

## The Day the Crayons Quit by Drew Daywalt

For me, this book is one of the most original, fun-filled and entertaining books that I have had the pleasure to read. The author (Drew Daywalt) had a superb idea, which he then managed to develop into an excellent book.

In a nutshell, the text is based on the idea in its title - all of the crayons which belong to a little boy (named Duncan) decide to quit and leave him letters explaining their reasons for doing so. For instance, the black crayon complains that he is always associated with doom and gloom, or is simply used to outline pictures. Similarly, the blue crayon is tired of being used for seas and skies; he dreams of being used for much, much more. The letters continue in a similar way. Each is humorous, especially because they have such an element of truth to them.

Personally, I adored the way in which Drew Daywalt has brought these crayons to life, giving them each distinct personalities and thoughts. As I mentioned earlier, the whole concept is brilliant - a real stroke of genius. I don't think I will ever look at a box of crayons in the same way and I certainly felt a pang of guilt when I used my black crayon for yet more outlining! Having praised the author so much, I do feel I ought to mention the skilled illustrator (Oliver Jeffers) as well. Without his contribution, I don't think this book would have been half as good: it's amazing how much expression he gives to the crayons' faces by means of just a few 'simple' lines

All in all, this is a super book, which I am so grateful I was introduced to. It deserves to be shared with as many children as possible.