

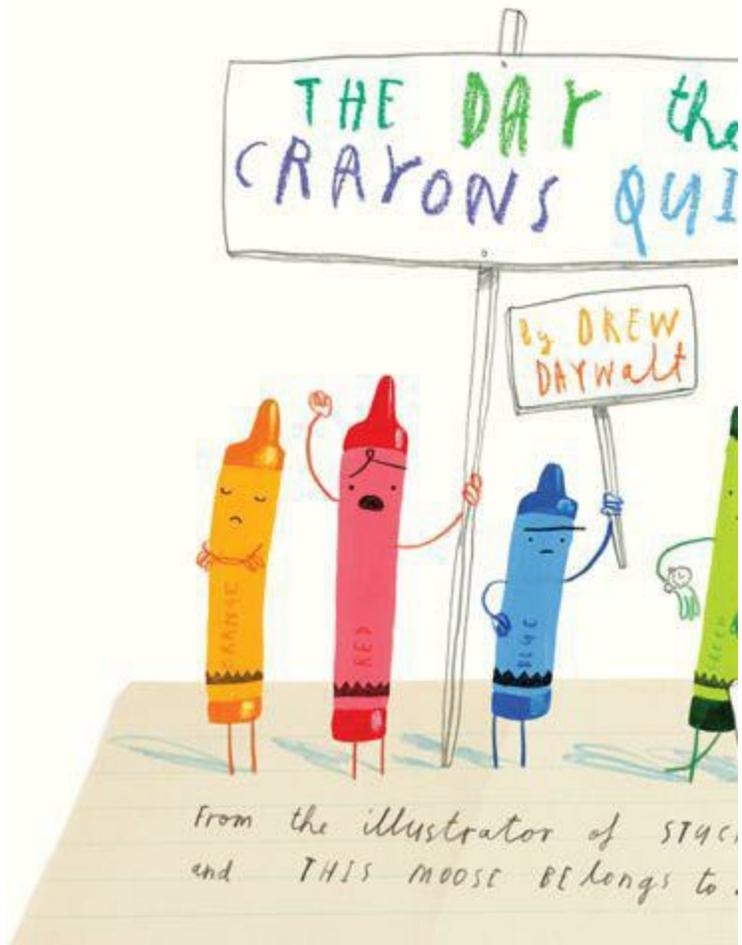
THE DAY the  
CRAYONS QUIT

By DREW  
DAYwalt



PICTURES BY  
OLIVER  
TEFTERS

From the illustrator of STACK  
and THIS MOOSE BELONGS TO ME





To Marichelle, Abigail and  
Reese —D.D.

To Ewan —O.J.



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



Hey DUNCAN,  
It's me, RED Crayon. WE NEED  
You make me work harder than  
any of your other crayons.  
I have to wear myse

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

I NEED A REST!

Your overworked friend,

RED Crayon



Dear Duncan,

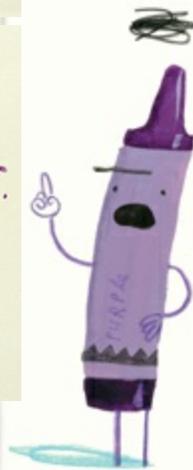
All right, LISTEN.

I love that I'm your favorite crayon  
for grapes, dragons, and wizards' 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



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

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  
HUMPBACK WHALES...

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

~~FR~~ your very tired friend,  
GRAY 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...

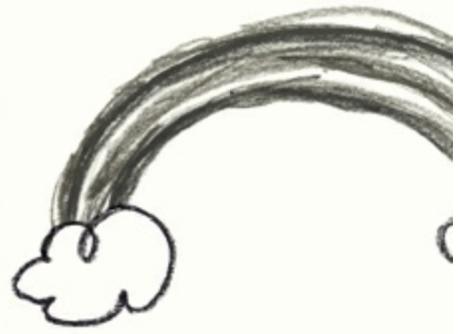
...well... empty. We need  
to talk.

Your empty friend,  
White Crayon



Hi, Duncan,  
I HATE being used to draw  
~~the~~ 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

Hi, Duncan,  
I HATE being used to draw  
~~the~~ 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



Dear Duhaan,  
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 "coloring th...  
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  
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  
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



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're no longer speaking.  
We both know 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 zoo keeper"  
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



Dear DUNCAN,  
It has been great being your  
FAVORITE color 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.

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



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~~ any  
underwear! How would

YOU like to go to  
school naked? I need  
some clothes. HELP!

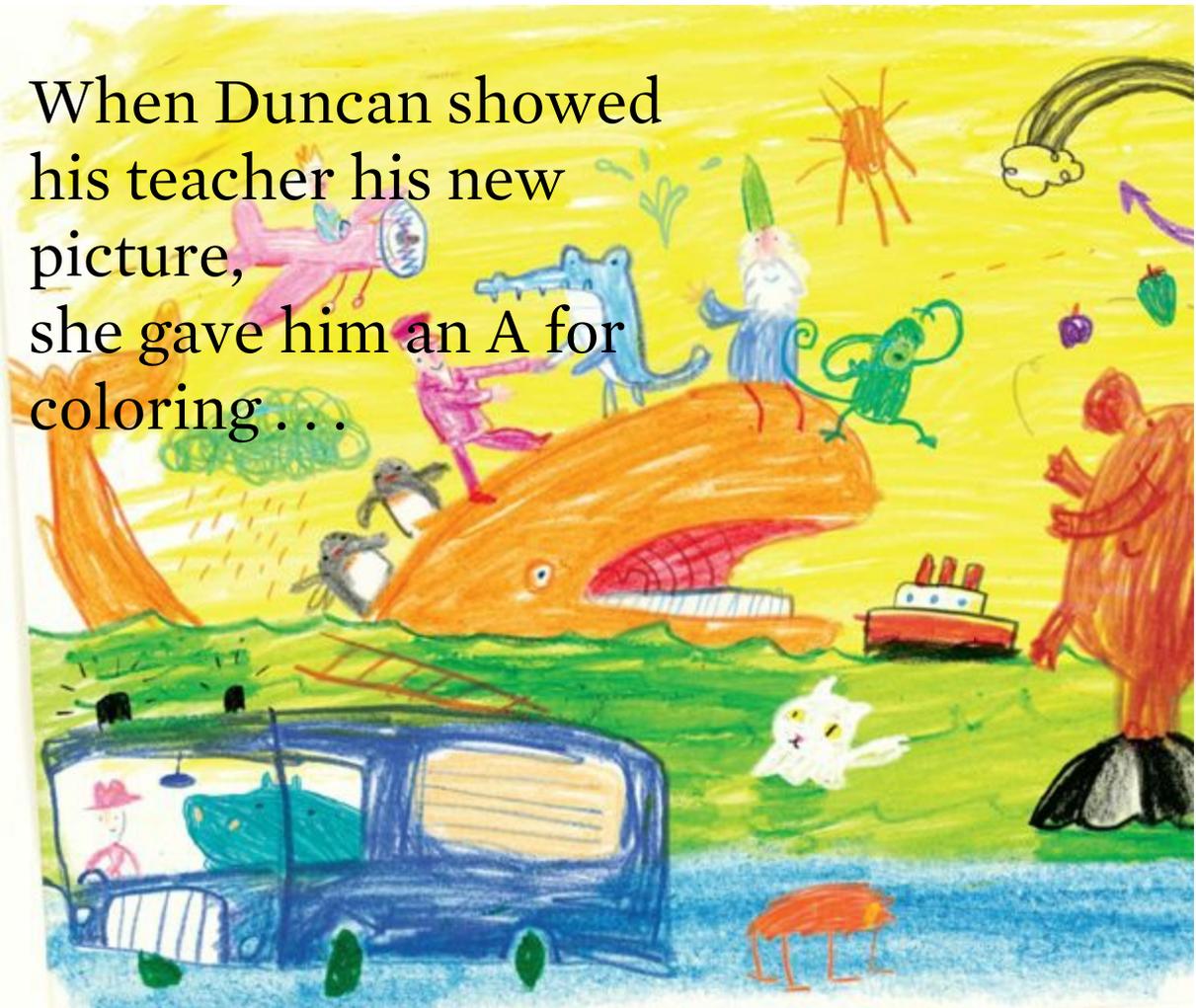
Your naked friend,

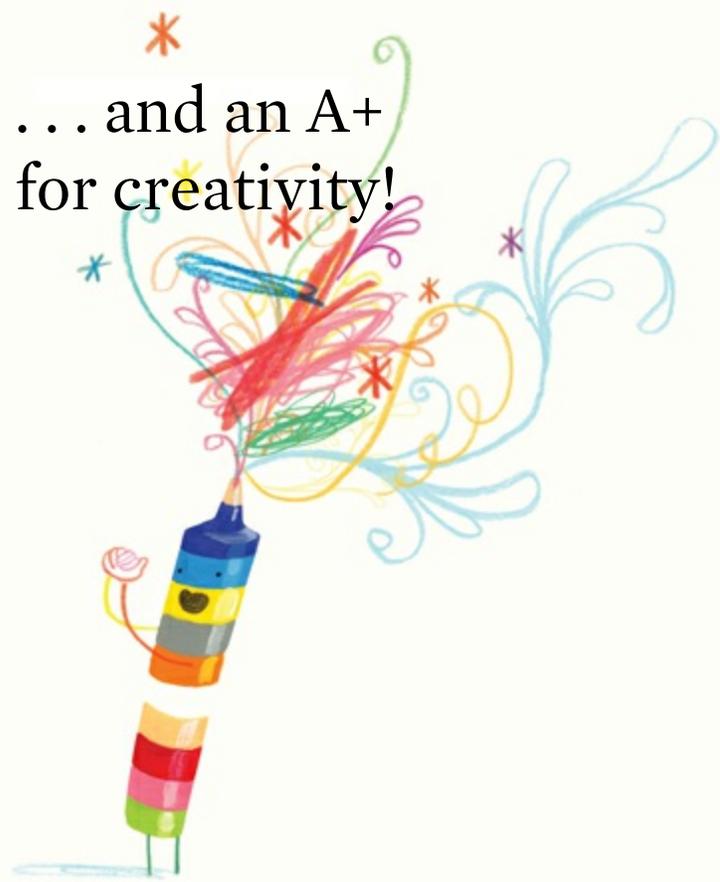
PEACH Crayon





When Duncan showed his teacher his new picture, she gave him an A for coloring . . .





... and an A+  
for creativity!

An imprint of

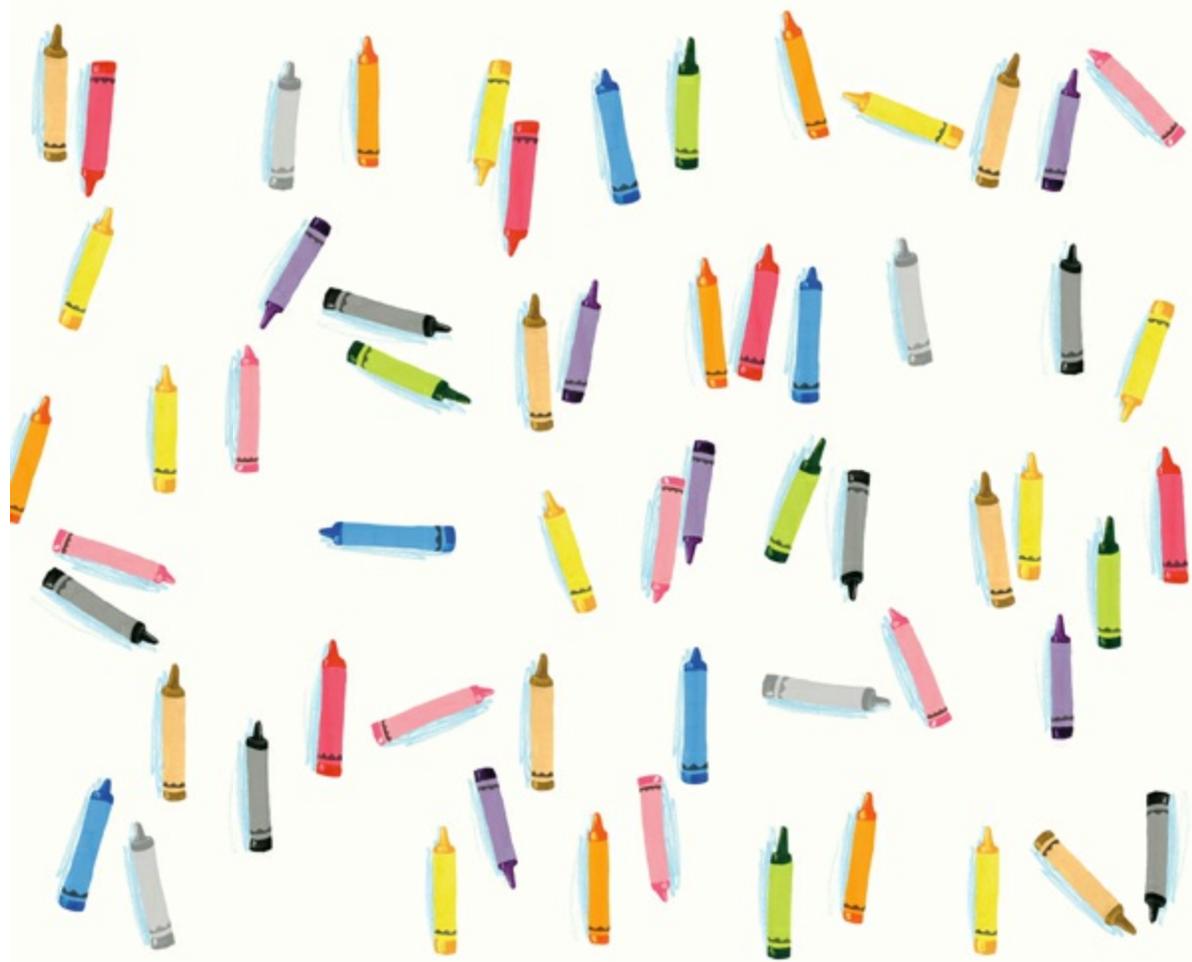
Penguin Group

Text copy  
Penguin Group  
copyright

700  
No part of  
(a division of  
distributed  
Ltd, 80 Str  
peri

Philomel I  
25 St. Step  
Group, 345 I  
Penguin I





The Battle Lines Have Been Drawn.

