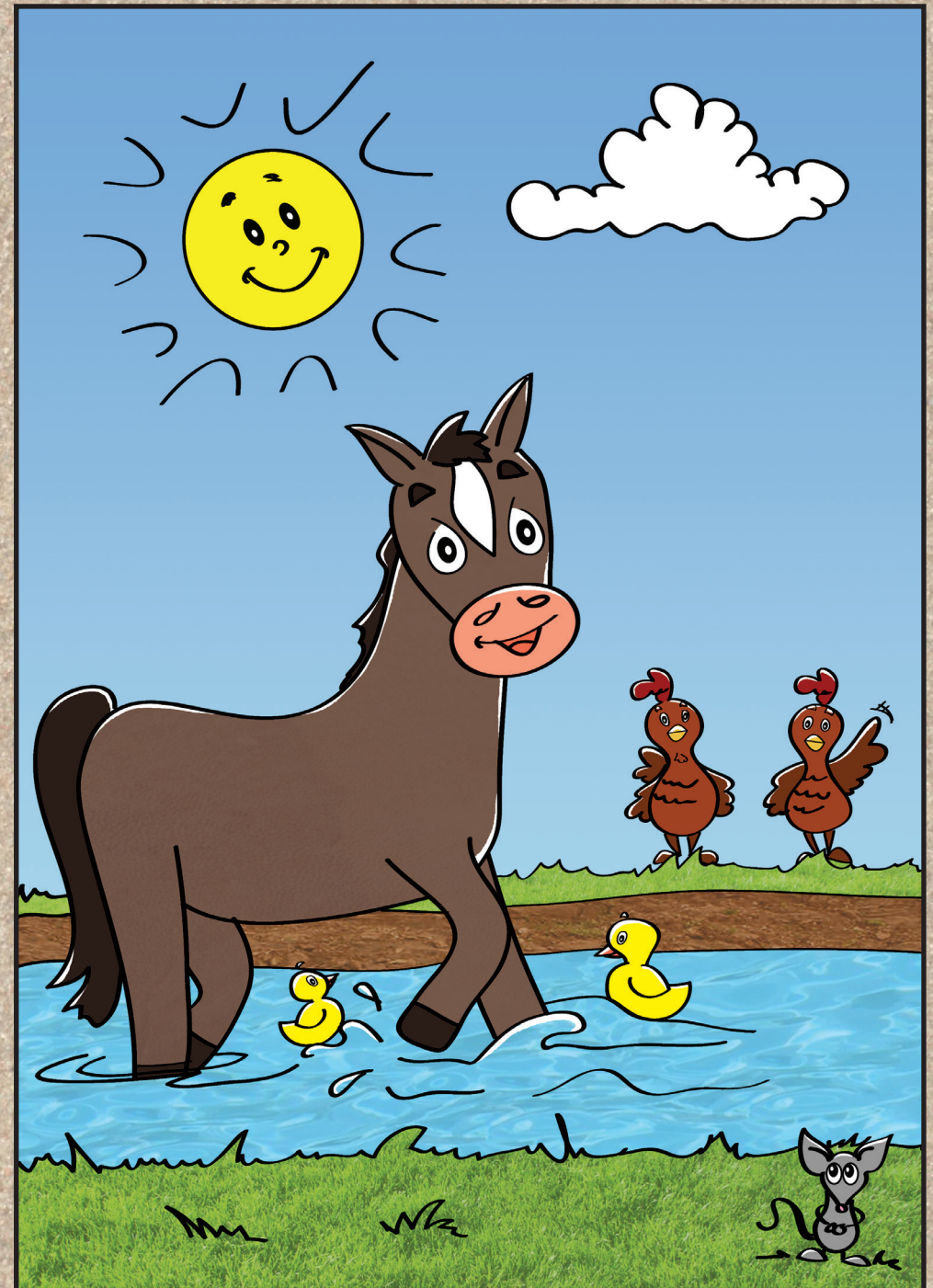




WHILE WE SPLASHED AND SWAM IN THE BROOK,  
THE CHICKENS STAYED CLEAR OF THE EDGE.  
THEY FEARED THEY MIGHT BE PULLED IN,  
SO THEY PLAYED BEYOND THE LEDGE.

"WATCH ME!" SHOUTED BINGO.  
"HERE'S A WAVE YOU CANNOT MATCH."  
"YIPPEE, THAT'S QUITE THE BIG ONE,"  
SAID DUCKS BOBBING IN A BATCH.

THE CATS AND SID WERE FISHING,  
CATCHING MINNOWS, SNAILS, AND FROGS.  
WHILE THE CATS TOOK CARE TO NOT GET WET,  
WHICH NEVER BOTHERS DOGS.





I OFTEN JOINED THEM IN THE FUN,  
TO BOTH FISH AND ENJOY A WADE.  
AND IF THE WATER GOT TOO DEEP  
I'D FLY TO A TREE GIVING SHADE.

THE CATS YELLED TO THE CHICKENS,  
WHO WERE PLAYING IN GRASS AND SUN:  
"COME OVER AND FISH WITH US.  
IT'S SO ENJOYABLE AND FUN!"



"YOU WON'T FALL IN, AND IF YOU DO,  
JUMP OUT LIKE BEEP BEEP HERE."  
SO STANDING BACK FROM WATER'S EDGE,  
THE CHICKENS DID VENTURE NEAR.





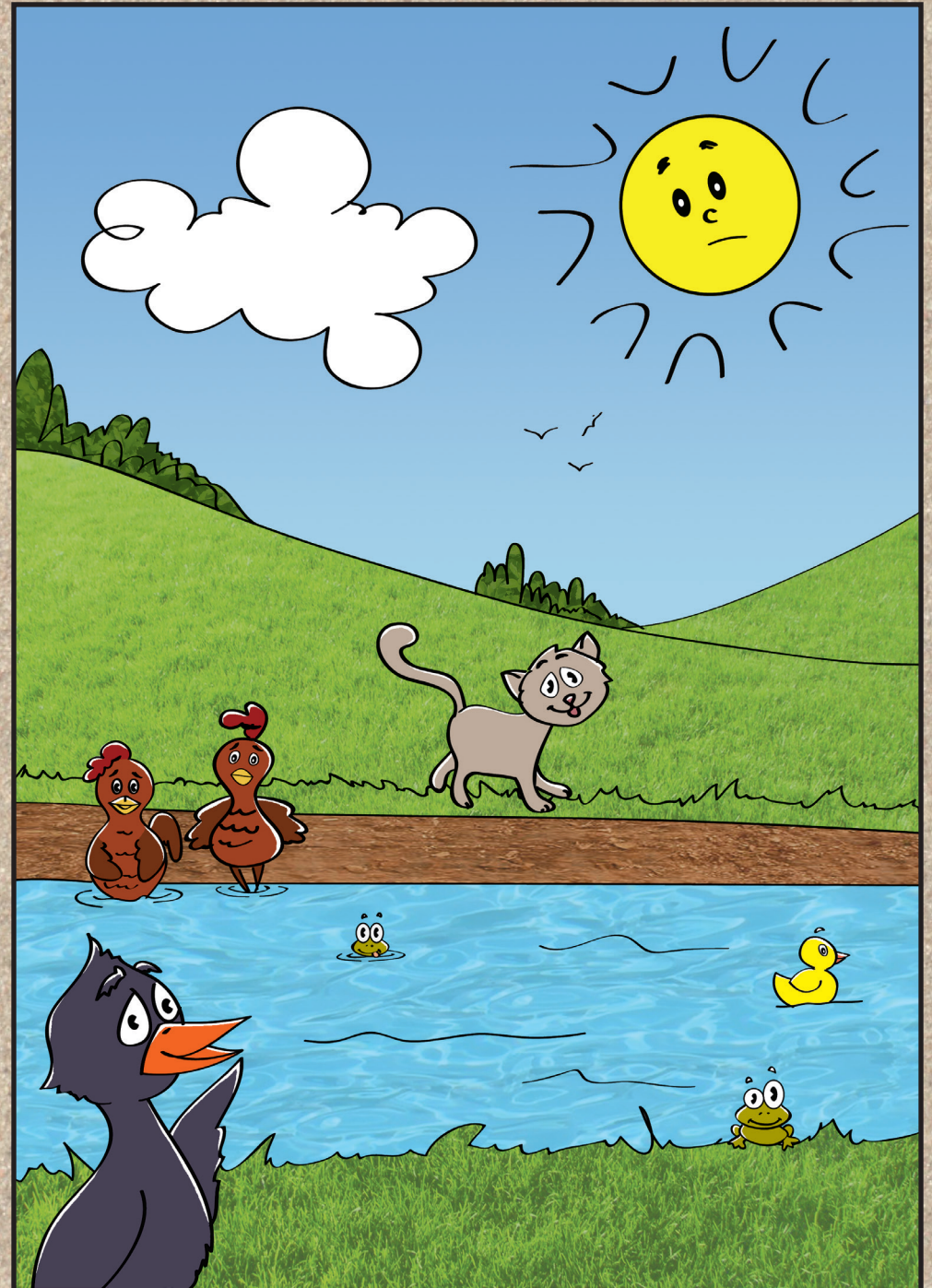


"COME ON, DON'T BE SO TIMID!  
YOU WILL ENJOY YOURSELVES IF YOU DARE.  
THE WATER WON'T JUMP OUT AT YOU,"  
CHIDING THE CHICKENS FOR THEIR EXTRA CARE.



AND SO OUR CHICKEN FRIENDS CAME OVER  
TO WALK AT THE WATER'S EDGE.  
THEY PECKED AT SNAILS AND FROG EGGS,  
AND THEIR CAUTION THEY DID SHED.

BUT AS WE MOVED DOWNSTREAM,  
THE CURRENT BECAME STRONGER.  
BECAUSE OF HAVING SO MUCH FUN,  
WE DIDN'T PERCEIVE THE DANGER.







SUDDENLY, OUR TWO CHICKEN FRIENDS  
WERE BEING CARRIED OFF DOWNSTREAM.  
"HELP US!" CRIED THE CHICKENS.  
"WE'RE BOUND TO DROWN IT SEEMS!"

I QUICKLY FLEW TO RESCUE,  
AND SID JOINED IN WITH ME.  
WE EACH PULLED ONE TO SAFETY  
WITH URGENT DIFFICULTY.

SOON WE WERE ALL SHIVERING,  
NOT FROM COLD BUT FROM FEAR.  
WE REALIZED WHAT COULD HAVE HAPPENED  
AND HOW DANGER WAS SO NEAR.





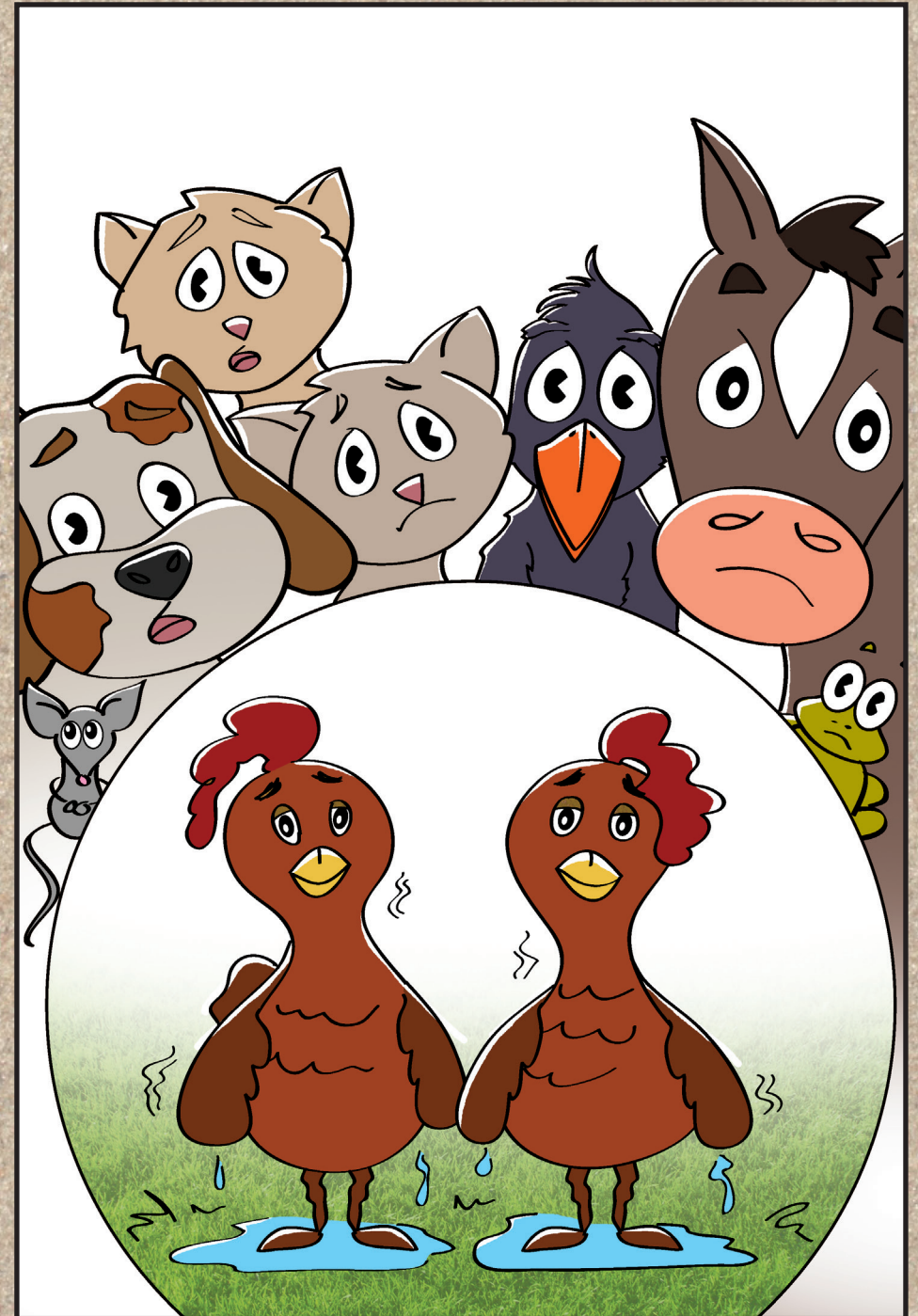


"WE OWE YOU AN APOLOGY,  
OUR OWN DEAR CHICKEN FRIENDS.  
OUR MISGUIDED INSISTING  
NEARLY BROUGHT YOU TO YOUR END."

"THERE ARE THINGS WE EACH CAN DO,  
AND THINGS THAT WE CANNOT.  
RESPECT FOR EACH OTHER'S ABILITIES  
INCLUDES APPRECIATING WHAT IS NOT."



"DUCKS CAN SWIM AND RAVENS FLY.  
DOGS CAN SWIM, AND CATS TOO.  
HORSES AND COWS, ALL SWIM WELL.  
BUT CHICKENS IN WATER, WHAT CAN THEY DO?"







"WE CHICKENS CAN WAKE YOU UP AT DAWN.  
WE CAN SOAR, THOUGH WE CANNOT FLY.  
WE CAN EVEN STAND STEADY ON JUST ONE LEG.  
BUT AS FOR SWIMMING, WE CAN'T GET BY."



"I TOO COULD WAKE YOU UP AT DAWN,  
THOUGH, I'D PROBABLY PREFER TO YAWN.  
I COULDN'T BEGIN TO PERCH ON ONE LEG.  
NOR EAT BUGS LIKE YOU ALL DAY LONG."



"WE ALSO CANNOT STAND ON ONE LEG.  
AND YOU KNOW WE NEVER FLEW.  
IT'S IMPORTANT TO RESPECT EACH OTHER,  
AND LIFT FRIENDS UP FOR WHAT THEY CAN DO."







FROM THEN ON WE KEPT IN MIND.  
THE STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES OF EACH ONE.  
WE LEARNED TO ADMIRE WHAT EACH CAN DO.  
AND RESPECT WHAT SHOULDN'T BE DONE.

WE'VE FOUND WE CAN HAVE GREAT FUN  
AND NOT PUSH TO A FORBIDDEN LENGTH,  
MAKING THE FOCUS ON EACH OTHER;  
THEIR VERY OWN ADMIRABLE STRENGTHS.

**S&S link:** Character building: Compassion-1b

*Authored by Christi S. Lynch. Illustrated and designed by Roy Evans.*

Published on My Wonder Studio. Copyright © 2018 by The Family International

