

Name _____



Overworked Colors

Duncan loved to draw, and his crayons worked hard to bring his pictures to life. But one day, when he opened his crayon box, something was wrong—his crayons had quit! Instead of crayons, he found a stack of letters, each written by a different color. As he read through them, Duncan realized that some crayons felt unappreciated, while others were completely overworked.

Red Crayon was exhausted. “I am used all the time! Fire trucks, apples, hearts—everyone loves me. But I never get a break! Even on holidays, you use me for Christmas stockings and Valentine’s Day hearts. I need a rest!”

Blue Crayon had a similar problem. “I may be one of your favorites, but I’m shrinking! Oceans, skies, rivers—I’m always the go-to color for big things, and now I’m just a tiny stub.”

Yellow and Orange were busy arguing. “I am the real color of the sun!” Yellow declared. “No, I am!” Orange shot back. They were both tired of the never-ending debate, and Duncan had no idea which one was right.

Meanwhile, some crayons felt ignored. Beige Crayon sighed, “I get used for wheat and sand, but that’s it. Brown gets the trees and bears, but no one gets excited about Beige.”

Pink Crayon had a similar complaint. “You barely use me! I am more than just a princess dress. I could be a dinosaur, a monster, or anything else, if only you’d give me a chance.”

Black Crayon was frustrated too. “I only get used for outlines! Why can’t I be the star of the drawing for once?”

As Duncan read each letter, he realized that just like people, crayons could feel left out or overworked. Some felt like they were doing too much, while others felt invisible. He wanted to make things right, so he decided to create a new kind of picture—one where every crayon had a special job.

He drew a pink dinosaur, a black beach, a yellow-and-orange sun, and a blue watermelon. His picture looked different, but it was the most creative and colorful one he had ever made. His crayons were finally happy, and Duncan learned that when everyone’s contributions are valued, the results can be amazing.