The Day the Crayons Quit by Drew Daywalt, illustrated by Oliver Jeffers. Philomel, 2013.

Summary: Poor Duncan just wants to color, but it seems as though his crayons have quit! Duncan receives a stack of letters from his crayons telling him exactly how they feel. Some feel overused while some feel underused.

Awards: Good Reads Best Picture Book 2013

Review from School Library Journal: “K-Gr 2—In this delightfully imaginative take on a beloved childhood activity, a young boy's crayons have had enough. Fed up with their workload and eager to voice their grievances, they pen letters to Duncan detailing their frustrations. Energetic and off-the-wall, the complaints are always wildly funny, from the neurotically neat Purple ("If you DON'T START COLORING INSIDE the lines soon... I'm going to COMPLETELY LOSE IT") to the underappreciated White ("If I didn't have a black outline, you wouldn't even know I was THERE!"). Daywalt has an instinctive understanding of the kind of humor that will resonate with young children, such as Orange and Yellow duking it out over which of them represents the true color of the sun or Peach's lament that ever since its wrapper has fallen off, it feels naked. Though Jeffers's messily scrawled crayon illustrations are appropriately childlike, they're also infused with a sophisticated wit that perfectly accompanies the laugh-out-loud text; for example, a letter from Beige, in which he bemoans being tasked with drawing dull items like turkey dinners, is paired with an image of the crestfallen crayon drooping over beside a blade of wheat. Later on, Pink grumbles about constantly being passed over for less-feminine colors while the opposite page depicts a discomfited-looking pink monster and cowboy being derided by a similarly hued dinosaur. This colorful title should make for an uproarious storyline and may even inspire some equally creative art projects.—Mahnaz Dar, Library Journal

Author: Drew Daywalt – no website available, interview here: http://nerdybookclub.wordpress.com/2013/10/06/what-if-by-drew-daywalt/


Discussion Questions:

a. Before reading:
   1. Based on the title, what do you think this book is going to be about?
   2. What is a strike?
   3. What do you think the outcome will be?

b. During reading:
   1. How do you think the ____ crayon was feeling when it wrote this letter?
   2. How could Duncan resolve the issue between the yellow crayon and the orange crayon?
   3. What do you think the ____ crayon is going to write in its letter to Duncan?
c. After reading:

1. What would you do if your crayons went on strike?
2. What would you have done differently?
3. What other every day item/utensil might quit on us? How might we apply what we learned from this book to our lives?

8. Activities:

a. Reading/Oral Language: Students can use an array of graphic organizers with this book to deepen understanding and comprehension.

b. Writing: Students can write a letter responding to the crayon of their choice in the voice of Duncan. This would be a good way to introduce (or practice) letter writing.

Write a story about another everyday item that might quit on us.

c. Math: Teachers can integrate crayons into math at many different age levels. For younger students, that may just be learning to count using crayons. For some of the older students, that may be using more complex worksheets like the one found here:

http://www.eduplace.com/kids/mw/bt/2/2_02-1q.html

d. Science: Students can learn about how crayons are made and can even make their own crayons! (How crayons are made: http://science.howstuffworks.com/innovation/4269-assembly-line-crayola-crayons-video.htm and how to make your own crayons: http://www.sheknows.com/kids-activity-center/articles/961747/how-to-make-your-own-crayons)

e. Social Studies: Students can work on using language that expresses their needs, yet is not mean. All of the crayons told Duncan what they needed and/or wanted, but they all did it in a positive way. This book uses “I” statements: It makes me feel ____ when you _____. This type of language is not threatening and does not attack the other person. This would be a good way to practice using this language and responding with that same language.

f. Art: Students could draw as many things as they can think of using only one color. For example, if the student chose red they could draw a heart, a fire truck, Santa, etc. They could also draw a picture trying to use every crayon equally or draw a picture trying to meet every crayon’s request.

g. Drama: Students can work with a partner to create a dialogue presenting and responding to the letters from the book. One student would read the letter, and the other student could write and read a response letter. They would then switch roles.

h. Physical Education: “The following items mentioned by the crayons in the book
would provide funopportunities for kids yoga: fire truck, apple, strawberry, Santa, heart, grapes, dragons, pointed hat, bear, pony, puppy, wheat, elephant, rhino, hippo, humpback whale, baby penguin, tiny pebbles, cat, beach ball, crocodile, tree, dinosaur, frog, sun, monkey, ocean, lake, river, raindrops, rain clouds, princess, monster, cowboy, airplane, boat. Like the ending to the story, get “an A+ for creativity”. Use creative ideas for kids yoga poses, breathwork & activities.” Retrieved from http://omazingkidsllc.com/tag/the-day-the-crayons-quit-coloring-sheet/

9. Related Books:

*Click, Clack, Moo: Cows That Type* by Doreen Cronin, Illustrated by Betsy Lewin

*A Day with No Crayons* by Elizabeth Rusch, Illustrated by Chad Cameron

*My Crayons Talk* by Patricia Hubbard, Illustrated by G. Brian Karas.

10. Other Books Authored by Drew Daywalt:

*The Day the Crayons Quit* is the author’s first book.

11. Other Books Illustrated and/or Authored by Oliver Jeffers:

*This Moose Belongs to Me*

*It Wasn’t Me*

*The New Jumper*

*Stuck, Up and Down*

*Heart and the Bottle*

*The Great Paper Caper*

*The Way Back Home*

*Incredible Book Eating Boy*

*Lost and Found*

*How to Catch a Star.*

12. Websites:

a. The Classroom Bookshelf: [http://classroombookshelf.blogspot.co.uk/2013/11/the-day-the-crayons-quit.html](http://classroombookshelf.blogspot.co.uk/2013/11/the-day-the-crayons-quit.html) This site provides a book review, eight different lesson ideas, seven online resources, and fourteen related books both fiction and nonfiction.

c. Teachers Pay Teachers: [http://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Product/Writing-Innovation-The-Day-The-Crayons-Quit-834219](http://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Product/Writing-Innovation-The-Day-The-Crayons-Quit-834219) This site includes 3 writing ideas, 4 black and white writing pages that students can color, and 4 color writing pages. Best of all, it is free!

d. Pinterest: *The Day the Crayons Quit*


Activities for the book – 9 different pins.