

THE DAY the
CRAYONS QUIT

By DREW
DAYWALT



From the illustrator of STUCK
and THIS MOOSE BELONGS TO ME

THE DAY the
CRAYONS QUIT

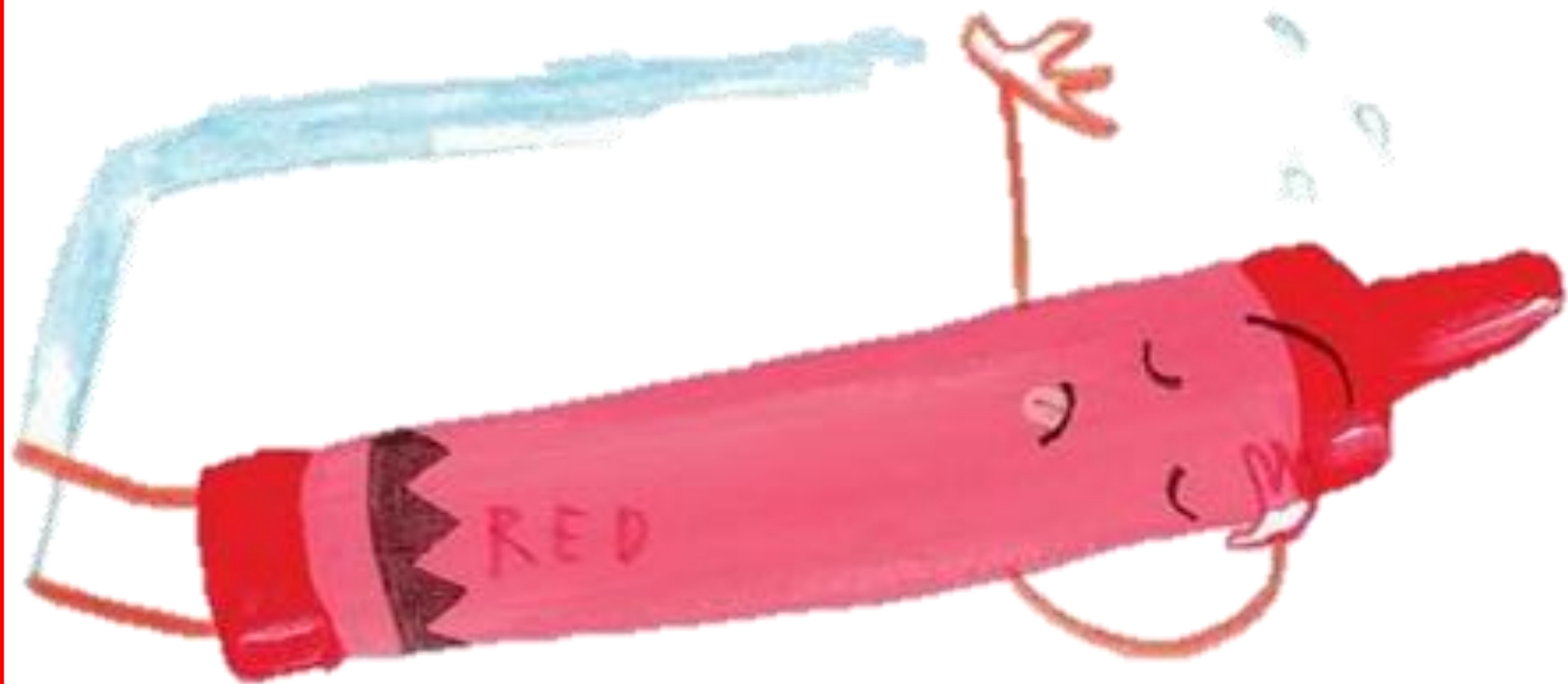


from the illustrator of STACK
and THIS MOOSE BELONGS TO ME

Narrator

Beginning of Story

“One day in class, Duncan went to take out his crayons and found a stack of letters with his name on them.”



Red Crayon

(After Narrator)

“Hey Duncan,

It’s me, RED Crayon. WE NEED to talk.

You make me work harder than any of your other crayons.

All year long I wear myself out coloring FIRE ENGINES, Apples, strawberries and EVERYTHING ELSE that’s RED.

I even work on Holidays!

I have to color all the Santa’s at Christmas and all the Hearts on Valentine’s day!

I NEED A REST!

Your overworked friend,

RED Crayon.”



Purple Crayon

(After Red Crayon)

“Dear Duncan,

All right, LISTEN.

I love that I’m your favorite crayon for grapes, dragons, and wizard’s hats, but it makes me crazy that so much of my gorgeous color goes outside the lines.

If you DON’T START COLORING INSIDE the lines soon ... I’m going to COMPLETELY LOSE IT.

Your very neat friend,

Purple Crayon”



Beige Crayon
(After Purple Crayon)

“Dear Duncan,

I’m tired of being called “light brown” or

“Dark tan” because I am neither. I am

BEIGE and I am proud. I’m also tired of
being second place to Mr. Brown Crayon.

It’s not fair that Brown gets all the bears,
ponies and puppies while the only things I
get are turkey dinners (if I’m lucky) and
wheat, and let’s be honest—when was the
last time you saw a kid excited about

coloring wheat?

Your BEIGE friend,

Beige Crayon”



Grdy Crayon

(After Beige Crayon)

“Duncan,

GRAY Crayon here. You’re KILLING ME!
I know you love Elephants And I know that
elephants are gray... but that’s a LOT of
space to color in all by myself.

And don’t even get me started on your
rhinos, hippos and HUMPPBACK

WHALES... you know how tired I am after
handling one of those big things? such BIG
animals... baby penguins are gray, you
know. So are very tiny rocks. Pebbles. How
about one of those once in a while to give
me a break?

Your very tired friend,

Gray Crayon”



White Crayon

(After Grady Crayon)

“Dear Duncan,
You color with me, but why? most of the
time I’m the same color as the page you are
using me on—WHITE. If I didn’t have a
black outline, you wouldn’t even know I
was THERE! I’m not even in the rainbow.
I’m only used to color SNOW or to fill in
empty space between other things. And it
leaves me feeling... well... empty. We need
to talk.

Your empty friend,

White Crayon”



Black Crayon

(After White Crayon)

“Hi, Duncan,

I HATE being used to draw the outline of things...

... things that are colored in by other colors, all of which think they’re brighter than me!

It’s NOT FAIR when you use me to draw a nice beach ball and then fill in the colors of the ball with ALL THE OTHER CRAYONS. How about a BLACK Beach ball sometime?

Is that too much to ask?

Your Friend,

Black Crayon”



Green Crayon
(After Black Crayon)

“Dear Duncan,

As Green Crayon, I am writing for two reasons. One is to say that I like my workloads of crocodiles, trees, dinosaurs, and frogs. I have no problem and wish to congratulate you on a very successful “coloring things Green” career so far. The second reason I write is for my friends,

Yellow Crayon and Orange Crayon, who are no longer speaking to each other. Both crayons feel **THEY** should be the color of the sun. Please settle this soon because they’re driving the rest of us **CRAZY!**

Your happy friend,
Green Crayon”



Yellow Crayon

(After Green Crayon)

“Dear Duncan,

Yellow Crayon here. I need you to tell orange crayon that I am the color of the sun. I would tell him but we are no longer speaking. And I can PROVE I’m the color of the sun too! Last Tuesday, you used me to color in the sun on your “HAPPY FARM” coloring book. In case you’ve forgotten, it’s on page 7. You CAN’T MISS me. I’m shining down brilliantly on a field of YELLOW corn!

Your pal (and the true color of the sun),

Yellow Crayon”



© 2010 by Scholastic Teaching Resources

Orange Crayon

(After Yellow Crayon)

“Dear Duncan,

I see Yellow Crayon already talked to you, the BIG WHINER. Anyway, could you please tell Mr. Tattletale that he IS NOT the color of the sun? I would, but we are no longer speaking. We both know that I am clearly the color of the SUN because, on Thursday, you used me to color the sun on BOTH the “monkey island” and the “Meet the Zookeeper” pages in your “DAY AT THE ZOO” coloring book. Orange you glad I’m here? Ha!

Your pal (and the real color of the sun),

Orange Crayon”



Blue Crayon

(After Orange Crayon)

“Dear DUNCAN, It has been great being
your FAVORITE color this PAST Year. And
the Year before THAT! I have really enjoyed
all those OCEANS, LAKES, Rivers,
raindrops, rain CLOUDS and CLEAR skies.

But the BAD NEWS is that I am so short
and stubby, I can't even see over the railing
in the CRAYON BOX anymore!

I need a BREAK!

Your very stubby friend.

Blue Crayon”



Pink Crayon

(After Blue Crayon)

“Duncan, Okay, LISTEN HERE, KID! You have not used me ONCE in the past year. It’s because you think I am a GIRLS’ color, isn’t it? Speaking of which, please tell your little sister I said thank you for using me to color in her “Little Princess” coloring book. I think she did a fabulous job of staying inside the lines! Now, back to us. Could you PLEASE use me sometime to color the occasional PINK Dinosaur or MONSTER or Cowboy? Goodness knows they could use a splash of color.

Your unused friend,

Pink Crayon”



Peach Crayon

(After Pink Crayon)

“Hey Duncan,

It’s me, PEACH CRAYON.

WHY did you peel off my paper wrapping??

Now I’m NAKED and too embarrassed to
leave the crayon box.

I don’t even have any underwear! How
would You like to go to school naked? I
need some clothes. HELP!

Your naked friend,

PEACH Crayon”





Narrator

End of Story (After Peach Crayon)

“Well, poor Duncan just wanted to color... and of course he wanted his crayons to be happy. And that gave him an idea. When Duncan showed his teacher his new picture, she gave him an A for coloring... and an A+ for creativity!”