

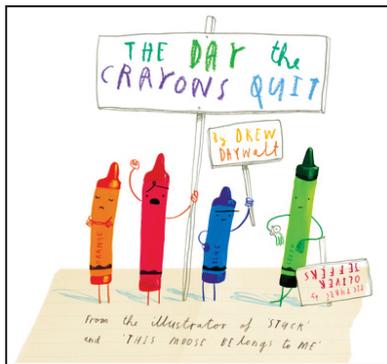
# A Page in a Book<sup>®</sup>

RECOMMENDING THE BEST BOOKS FOR CHILDREN & TEENS

By Paige Gardner Smith

## Living a Colorful Life

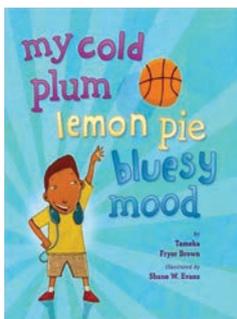
Just as a child's vocabulary grows from the simplest words to complex sentences as they mature, so too does their grasp of color. Beginning with the most basic colors of black, red, blue and yellow, kids quickly learn to recognize the blending of primary colors to add the greens, purples, orange and more. Even with crayon labels helping them expand their rainbow, their maturing vision and vocabulary let them discern broader and more diverse hues around them. They learn to associate them with their other senses until their palette begins to overflow with colors that define much of their world. The following recommended reading titles shine the light on the life of color through the eyes of a child.



### The Day the Crayons Quit

By Drew Daywalt, Illustrated by Oliver Jeffers (Philomel)

When young Duncan opens his coloring box, he discovers his crayons gone and in their place, a collection of letters explaining why they've quit. His crayons have essentially gone on strike, complaining of their poor working conditions – each color has their own sad story to tell. Red is overworked (coloring fire engines and covering the big holidays of Christmas and Valentine's Day). Beige is underworked (and suggests more fields of wheat in drawings). Yellow and Orange both believe they are the true color of the sun and are not currently speaking to each other. And poor White doesn't even get used without Black's outline! The resignation letters are hilarious – and full of the crayons' self-serving tips for young readers to discover new ways to use ALL the colors at their disposal. From the furious scribbler to the finicky colorist, the laugh-out-loud title will become a top shelf favorite for every budding artist in the family.



### My Cold Plum Lemon Pie Bluesy Mood

By Tameka Fryer Brown, Illustrated by Shane W. Evans (Viking)

Young Jamie has a very clear color sense of feelings. Associating colors with both the moments that make him feel good and the times when he is not so happy, Jamie's moods are colored by his experiences. One of his best moods is the purple kind; the cold plum-eating, grape juice-drinking, listening to music kind of mood. But when his brothers send him off so they can play video games, Jamie's mood becomes colored by a stormy gray. His yellow mood is warmed up by

baked corn pudding, lemon pie and curry chicken, all served in a bright kitchen with his family. Supporting the associative sense of color to communicate feelings, *My Cold Plum Lemon Pie Bluesy Mood* helps young readers articulate and expand the sense of color beyond putting a crayon to the page.

### Colors for Zena

By Monica Wellington (Dial Books for Young Readers)

Waking up in a room of gray and muted hues, Zena is bursting to leave the house in search of all of her colors! Through each two-page spread in this book, she navigates through every color that she loves. One street is filled with yellow as a school bus and taxi move past yellow buildings and the flower shop. When she turns the corner the pages burst with the reds of a fire truck, a double-decker bus, an art store and more crimson hues. Zena adds all her favorite colors throughout her journey in the neighborhood. Ideal for young readers who are just starting to identify colors with traditional objects, kids will enjoy finding all the things that fit into the color schemes with each leg of Zena's exploration!

