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Irene Latham's

ADVENTURES IN INK

Books for Dreamers, Seekers, & Thinkers

Hello, sweet friends, and happy August!



It's a happy day here in LathamLand because...

BE A BRIDGE is here!

Is there any better, more versatile metaphor than a bridge?

A bridge connects. It's how you get from here to there. It's stable, steady, secure. It holds you up. It carries you safely over canyons or raging rivers. It's a way to "meet in the middle," to create unity between two

sides.

[Charles Waters](#) and I were thinking about all those things when we wrote BE A BRIDGE, our 4th book together! It release today from Carolrhoda/Lerner with illustrations by [Nabila Adani](#). Lucky us, to get to work yet again with the brilliant, compassionate [Carol Hinz](#)!

There we were, having important conversations with readers of all ages in response to our book [CAN I TOUCH YOUR HAIR? POEMS OF RACE, MISTAKES, AND FRIENDSHIP](#). We were being honest and vulnerable, sharing our real-life experiences.

And that's a great starting place!

But we wanted to give more. And we wanted to reach an even younger audience. So we started brainstorming really concrete ways we can communicate and actively express love, acceptance, and inclusivity. Here are some of the prompts we used:

*Remember a time when someone was a bridge for you. Remember a time when **you** were a bridge. Remember a time when you wanted to be a bridge but didn't know how. Looking back, what could you have done differently?*

It took a LONG TIME—and one inspiring church sermon delivered by first-time preacher Alonso Moreno—for us to reflect and discover the text that appears in the book... but it was worth the struggle and worth the wait. We're grateful to Kirkus Reviews, who called it

"an exuberant ode to the virtues of kindness and inclusion."

Now you, too, can read and share with young readers some ways to BE A BRIDGE!

I want to BE A BRIDGE!

The Bridge Builder Pledge

Included in the back matter (along with bridge-building activities and other great storytime titles to pair with BE A BRIDGE) is an inspiring Pledge for readers to sign. [Click here to access a printable version of the Bridge Builder Pledge.](#)

I'll leave you with a beloved quote which also serves as the epigraph in the book:

Love is the bridge between you and everything. —Rumi

Wishing you love, bridges, and all sorts of discoveries in between! Thanks so much for sharing this time with me today.

**Love,
Irene**

p.s. If you'd like to meet me, Charles AND Carol Hinz...IN PERSON...come join us for our [Highlights workshop + retreat Oct. 8 -11](#) where we'll be talking and learning all things poetry! Here's a post on [How to Revise Poetry: 20 Questions to Ask](#) to get your started!

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