



**Red by Michael Hall**

Greenwillow Books, HarperCollins, 2015

ISBN: 9780062252074 (Hardcover)

\*Age Range: 4-8 (Suggested by Publisher)

Grade Range: Preschool-3 (Suggested by Publisher)

## BOOK SYNOPSIS

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A blue crayon mistakenly labeled as "red" suffers an identity crisis in this picture book by the *New York Times*–bestselling creator of *My Heart Is Like a Zoo*. This funny, heartwarming, colorful picture book about finding the courage to be true to your inner self can be read on multiple levels, and it offers something for everyone.

Funny, insightful, and colorful, *Red: A Crayon's Story* is about being true to your inner self and following your own path despite obstacles that may come your way. *Red* will appeal to fans of Lois Ehlert, Eric Carle, and *The Day the Crayons Quit*, and makes a great gift for readers of any age!

Red has a bright red label, but he is, in fact, blue. His teacher tries to help him be red (let's draw strawberries!), his mother tries to help him be red by sending him out on a playdate with a yellow classmate (go draw a nice orange!), and the scissors try to help him be red by snipping his label so that he has room to breathe. But Red is miserable. He just can't be red, no matter how hard he tries!

Finally, a brand-new friend offers a brand-new perspective, and Red discovers what readers have known all along. He's blue!

## REVIEWS AND PRAISE

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"[A] fresh approach to colors and feelings. . . . Readers will share all the emotional elements of the tale—humor, despair, sadness, frustration, and finally, excitement."

— [Booklist](#) (starred review)

"When a red-labeled crayon discovers he's actually blue, he finds joy, ebullience and acceptance. . . . Hall's compositions . . . convey a strong sense of emotion. Red captures [his feelings] . . . in an exuberant, far-reaching sky. Smartly designed and appealing, Red's story offers much for discussion and affirmation."

— [Kirkus Reviews](#)

"Crayon Red may be labeled red, but he colors blue. . . . Once he lets go of his label and proclaims, "I'm blue!" everything turns around . . . Smart design, bold colors, and sharp details keep the story both effective and amusing."

— Horn Book Magazine

"Red is a crayon, and children will see his problem right away: his label reads 'red,' but he's blue. . . . The overly cheerful encouragement Red endures will sound familiar to any child who's struggled to perform. . . . Unexpectedly affecting."

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HarperCollins

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— [Publishers Weekly](#)

“Funny and poignant . . . Hall’s latest picture book is all about staying true to oneself, no matter what others say. . . Witty and heartwarming [and] sure to become a favorite for children and adults alike.”

— [School Library Journal](#)

“Funny and clever, with a wonderful message about embracing who we are.”

— *Huffington Post*

“This story of mistaken identity has a simple yet profound premise that makes it feel fresh.”

— *USA Today*

“[A] smart, insightful coming-of-age story for [the] youngest readers.”

— [Shelf Awareness](#)

## AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

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- CBC Children's Choices
- Rainbow Book List
- Colorado Children's Book Award
- Georgia Children's Book Award
- Iowa Goldfinch Award
- Maryland Black Eyed Susan Award
- Minnesota Star of the North Picture Book Award
- Illinois Monarch Award
- NCTE Notable Children’s Books in the Language Arts
- Wisconsin Golden Archer Book Award
- Western Australia Young Readers Book Award
- Donna Norvell Oklahoma Book Award
- E.B. White Read Aloud Award
- Goodreads Choice Award
- Irma Black Award
- Minnesota Book Awards
- Northeastern Minnesota Book Award

## MEDIA AND RESOURCES

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- [Discussion Guide](#)

## RESPONSE TO CHALLENGES

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*Add responses to challenges whenever possible, including links if available. Relevant information includes official responses from a board of education, library statements of support, or other statements of support from relevant organizations like PEN America or the Comic Book Legal Defense Fund.*

## AUTHOR STATEMENT (OPTIONAL)

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*Offer the author an opportunity to provide a statement about the potential impact of banning their book or a link to an existing author statement.*

**\*A NOTE ON AGE RANGES**

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A publisher-suggested age range covers the gamut of readers that publishers envision using the book, whether for independent reading, family sharing, group study, or in other ways. Educators have the best sense of the appropriate age range for the diverse learners they work with and understand these ranges vary depending on a book's intended use.