

Chalk the Walk



Words by Chelsea Tornetto
Art by Laurel Aylesworth

A RAINBOW OF
COLORS INSIDE!

Written by Chelsea Tornetto
Illustrated by Laurel Aylesworth



F A M I L I U S

Helping families be happy.

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Chelsea Tornetto taught ELA and social studies for 17 years, but now she writes picture books. She is the award-winning author of Gardens Are For Growing (Familius 2022) and God Made You Too (WorthyKids 2022), as well as Seasons on the Farm (Sleeping Bear 2025) and Chalk the Walk (Familius 2025).



ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

As an introverted kid growing up in Vermont, drawing came naturally to Laurel Aylesworth. She found her calling as an illustrator after becoming a mother and hence, wading knee-deep in picture books from the library.

Today, you can find Laurel still surrounded by picture books, sketch pads and pencils, her daughters, and a cup of jasmine tea at her side.

ABOUT THE BOOK

Grab a piece of sidewalk chalk and join in the fun! Join a pair of adorable siblings as they explore the incredible power of a piece of chalk to transform the world around them. Joined by people of all ages from their neighborhood along the way, they use their bucket of chalk to make some sidewalk magic. With rhyming text by Chelsea Tornetto and increasingly colorful illustrations by Laurel Aylesworth, *Chalk the Walk* is a celebration of imagination.

REVIEWS

"Chalk the Walk's lyrical rhyming text and expansive sidewalk chalk-style art will have everyone longing to grab a bucket of chalk and join in the fun!"

Kelly Bennett, author of *Not Norman*

"Oh the magic of good, old-fashioned fun. As a family of chalk lovers ourselves, this book is a sweet reminder of the endless creative play that can come from just one brightly colored stick."

-Melissa Ferguson, @ourfriendlyfarmhouse creator and bestselling author of *How to Plot a Payback*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Before Reading

- What is your favorite way to be creative?
- Does your creativity ever bring joy to others? How?
- Have you ever drawn with sidewalk chalk? Where? When?
- What did you draw?
- How is chalk art different from other types of outdoor art? (like murals, graffiti, or statues?)

During Reading

- What do you notice about the first few pages of the book? How are they different than the rest of the pages?
- As you read, notice all the different ways the characters use sidewalk chalk. Have you ever used it in those same ways?
- What ages are the people shown in the story? How does the chalk art affect them?
- What happens when it starts to rain? How do you think the characters feel?
- Why do you think the main characters are happy at the end of the book?

After Reading

- The sidewalk chalk art in this story does lots of things! It encourages kids to be active. It inspires kids to be creative! It cheers up elderly people. It gets kids off screens. It even helps people make new friends! What would **YOU** like to do with **YOUR** art?
- If you lived on the street in the story, what would **YOU** draw with chalk?
- A **medium** is the physical material used to make art. Sidewalk chalk is an art medium! What is **YOUR** favorite **medium**? Paint? Markers? Colored pencils? Clay?
- Chalk is temporary, but some other mediums are permanent. Which do you think is better? Why?

BE A SNEAKY CHALK ARTIST

Create beautiful chalk art when no one is looking!
Your sneaky creativity might make someone's day!



Things to write:

- Kind or encouraging messages
- Short jokes
- Instructions like, "Stop and smell these roses!"



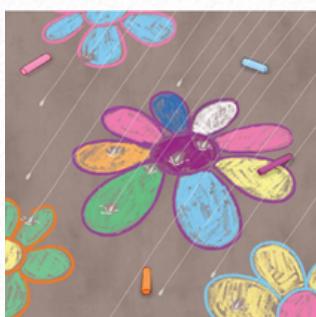
Things to draw:

- Silly faces
- A hopscotch board or path for someone to follow.
- Anything that will make people smile!



Where to do sneaky chalk art:

- Walking or jogging paths
- In front of a nursing home or hospital
- In your neighborhood



Safety Tips:

- Make sure the art is somewhere rain will eventually wash it away. (Easy clean up!)
- But, choose a day when it isn't supposed to rain for awhile!
- Always get your parent's permission before you do sneaky chalk art.

GET MOVING!

Here are some ways you can use sidewalk chalk to encourage movement and activity!



Draw a hopscotch board and play with a friend or by yourself.



Draw an obstacle course or path to follow on your bike, scooter, or on foot!



Draw some colored circles and play sidewalk chalk Twister!

PHOTO FUN

Use chalk to create some fun photo backdrops...and become part of the art!



See if you can complete the challenges below to get a BINGO!

Play individually or in pairs. The first to get a BINGO wins!

CHALK THE WALK BINGO CHALLENGE

Make a hopscotch board. Play one game.

Find a worm or bug and draw a house around him.

Find a sidewalk crack and label it, "Don't break your mom's back!"

Draw a smiley face with crazy hair.

Draw a line of dinosaur footprints.

Find a brick wall or walkway. Color the bricks to look like a game of tetris.

Find some stairs. Write a kind message by writing one word on each step.

Have someone trace you, lying down. Then, give yourself a superhero outfit.

Draw a rainbow.

Write the numbers 0-9. Then stand with each foot on a different one. Add or multiply those two numbers. Were you correct? Repeat!

Write a joke/riddle on a path. Further down, write the answer!

Play a game of tic-tac-toe with a friend.

**FREE
SPACE**

Draw your school's mascot.

Try to draw something that looks 3-D.

Draw a circle and label it "Rock Collection." Put one rock inside. Check back later to see if anyone added a rock!

Write your name... backwards.

Draw a small item like a cell phone. See if anyone tries to pick it up.

Draw an ice cream cone that looks like it's been dropped.

Draw a starting line and a finish line. Race a friend and see who wins!

Draw a snake that looks like it's crossing the sidewalk.

Draw a friendly alien.

Draw a big set of wings. Lay down on them so you look like you can fly!

Lay down and draw a line under you feet and above you head. Stand up and see how tall you are.

On the ground next to a parked car, write, "Drive safe!"

WRITE A COLOR POEM

A color poem describes a special person, place, thing or idea by identifying the colors we associate with it. It's fun and easy to write!

INSTRUCTIONS:

Step 1

Decide what your poem will be about. It can be anything you love...a person, place, thing, idea...even a season or activity!

The topic is your title!

Step 2

Choose three colors you think of when you think of that topic.

Step 3

For each color, give three examples of items related to the topic.

Step 4

Be descriptive! Think about how things look, feel, smell, taste, or sound!

Step 5

Have fun!

EXAMPLE COLOR POEM

Summer

Summer is **yellow**...
Like sweet and sour lemonade,
The smiling sun,
and sunflowers growing along the fence.

Summer is **green**...

Like the grass Dad mows each week,
the rind of a ripe watermelon,
and the palm trees at the beach.

Summer is **red**...

Like ripe strawberries,
The stripes on the American flag,
and my skin after a long day in the sun.

MAKE CHALK PAINT

Did you know you can even paint with chalk? Use the recipe below to make your own chalk paint...and go paint the town!

Ingredients and Supplies:

- Corn starch
- water
- food coloring or tempera paint
- paint brushes
- muffin tins or small cups

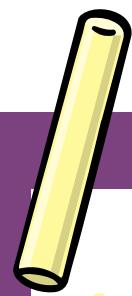


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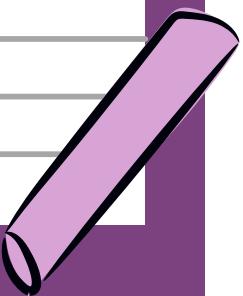
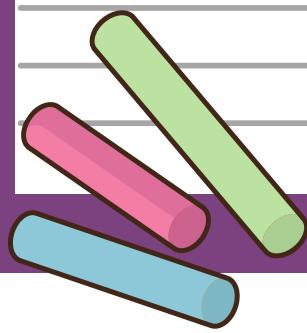
Step 1: In each muffin tin or cup, mix cornstarch and water until it's a "paint-like" consistency. If you want thicker paint, use less water!

Step 2: Add a few drops of food coloring (or tempera paint if you're worried about stains) to each cup, to make your desired color.

Step 3: Use paint brushes to paint on your driveway or sidewalk!



My favorite way to be creative is...



SHARE YOUR ART WITH THE WORLD!

Teachers!

I'd love to see the chalk art your students create!

Who knows? Their smiling faces and creative talents might just make someone's day!

Please post photos of your students and/or their chalk art on social media and tag me! I always do my best to respond directly!



@chelseatornetto



@MrsTornetto



@MrsTornetto

READ-ALONG SCAVENGER HUNT

Instructions: As you read the story, look for each item in the illustrations.
When you find it, check it off the list.

- a letter with a stamp
- the number 1
- someone sticking out their tongue
- a yellow and green butterfly
- Saturn
- a scooter
- a teddy bear
- eyeglasses
- money
- a cane
- a green door
- rain drops
- a trash can that has fallen over
- a rainbow



SCHOOL VISITS

As a former veteran educator, I love being in the classroom, and I'd love to come talk to your students about farming, seasons, or writing and publishing! I offer both in-person and virtual school visits. For more information check out my website!



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CHECK OUT MY OTHER BOOKS!

