

FINDING THE COURAGE TO FACE THE STORM

BRYSON THE BRAVE BISON



WRITTEN BY NATE DAVENPORT & LUKE FRESHWATER
NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING ILLUSTRATOR RICHARD COWDREY

ACTIVITY PACK



NOTE TO PARENTS

from authors Nate Davenport & Luke Freshwater

Growing up, we were fascinated by children's books illustrated with animals. Inspired by picture books like *The Treasure Tree* by John Trent and Gary Smalley, we found animals incredibly relatable as characters, and set out to write a story about an ordinary yet strong animal, the American bison.

The bison is more than just an animal. It is a symbol that represents our past and the American west like no other. God created this majestic creature with a unique trait that our children and families can learn from: bison react to storms by running through them! Unlike cows, bison do not huddle together or run away from storms in fear. Instead, with all its strength and might, bison instinctively choose to embrace storms head on, and charge directly into their path.

Sometimes in life, we try to put as much distance between ourselves and whatever "storm" on the horizon is approaching us. By doing this we only prolong our struggle and worry, and lengthen our exposure to the elements of the storm, no matter what it is. The mighty bison know exactly what to do, charging into the storm instead, and facing it head on—reaching greener pastures and clear skies on the other side!

As parents we know our children will be faced with both large and small challenges in life. This symbolism of the majestic bison facing the storm is a great reminder of how we can teach our children to confront life's obstacles with courage and strength.

Even though Bryson the Bison is not the tallest, fastest, or most talented, he knows that courage is a choice; and it's in all of us to make that choice. While many may choose to respond in fear, this isn't the response that must be chosen. Instead, we can encourage children to be leaders like Bryson, leading the way for others in challenging circumstances.

We are passionate about encouraging and building up brave children and families that choose to pursue the storms of life. Join us on this journey and become part of our herd.

Be Brave. Face the Storm.





DID YOU KNOW?

FUN FACTS ABOUT BISON

This majestic animal has some very special characteristics. Here are some fun bison facts!

1

The American Bison was named the national mammal of the United States on May 9, 2016.

2

Bison are the largest mammal in North America. The male bison (called bulls) weigh up to 2,000 pounds and stand 6 feet tall. That's the size of a small car!

3

Bison are often referred to as American buffalo in North America. However, the scientific name is bison! Get it right!

4

A baby bison is called a "red dog" because they are orange-red in color. They are 30-70 lbs at birth. That's the size of a 6-10 year old child!

5

You can judge a bison's mood by its tail. If it hangs down it's usually calm. If it's standing straight up, watch out! It may be ready to charge.

6

Bison may be big, but they can run up to 35 miles per hour. That's faster than a human!

7

Bison can jump up to 6 feet high. That's as high as your refrigerator! Whoah!

8

The bison instinctively know to turn into a storm when it is approaching rather than drifting with the wind, because they know it will get them out of the weather quicker. Embrace your inner bison, run into the storm!



ORDER THE STORY



After you've read *Bryson the Brave Bison*, test your story memory. With a grownup's help, cut out the story scenes to the right, and place them in the correct order.

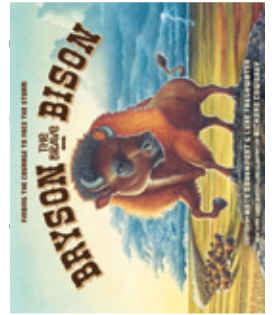
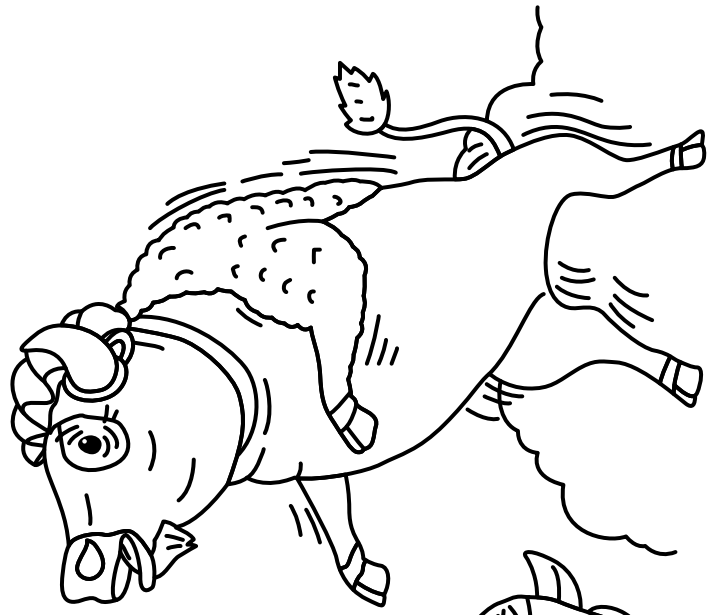
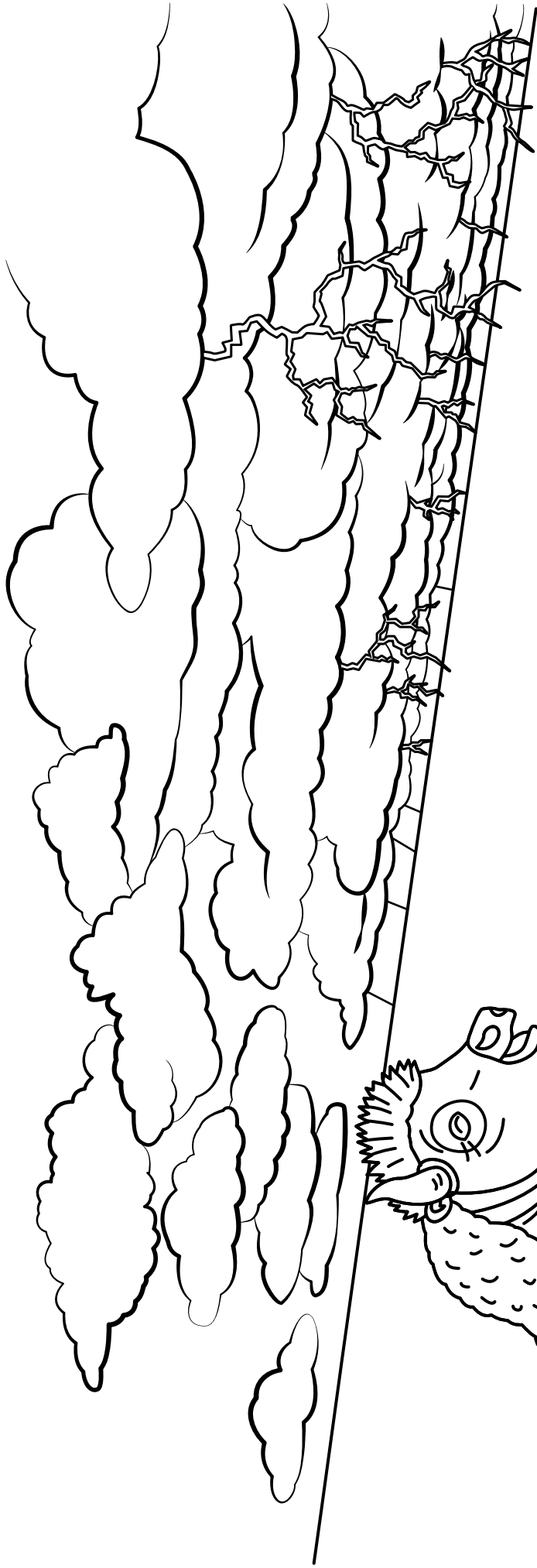
Hint: Bryson had to face his fears, instead of running away!





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PUZZLE FUN

With a grownup's help, cut out the puzzle pieces below, and create the scene of Bryson and his buddies facing the storm. Grab your copy of the book to check your work!



DECODE THE MESSAGE



A



Y



E



U



S



F



M



T



C



O



H



R

Bryson the Bison has a message for you! He wants to help you learn the lesson from his story, and be brave in your everyday activities. Using the symbol key above, decode the message and hold it close to your heart each day, especially when you are afraid. You've got this!







ABOUT THE BOOK



ON SALE: 6/27/23
9780310153108 | \$18.99

In this world of challenges, we all need a hero ... and here comes *Bryson the Brave Bison!* In the face of a big storm, Bryson shows his crew and the entire herd, that you can get through anything with a little bravery and self-confidence.

This original rhyming story tells the story of how one brave bison lead his herd to face a challenge and overcome it. Combined with dynamic artwork from *New York Times* bestselling artist Richard Cowdrey, this legend comes alive!

From debut authors Nate Davenport and Luke Freshwater, *Bryson the Brave Bison* teaches children positive character traits such as bravery, honest, and perseverance and shows them that with courage they can face the storms in life. Nate and Luke are good friends, intentional fathers, and business leaders who frequently speak about bravery and courage with their children and in business. *Bryson the Brave Bison* was inspired by Luke's service as a firefighter in Idaho and as an Army bomb squad leader in the war in Afghanistan.



ABOUT THE AUTHORS

NATE DAVENPORT resides in the greater Lexington, KY area. He and his wife Suzanna have two children, Crews and Lyla, and a golden doodle named Heidi. Nate's passion for literature and writing comes from his father Jeff, who is an author too! Nate earned a degree in youth ministry from Cedarville University, where he also played baseball. He currently works as a sales leader in the medical space. Nate's mission is to impact the lives of children through whimsical literature filled with positivity and truth.



LUKE FRESHWATER resides in the greater Columbus, OH area with his wife Megan and their five young children. Luke served as a forest firefighter in Idaho and as an Army bomb squad leader in the war in Afghanistan. He went to NC State University and Cedarville University, where he played baseball. Luke is currently a sales leader, aspiring bison farmer, and dedicated to the pursuit of intentional fatherhood while positively impacting the lives of fatherless children.



ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

RICHARD COWDREY'S favorite things to draw and paint are the things that reflect the awesomeness of God and his creation. From vast landscapes to the smallest bug on a leaf, Richard marvels at the beauty in the details. Richard's bestselling children's books include *Fiona the Hippo*; *Legend of the Candy Cane*; *Bad Dog, Marley*; and *A Very Marley Christmas*.