

# The Day the Crayons Came Home

## A RIF GUIDE FOR EDUCATORS

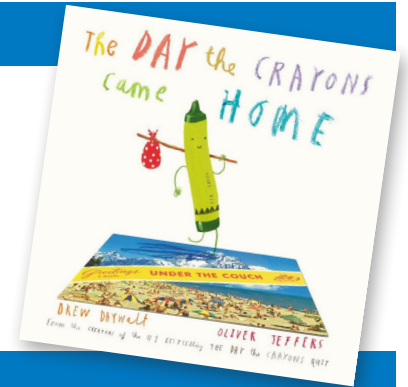
**Themes:** Postcard Writing, Travel, Homecoming

**Book Brief:** What do you think happens to crayons when you lose them under the couch or leave them behind on a trip? Well, Duncan's lost and forgotten crayons have had enough—and they've all written him postcards to let him know how they feel!

**Author:** Drew Daywalt

**Illustrator:**  
Oliver Jeffers

**Content Connections:**  
Social Studies



## TIME TO READ!



### BEFORE WE READ, LET'S LOOK AT...

**The Cover:** What do you think this book will be about based on the title and cover picture? What's unusual about the crayon on the cover? What's it holding? What's it standing on top of?

Do you recognize the landmark on the back cover?

**The Pictures:** Flip briefly through the pages. What do you notice about the pictures on each page? Explain that this book is written as a series of postcards sent

by a little boy's neglected crayon collection.

**Prior Knowledge:** Have you read any other books written in the form of letters or cards? What about diary entries? Why might an author write this way rather than use a traditional story structure? Have you ever sent or received a postcard? Why do people usually send postcards?

**Vocabulary:** postcard, marooned, undigestible, pyramids, neglected

**Purpose for Reading:** Pay attention to what happens to each crayon to make it leave "home." Be prepared to compare each crayon's story.

## WHILE WE READ

### MONITORING COMPREHENSION

- ◆ What happened to the maroon crayon?
- ◆ Why is the green crayon running away?
- ◆ Why are the orange and yellow crayons stuck together?

- ◆ Why wouldn't Duncan recognize the tan crayon?
- ◆ Is the red crayon really in New Jersey? Why or why not?
- ◆ Who does the toddler crayon belong to?



## LET'S THINK ABOUT



**Our Purpose:** Which of the crayons had similar stories? Which crayons' stories were different? Pick two or three crayons and compare their stories in detail.

**Extending Our Thinking:** How do you think the author came up with the idea for this story? What everyday items do you lose frequently? Where do you think those items end up? What did you notice about the red crayon's postcards? Do you think it really visited all the places it said it did? Explain your answer. With a partner, discuss which crayon color you think is the least popular. What about the most popular? Why?

### NOTE TO EDUCATORS

- ◆ Extension Activities for Educators also available.
- ◆ Vocabulary Scaffolding Sheet also available.



Reading Is  
Fundamental