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opening extract from

Can Anybody Hear Me?

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Night fell.
“Chester,” Jack said.
“I think we’re lost.”

“If you can call a mother wolf
and scare away a bear, you
can yell for help,” said Chester.

Jack picked up Chester. He took a
deep breath, filling his lungs,
and shouted out,

“Can anybody hear me?”

Only an owl hooted in response.
“I think I’m still not noisy enough for
my family to hear me,” said Jack.

But then Jack saw lanterns bobbing in the distance.
He heard the voices of Ma and Pa.

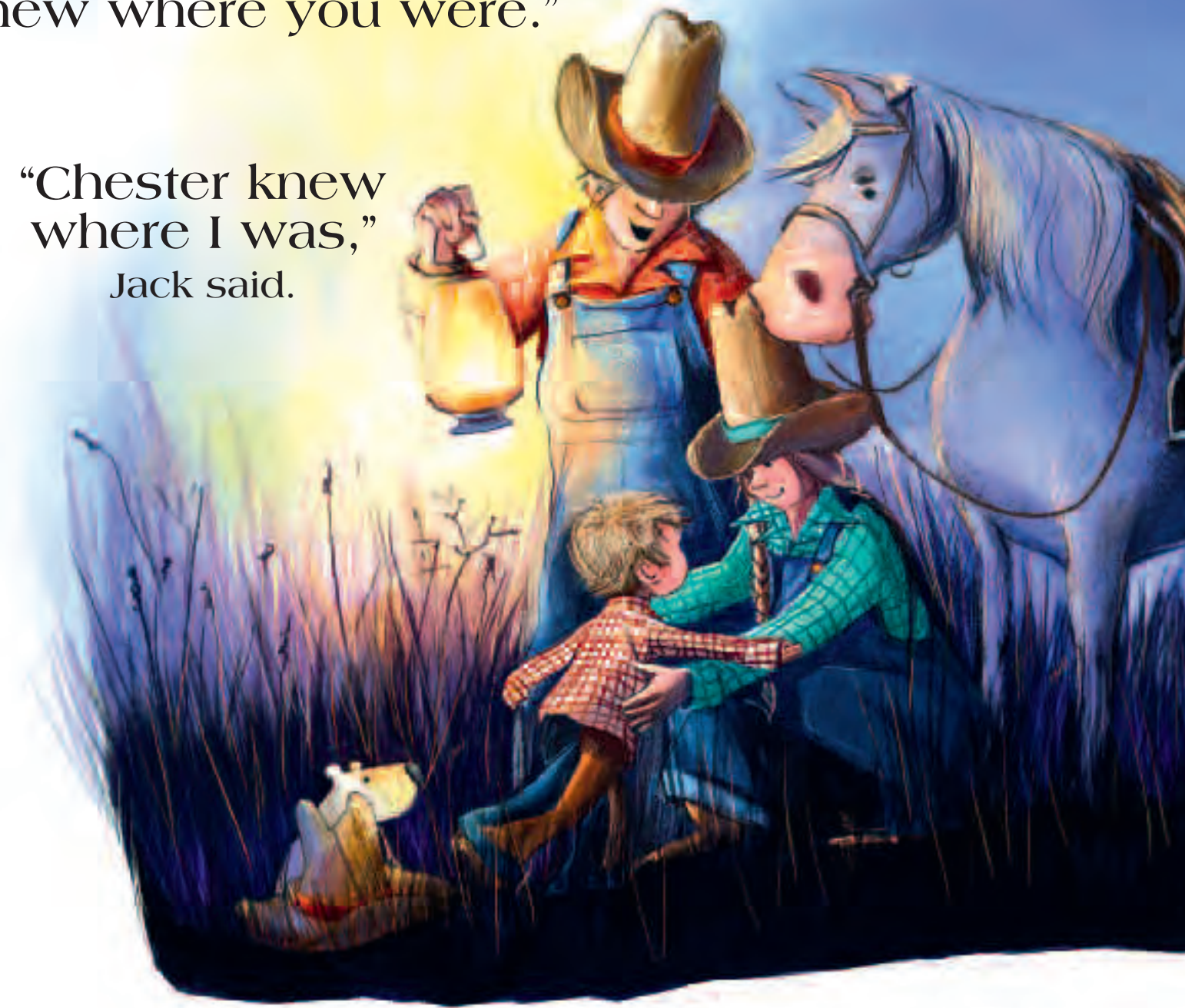
“Jack, where are you?”
“Jack, can you hear us?”

Jack called with all his might,
“I’m over here, I’m over here!”
The voices of his family drew closer.
Jack smiled. “They can hear me, Chester.
Just like you.”



Pa cried, “We were so worried! No one
knew where you were.”

“Chester knew
where I was,”
Jack said.



“Chester?” Pa laughed.
“Come on, it’s time
for supper,” said Ma.
Chester winked at Jack.





Back at the ranch,
Jack's family all talked at
once, asking where he had
been. Jack took a deep breath,
filling his lungs, and with his biggest
voice he shouted, "QUIET, PLEASE!"
His family became as quiet as mice.
Then Jack began his story, and this time
they all heard every word.