

Reader's Theatre



The Day the Crayons Quit



Reader's Theatre

Reader's theatre is a strategy for developing reading fluency. It involves children in oral reading through reading parts in scripts. In using this strategy, students do not need to memorize their part; they need only to reread it several times, thus developing their fluency skills.

There are many benefits of reader's theatre, including:

- improved reading fluency through repetitive readings of the text
- increased expression while reading aloud
- accurate comprehension of the story line
- improved confidence in students' reading

How to: Reader's Theatre

- Choose a story that can be divided into parts, or character.
- Assign reading parts to each child.
- Ask students to read their scripts orally for practice.
- Have students read assigned parts to an audience or just in class.

Reader's Theatre: The Day the Crayons Quit

Poor Duncan just wants to color. But when he opens his box of crayons, he finds only letters, all saying the same thing: His crayons have had enough! They quit! Beige Crayon is tired of playing second fiddle to Brown Crayon. Black wants to be used for more than just outlining. Blue needs a break from coloring all those bodies of water. And Orange and Yellow are no longer speaking—each believes he is the true color of the sun.

What can Duncan possibly do to appease all of the crayons and get them back to doing what they do best?

Characters:	Black Crayon
Narrator	Green Crayon
Red Crayon	Yellow Crayon
Purple Crayon	Orange Crayon
Beige Crayon	Blue Crayon
Gray Crayon	Pink Crayon
White Crayon	Peach Crayon

The Day the Crayons Quit

Narrator: One day in class, Duncan went to take out his crayons and found a stack of letters with his name on them.

Red Crayon: Hey Duncan,
It's me, Red Crayon. We NEED to talk.
You make me work harder than any
of your other crayons. All year long I
wear myself out coloring fire engines,
apples, strawberries, and EVERYTHING
ELSE THAT'S RED. I even have to work
on holidays! I have to color all the
Santas at Christmas and ALL the hearts
on Valentine's Day! I NEED A REST!
Your overworked friend,
Red Crayon

Purple Crayon: Dear Duncan,
I love that I'm your favorite
crayon for grapes, dragons, and
wizard's hats, but it makes me
crazy that so much of my
gorgeous color goes outside the
line. If you don't start coloring inside
the lines soon ... I'm going to
COMPLETELY LOSE IT.

Your very neat friend,
Purple Crayon

Beige Crayon: Dear Duncan,
I'm tired of being called "light brown"
or "dark tan" because I am neither. I
am BEIGE and I am proud. I'm also
tired of being second place to Mr.
Brown Crayon. It's not fair that Brown
gets all the bears, ponies, and puppies
while the only things I get are turkey
dinners (if I'm lucky) and wheat, and
let's be honest – when was the last
time you saw a kid excited about
coloring wheat?

Your BEIGE friend,
Beige Crayon

Gray Crayon: Duncan,
Gray crayon here. You're KILLING ME! I
know you love elephants. And I know
that elephants are gray... but that's a
LOT of space to color in all by myself.
And don't even get me started on your
rhinos, hippos, and humpback whales.
You know how tired I am after
handling one of those things? Such BIG
animals...

Baby penguins are gray you know. So
are very tiny rocks. Pebbles. How about
one of those once in a while to give
me a break?

Your very tired friend,
Gray Crayon

White Crayon: Dear Duncan,
You color with me, but why? Most of the time I'm the same color as the page you are using me on – WHITE. If I didn't have a black outline, you wouldn't even know I was there! I'm not even in the rainbow. I'm only used to color snow or to fill in empty space between other things. And it leaves me feeling...well...empty. We need to talk.

Your empty friend,
White Crayon

Black Crayon: Hi, Duncan,
I HATE being used to draw the
outline of things...things that are
colored in my other colors, all of
which think they're brighter than
me! It's NOT FAIR when you use
me to draw a nice beach ball and
then fill in the colors of the ball with
ALL THE OTHER CRAYONS. How
about a black beachball sometime?
Is that too much to ask?

Your friend,
Black Crayon

Green Crayon: Dear Duncan,
As a green crayon, I am writing for two reasons. One is to say that I like my work – loads of crocodiles, trees, dinosaurs, and frogs. I have no problems and wish to congratulate you on a very successful “coloring things green” career so far. The second reason I write is for my friends, yellow crayon and orange crayon, who are no longer speaking to each other. Both crayons feel **THEY** should be the color of the sun. Please settle this soon because they’re driving the rest of us **CRAZY!**

Your happy friend,
Green Crayon

Yellow Crayon: Dear Duncan,
Yellow crayon here. I need you to tell
Orange crayon that I am the color of
the sun. I would tell him but we are no
longer speaking. And I can PROVE I'm
the color of the sun too! Last Tuesday
you used me to color in the sun on
your "Happy Farm" coloring book. In
case you've forgotten, it's on page 7.
You can't miss me. I'm shining down
brilliantly on a field of YELLOW corn!
Your pal (and the true color of the
sun),
Yellow Crayon

Orange Crayon: Dear Duncan,
I see Yellow crayon already talked to you, the BIG WHINER. Anyway, could you please tell Mr. Tattletale that he IS NOT the color of the sun? I would, but we're no longer speaking. We both know I am clearly the color of the sun because, on Thursday you used me to color the sun on BOTH the "Monkey Island" and the "Meet the Zookeeper" pages in your "Day at the Zoo" coloring book. Orange you glad I'm here? Ha!

Your Pal, (and the REAL color of the sun)

Orange Crayon

Blue Crayon: Dear Duncan,
It has been great being your
FAVORITE color this past year. And
the before. And the year before
that! I have really enjoyed all those
oceans, lakes, rivers, raindrops,
rain clouds, and clear skies. But the
BAD NEWS is that I am so short
and stubby, I can't even see over
the railing in the crayon box
anymore!

I need a break!

Your very stubby friend,
Blue crayon

Pink Crayon: Duncan,

Okay, listen here kid! You have used me ONCE in the past year. It's because you think I am girls' color, isn't it? Speaking of which, please tell your little sister I said thank you for using me to color in her "Little Princess: coloring book. I think she did a fabulous job of staying in the lines! Now, back to us. Could you PLEASE use me to color the occasional pink dinosaur or monster or cowboy? Goodness knows they could use a splash of color.

Your unused friend,
Pink crayon

Peach Crayon: Hey Duncan,
It's me, the Peach crayon.
Why did you peel off my
paper wrapping?? Now I'm
NAKED and too embarrassed to
leave the crayon box. I don't
even have any underwear!
How would YOU like to go to
school naked? I need some
clothes. HELP!

Your naked friend,
Peach Crayon

Narrator: Well, poor Duncan just wanted to color...and of course he wanted his crayons to be happy. And that gave him an idea.

When Duncan showed his teacher his new picture, she gave him an A for coloring...and an A+ for creativity!

The End

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