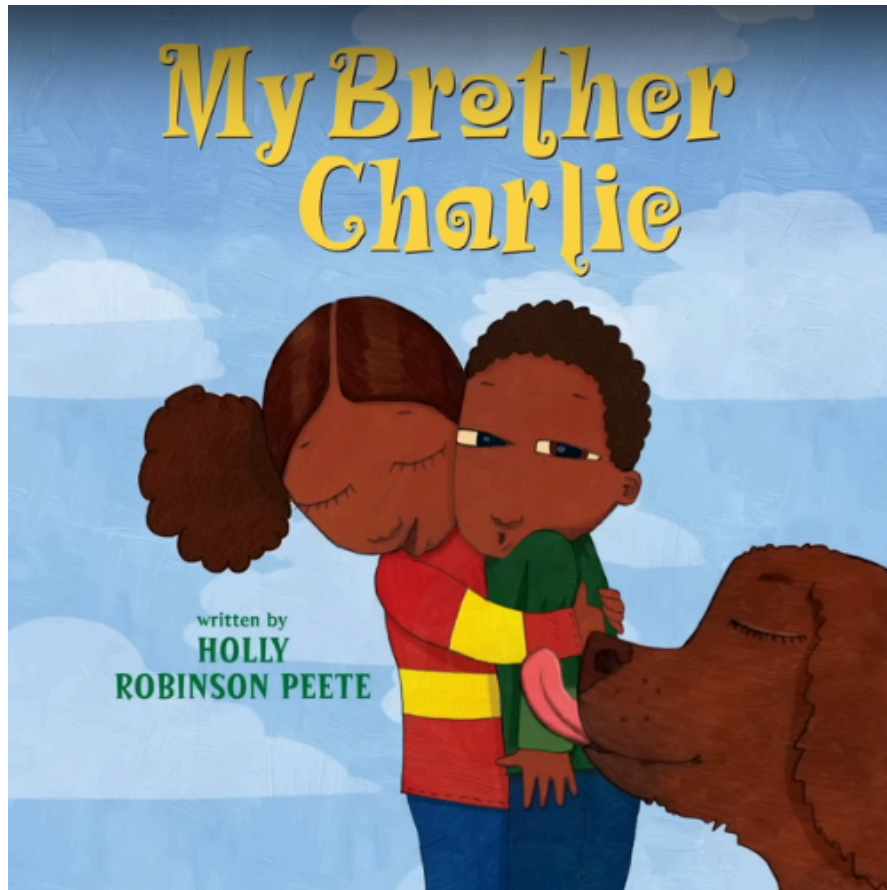


# ZAMASAMA PRESENTS

A Guide for Teachers and Parents



Written by Holly Robinson Peete & Ryan Elizabeth Peete

Illustrated by Shane W. Evans

## THEMES

Inclusion & Disability

Family & Friends

Social & Emotional Learning

Neurodiversity

Autism awareness

Sibling bonds

Empathy

Love and acceptance

# LEARNING OUTCOME

Children will:

- Understand what autism is in a gentle, relatable way.
- Recognize that every child has unique strengths and challenges.
- Reflect on how we can support and play with children who communicate differently.
- Develop empathy and inclusive thinking.

## LESSON PLAN

This story helps introduce young learners to the topic of autism through sibling love. It encourages kindness, patience, and celebration of different ways of being.

### Discussion Questions

#### Before Reading:

- What are some things you love about your brother, sister, or friend?
- Have you ever met someone who communicates differently?
- How do you show kindness to others?

#### During Reading:

- What makes Charlie special to Callie?
- What does it mean when Callie says Charlie’s words are ‘locked inside’?
- How does play help Charlie reconnect?

#### After Reading:

- Why do you think Charlie sometimes seems far away?
- How does Callie help her brother?
- What does this story teach us about understanding others?

#### Activities:

- Strength Stars: Children create stars showing their own strengths and those of their classmates.
- Circle of Support: In small groups, discuss how to include and help a classmate who might be shy or have autism.
- Story Drawing: Draw a scene where Callie and Charlie are playing and smiling together.
- Feelings Match: Use emojis or illustrations to talk about how different people express their feelings.

## RELEVANT ZAMASAMA STORIES

- [Who Stole Bhaiyya's Smile?](#) – Helping her sibling cope with depression through love, patience and understanding
- [Get Well Soon](#) – Understanding invisible challenges and offering love.
- [The Song in Her Heart](#) – A hearing-impaired girl learns to dance to her own rhythm.
- [Why is Nita Upside Down?](#) – A playful story about dyslexia and self-acceptance.

## RELEVANT SDGS

Applicable SDGs:

- SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being
- SDG 4: Quality Education
- SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities

### SDG Explanation

- SDG 3 supports emotional and mental health for all.
- SDG 4 advocates for inclusive education that acknowledges neurodiversity.
- SDG 10 promotes tolerance and social inclusion of people with disabilities.

## EXPECTED OUTCOMES

Children will walk away with a better understanding of autism, an appreciation for neurodiversity, and a sense of how to be a supportive friend or sibling. They'll see that every child belongs—and love is our greatest bridge.

## ABOUT ZAMASAMA

Zamasama is a nonprofit platform that brings together stories from around the world to help children discover that beneath our differences—of culture, language, or belief—we share the same hopes, joys, and dreams.

Today's children are tomorrow's citizens, and the responsibility of building a more peaceful, tolerant, and empathetic world lies with them.

That's why it's vital to instill these values early—through stories that help them rise above the biases they inherit, and see diversity as a strength that unites us all.