

THE DAY the  
CRAYONS QUIT

By DREW  
DAYWALT



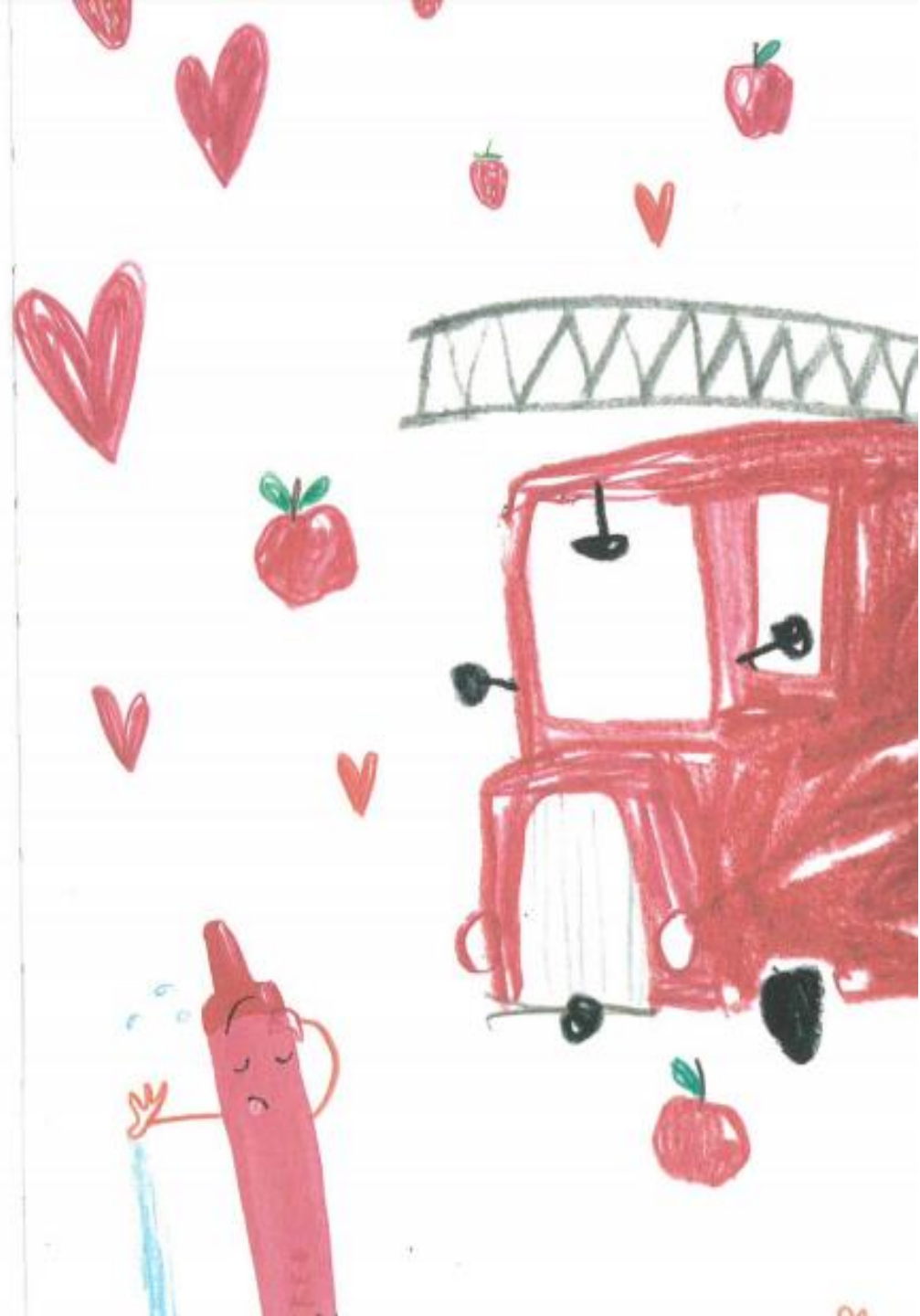
One day in class, Duncan went to take out his crayons and found a stack of letters with his name on them.



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  
colouring FIRE ENGINES, APPLES,  
strawberties and EVERYTHING  
ELSE that's RED.

I even work on Holidays!  
I have to colour all the SANTAS  
at CHRISTMAS and ALL the day!  
HEARTS on VALENTINE'S day!  
I NEED A REST!

Your overworked friend,  
RED Crayon



Dear Duncan,  
All right, LISTEN.  
I love that I'm your favourite crayon  
for grapes, dragons and wizards' hats,  
but it makes me crazy that so much  
of my gorgeous colour goes outside  
the lines. IF you DON'T START  
COLOURING INSIDE the lines  
soon... I'm going to  
COMPLETELY LOSE IT.

Your very neat friend,  
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  
colouring wheat?

Your BEIGE friend,  
Beige Crayon



Duncan,

GREY CRAYON here. You're KILLING ME!  
I know you love Elephants. And I  
know that elephants are grey...  
but that's a LOT of space to colour  
in all by myself.

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

HUMPBACK WHALES...

you know how tired I am after  
handling one of those things?

Such BIG animals...

Baby penguins are grey, you know.

so are very tiny rocks, pebbles. How about  
one of those once in a while to give  
me a break?

~~Bye~~ Your very tired friend,  
Grey Crayon



Dear Duncan,  
You colour with me, but why?  
Most of the time I'm the  
same colour 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 colour  
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



White cat  
in the snow

by  
Duncan

Hi, Duncan,  
I HATE being used to draw  
the outline of things...  
... things that are coloured in  
by other colours, 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 colours of  
the ball with ALL THE OTHER  
CRAYONS. How about a  
BLACK beach ball some time?  
Is that too much to ask?

Your friend,  
BLACK Crayon

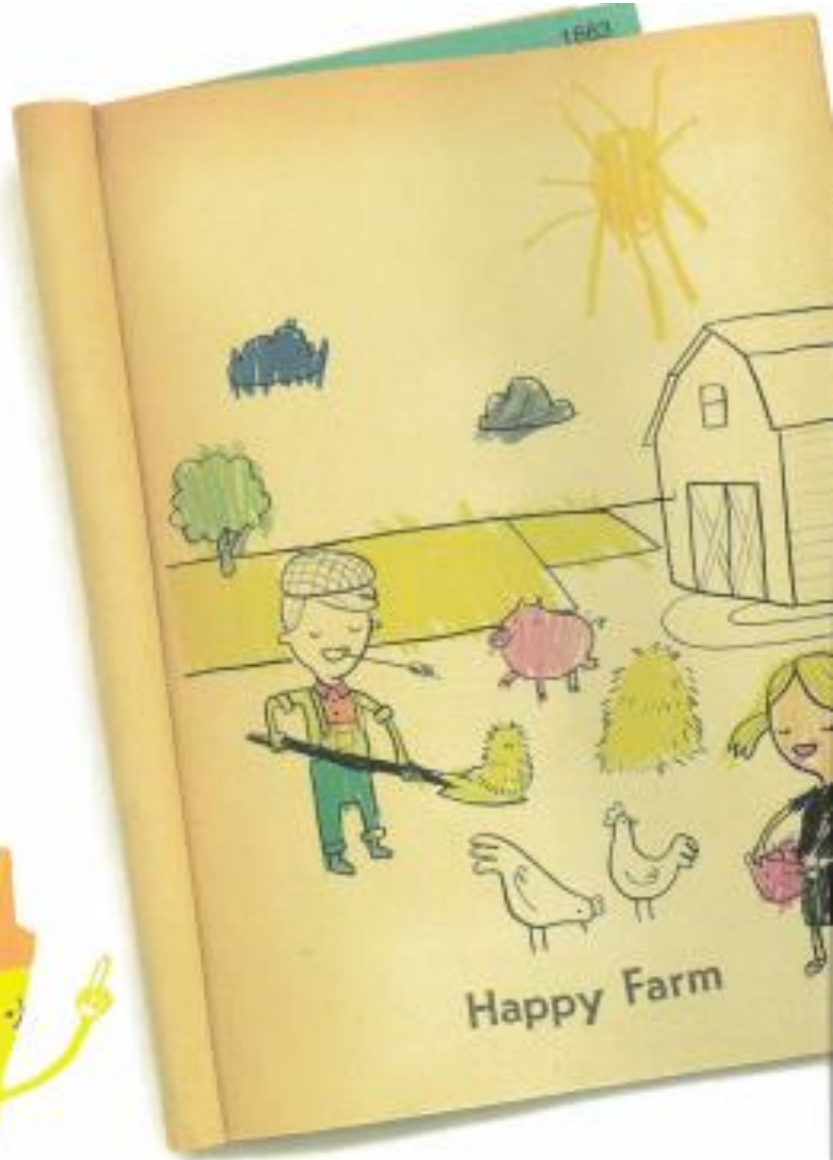




Dear Duncan,  
As Green Crayon, I am writing for two reasons. One is to say that I like my work - loads of crocodiles, trees, dinosaurs and Frogs. I have no problems and wish to congratulate you on a very successful "colouring things GREEN" career so far.  
The second reason I write is for my friends, Yellow Crayon and Orange Crayon, who are no longer speaking to each other. Both crayons feel THEY should be the colour of the sun. Please settle this soon because they're driving the rest of us CRAZY!  
Your happy friend, Green Crayon



Dear Duncan,  
Yellow crayon here. I need you  
to tell orange crayon that I am  
the colour of the sun. I would  
tell him but we are no longer speaking.  
And I can PROVE I'm the colour  
of the sun too! Last Tuesday,  
you used me to colour in the sun  
in your "HAPPY FARM" colouring  
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 colour of the sun),  
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  
colour of the sun? I would, but  
we're no longer speaking.  
We both know I am clearly the  
colour of the sun, because, on  
thursday, you used me to colour  
the sun on BOTH the "Monkey Island"  
and the "meet the zookeeper"  
pages in your "DAY AT The ZOO"  
colouring book. orange you glad  
I'm here? Ha!  
your pal (and the real colour  
of the sun)

orange crayon



DEAR DUNCAN,  
It has been great being your  
FAVOURITE colour this PAST Year.  
And the year before. And the  
YEAR before ~~the~~ 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



Duncan,

OKay, LISTEN HERE, KID!

You have not used me ONCE in ~~the~~  
the past year.

Its because you think I am a GIRLS'  
colour, isn't it? Speaking of which,  
please tell your little sister I  
said thank you for using me to colour  
in her "Pretty PRINCESS" colouring  
book. I think she did a fabulous  
job of staying inside the lines!

Now, back to us. could you PLEASE  
use me sometime to colour the occasional  
PINK DINOSAUR or MONSTER or  
COWBOY? goodness knows they could  
use a splash of colour.  
your unused friend,  
Pink crayon



HEY DUNCAN,  
LET ME PEACH CRAYON.  
WHAT did you feel off  
my paper wrapping??  
Now I'm NAKED and too  
embarrassed to leave the  
crayon box.

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

Your naked friend,  
PEACH CRAYON





When Duncan showed his teacher his new picture, she gave him a "good work" sticker for colouring...





... and a gold star for creativity!

