

THE DAY the
CRAYONS QUIT

By DREW
DAYWALT



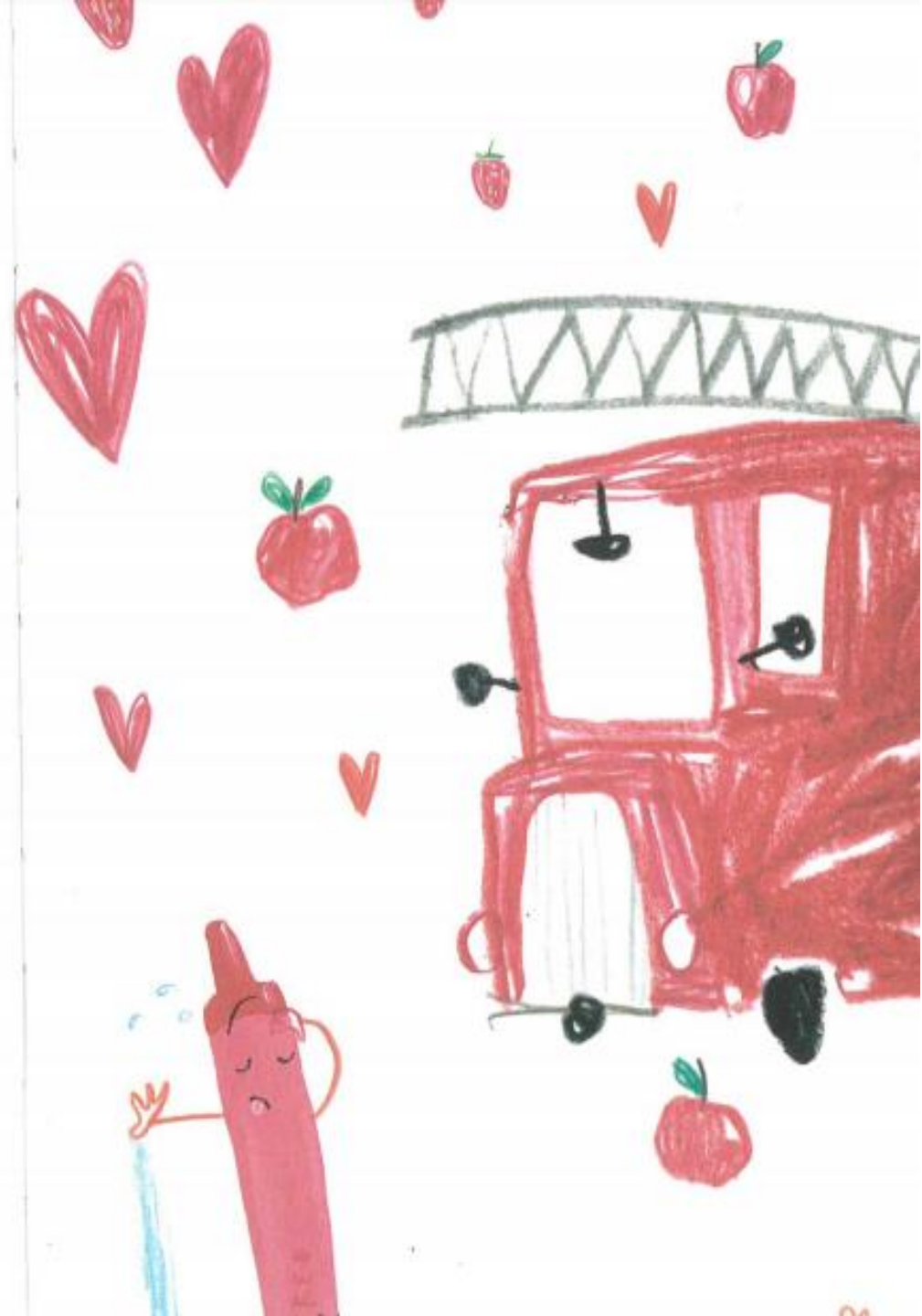
One day in class, Duncan went to take out his crayons and found a stack of letters with his name on them.



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
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?

~~✱~~ 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.

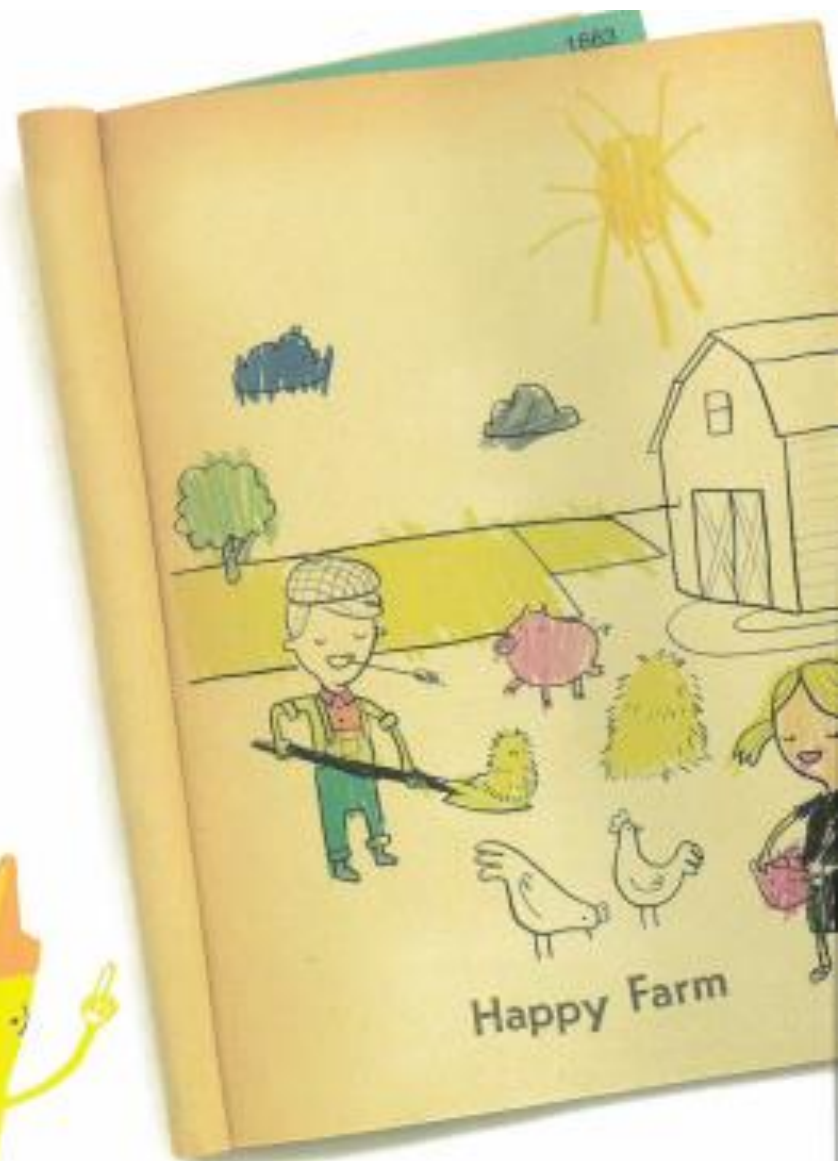
The second reason I write is
for my friends, Yellow Crayon and
Orange Crayon, who are no
longer speaking to each other.
Both crayons feel **THEY** should
be the colour of the sun.

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.
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~~ any
underwear! How would
you like to go to
school naked? I need
some clothes. HELP!
Your naked friend,
PEACH crayon



DUNCAN

PUNCAH

Well, poor Duncan just wanted to colour . . .
and of course he wanted his crayons to
be happy. And that gave him an idea.

year ago, with me, but why?
 you colour time page you
 for of the at the page you
 most colour at the WHITE
 same colour me on a black
 ate using me on a black
 ate I didn't have a black
 If I didn't have a black
 out, you was THERE, but
 out, I was in colour empty
 know I used to fill in empty
 I'm only used to other things
 I'm now between me feeling
 space between me feeling
 space it leaves empty
 - and well... friend,
 to talk empty crayon
 your white

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



... and a gold star for creativity!

