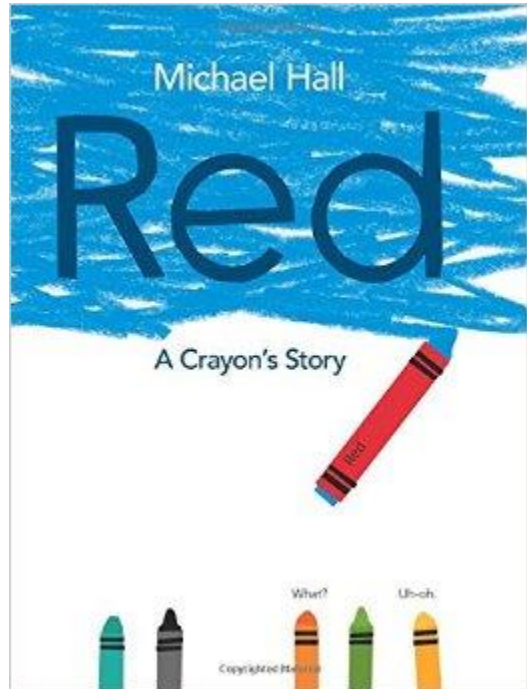


# Red: A Crayon's Story

## Written & Illustrated by Michael Hall

Published by Greenwillow Books © 2015

In *Red: A Crayon's Story* we learn about a young crayon whose label from the factory reads "Red." However, when it comes to performing the way a red crayon should, Red falls short. As we follow Red's journey, we eventually watch as he finds his true identity. Grade for children in their mid-year of Kindergarten.



### Suggestions for supporting comprehension:

- Before reading, ask students to make a prediction based on the title *Red: A Crayon's Story* and the picture on the cover, or ask if they notice anything funny about the title and cover.
- While reading (pages 28/29) after the line "Will you make a blue ocean for my boat?" ask students if they think he will be able to.
- After reading, ask students how they think Red felt at the beginning of the story and then at the end. Encourage students to make personal connections about how this story might relate to people, rather than crayons.

### Learn More:

<http://www.michaelhallstudio.com/pages/about/index.html>

<http://www.michaelhallstudio.com/pages/books/crayon/index.html>

<http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/22249668-red>

### Editorial Review:

*PreS-K—Step inside the life of a crayon in this funny and poignant picture book. The star of the show is Red, a blue crayon who mistakenly has a red label. His teacher tries to convince him to draw strawberries, but they show up blue. He tries on a red scarf, but it just does not match. His mother suggests he mixes with other colors, but the results are not what he expects. No matter how hard Red tries, his efforts just keep coming out blue. His other crayon friends try to help him reinvent himself, but no matter what they do, Red is still a blue crayon. After much self-doubt and denial, Red makes a new friend, a Berry-colored crayon, who asks him to complete his drawing by adding a blue ocean for his boat. Red gives it a go, and suddenly, he finds his true self and discovers what his other art-supply friends knew all along. The rest of his crayon friends are impressed with his new style, and Red comes to embrace his true identity. Hall's latest picture book is all about staying true to oneself, no matter what others say. The illustrations emulate children's artwork, giving readers a great opportunity to identify colors and new vocabulary. Large, clear text make this perfect for a read-aloud, as well as independent reading. VERDICT Reminiscent of Drew Daywalt's *The Day the Crayons Quit* (Philomel, 2013), this witty and heartwarming book is sure to become a favorite for children and adults alike.—Natalie Braham, Denver Public Library*

- School Library Journal