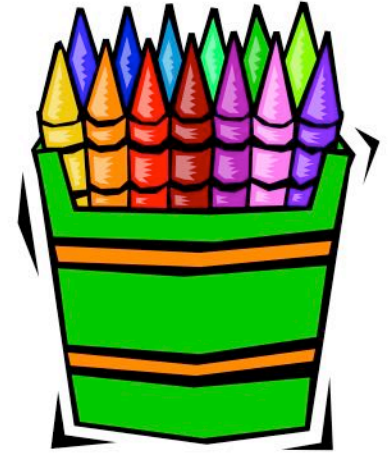


Crayon Box

Story By: Andrew Frinkle

The best part of a new school year for Casey was the crayons. There was the backpack, the paper, the erasers, the new pencils, and all that, but Casey liked crayons and the crayon box best, better even than grilled cheese for school lunch or making new friends. This year, he got the 64-pack of crayons, and it was amazing.

The crayons came in a bright green box with yellow stripes. The crayons were in four little cartons inside the main box, a rainbow of colors with no doubles of any color. There was a built-in sharpener on the back. That was cool, but he didn't much use it anyway, because he didn't like to use his crayons down past the paper if he could help it.



Immediately, he dumped all the crayons out on the table. He decided to sort them all by color families. He only had four boxes, so he had to be careful. How would he sort them? Would reds go with oranges? Where would the yellows go then? Would they fit with the greens? That would make blues and purples go together, too. What about the odd colors, like gold, silver, black, gray, and white?

There were a lot of choices. He separated them into several piles, trying to get them even. Try as he might, no matter how he split the colors, the piles were always uneven. There seemed to be more greens and blues than anything, and hardly any oranges. Was there another way to think about it?

He could just put them back in random order, he decided, but that was unsatisfying. If he'd wanted them in any old order, he'd have left them as they'd originally come. There must have been some reason for the way they'd been arranged in the box, not that he had noticed any real pattern to it. He suddenly had a thought: what if he made them like a rainbow from left to right?

That seemed like a fun idea. He filled the reds on the left, filling all the first couple columns, because there were almost eight reds, and then the reds went to red-oranges, oranges, yellow-oranges, and so forth. When he finally reached the purples, he let them go from light to dark, ending the last column with the special color crayons, like white, gray, black, gold, and silver.

When he was done, he smiled. It looked great, or at least it did until his little sister borrowed them that night!

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Use the information in the story to answer the questions below.

1. What is Casey's favorite part about the new school year?
 - A. school lunch
 - B. crayons and school supplies
 - C. meeting friends again
 - D. getting up early

2. How does Casey feel about the sharpener?
 - A. He likes it a lot.
 - B. He likes that it is there, but wants to trade it.
 - C. He hates it a little.
 - D. He likes that it is there, but won't use it much.

3. What is Casey's first idea for organizing the crayons?
 - A. by color families
 - B. back the original way they came
 - C. random order
 - D. in a rainbow

4. What is Casey's final idea for organizing the crayons?
 - A. by color families
 - B. back the original way they came
 - C. random order
 - D. in a rainbow

5. Based on the story, how would you BEST describe Casey's personality?
 - A. warm and friendly
 - B. organized and particular
 - C. careful and boring
 - D. cold and unfeeling

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