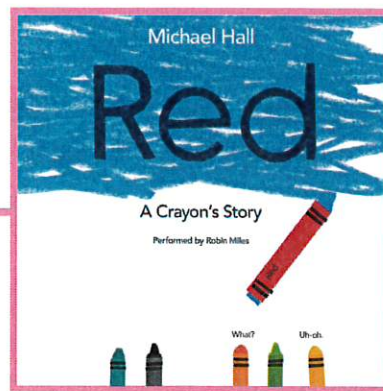


## Elementary Discussion Prompts

### Red: A Crayon's Story

By Michael Hall (he/him)



#### About the Author

Michael Hall is a New York Times bestselling author and illustrator. Before becoming a children's author, Michael was an award-winning graphic designer whose work has been widely recognized for its simple and engaging approach.

#### About the Book

This story follows the journey of Red, a crayon with a bright red label, who is in fact blue. Red's teacher, mother, and classmates all try to help him be red. But Red is miserable. He just can't be red, no matter how hard he tries! Finally, a brand-new friend offers a new perspective, and Red discovers what readers have known all along. He's blue!

#### Discussion Questions

- + In the story it says, "He was red. But he wasn't very good at it." What does it mean that he wasn't very good at it? What is happening?
- + At the end of the story, it was easy for Red to draw the water. What has changed?
- + Can you think of examples or share an identity or a part of yourself that others may not know about you just by looking at you?
- + What do you think the author's message is to the reader?

#### Activities

- + There's More To Me Than You Can See Crayon Project
  - See [template](#) to complete this activity. Pick a crayon template that works best for your students, provide alternative options or allow students to choose their template.
  - Print template on white paper and have students color their outside wrapper or print on colored paper and allow them to choose which color they want.
  - Encourage students to follow the writing prompts or to record three things that people may not know about them just by looking at them.

- Cut around the outside of the crayon and on the solid line on the outside of the wrapper.
  - Model for students where to cut and where to fold on the crayon wrapper.
  - Secure the wrapper around the crayon with glue or tape. The student's writing should be concealed underneath.
- + Play "Just Like Me!" with one person or a group of people. Have one person share something that is true about them that others would not know just by looking at them (ex: likes, dislikes, pieces of their identity, etc.). Have other participants stand up/clap/snap if the statement also applies to them. Encourage participants to notice what they have in common with others and what makes them unique.

