

## TEACHING NOTES: THE LAST CRAYON

Written and illustrated by Fifi Colston  
Published by Little Steps Publishing



### SYNOPSIS

Not every crayon can be the brightest, most colourful crayon in the packet. It takes a very special young squirrel to see the true potential of a crayon that has been rejected by others for being not colourful enough.

### ABOUT THE SERIES

The NEW Book Hungry Bears book collection features topical and imaginative stories used in The Book Hungry Bears TV show. From acceptance of diversity to blended families, this delightful series brings together compelling narrative to engage children in their emotional journey as they make sense of the world around them. These bears LOVE picture books and especially love reading them with each other. Sharing their delight and engagement with the books, they ask each other questions, point to the illustrations, and get caught up in the story.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR/ILLUSTRATOR

Fifi Colston is an illustrator, writer and costume and props maker, based in Wellington, New Zealand. She works from her sunny home studio, where she looks out over houses and trees towards the sea with her spoilt ginger cat, Griffin. Fifi has always been writing, drawing and making things ever since she can remember and feels happiest when she has a pencil, scissors or a glue gun in her hand. Her training was in Visual Communications Design, majoring in Illustration, and she has illustrated more than 50 picture books for trade and education. Fifi also has an MA in Creative Writing and is an award-winning junior fiction novelist and non-fiction author. Fifi was the 2019 Otago University College of Education Children's Writer in Residence, and this is where the two Book Hungry Bears titles *Where's My Stick?* and *The Last Crayon* were created.

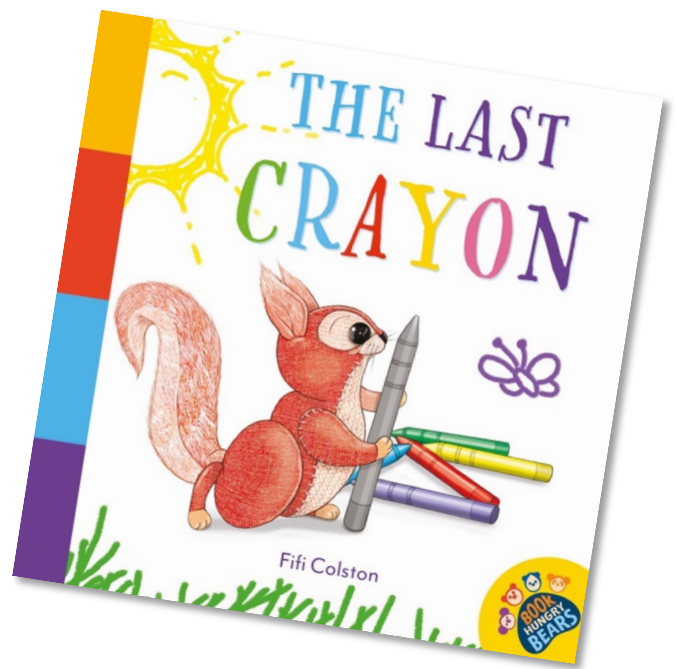


'A drawing to colour in!'



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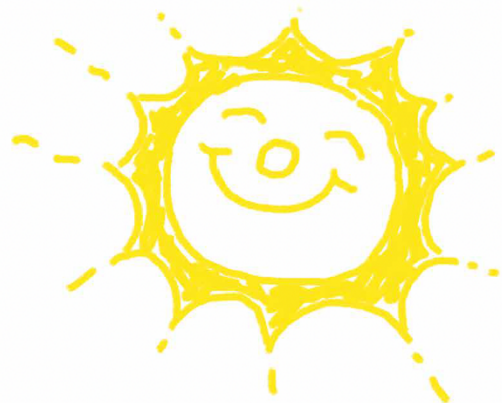
### EDUCATIONAL APPLICABILITY

*The Last Crayon* is an uplifting story about seeing the beauty and power of something that isn't obvious at first. Not every crayon can be the brightest, most colourful crayon in the packet. In the book, it takes a very special young squirrel to see the true potential of a crayon that has been rejected by others for being not colourful enough. There's a powerful message here, conveying the concept, 'appearances are often deceiving'. Key themes are diversity and inclusion.

### DISCUSSION TOPICS

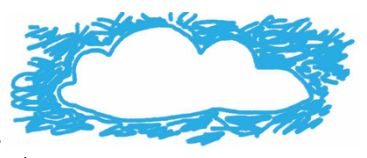
Read the book together, asking questions throughout.

1. Look at the cover of the book together. What do you think the story might be about?
2. Ask the children what their favourite colour is? Does anyone say grey?
3. Talk about the colours and what things match up with the colours – can the children think of more examples?
4. Why does the grey squirrel struggle at first to think of things that are grey?
5. What does the grey squirrel think of at the end of the story?
6. Talk to the children about celebrating differences and inclusion.
7. Can you think of another title for the book?
8. What did the children think of the book? If they liked it, why did they like it? What was their favourite part?



'I've got a yellow crayon,'  
said squirrel number one.  
'It's the colour of the sun.'

# PARTY TIME



Design your tea party invitation so you can invite all your friends.  
Remember to photocopy this sheet a few times before you write on it.

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INVITES

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to a special tea party!

AT

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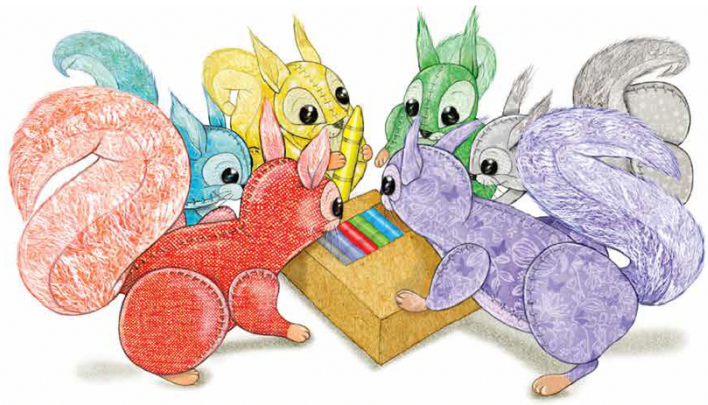
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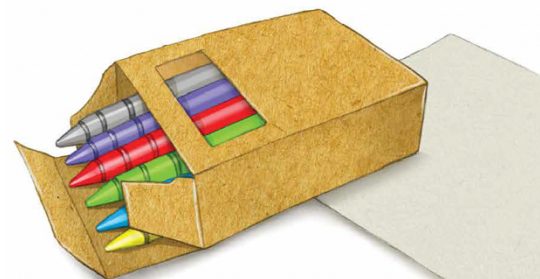
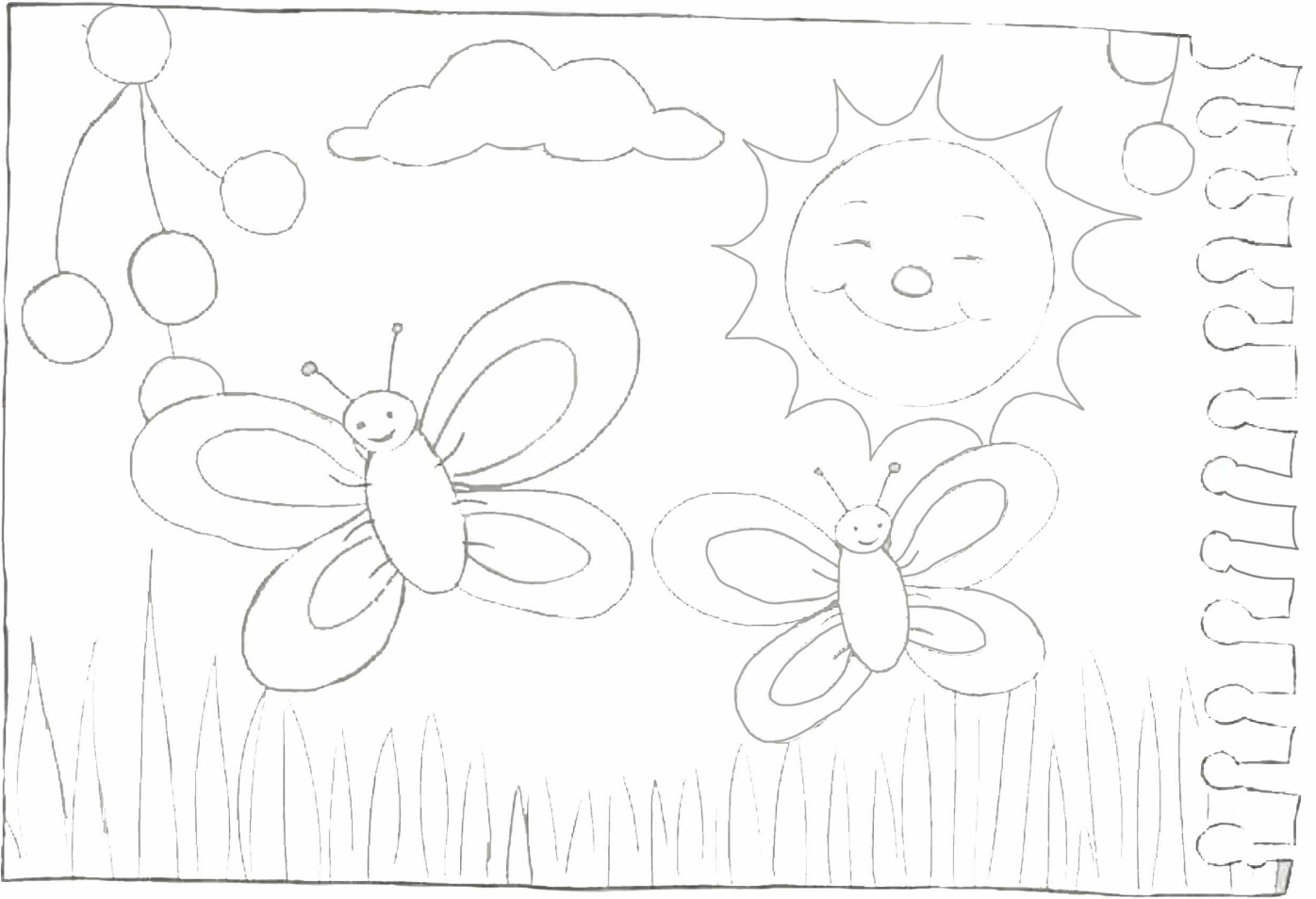
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FUN  
ACTIVITY!

## DRAWING ACTIVITY

Colour in the picture from the story. What colours will you use?

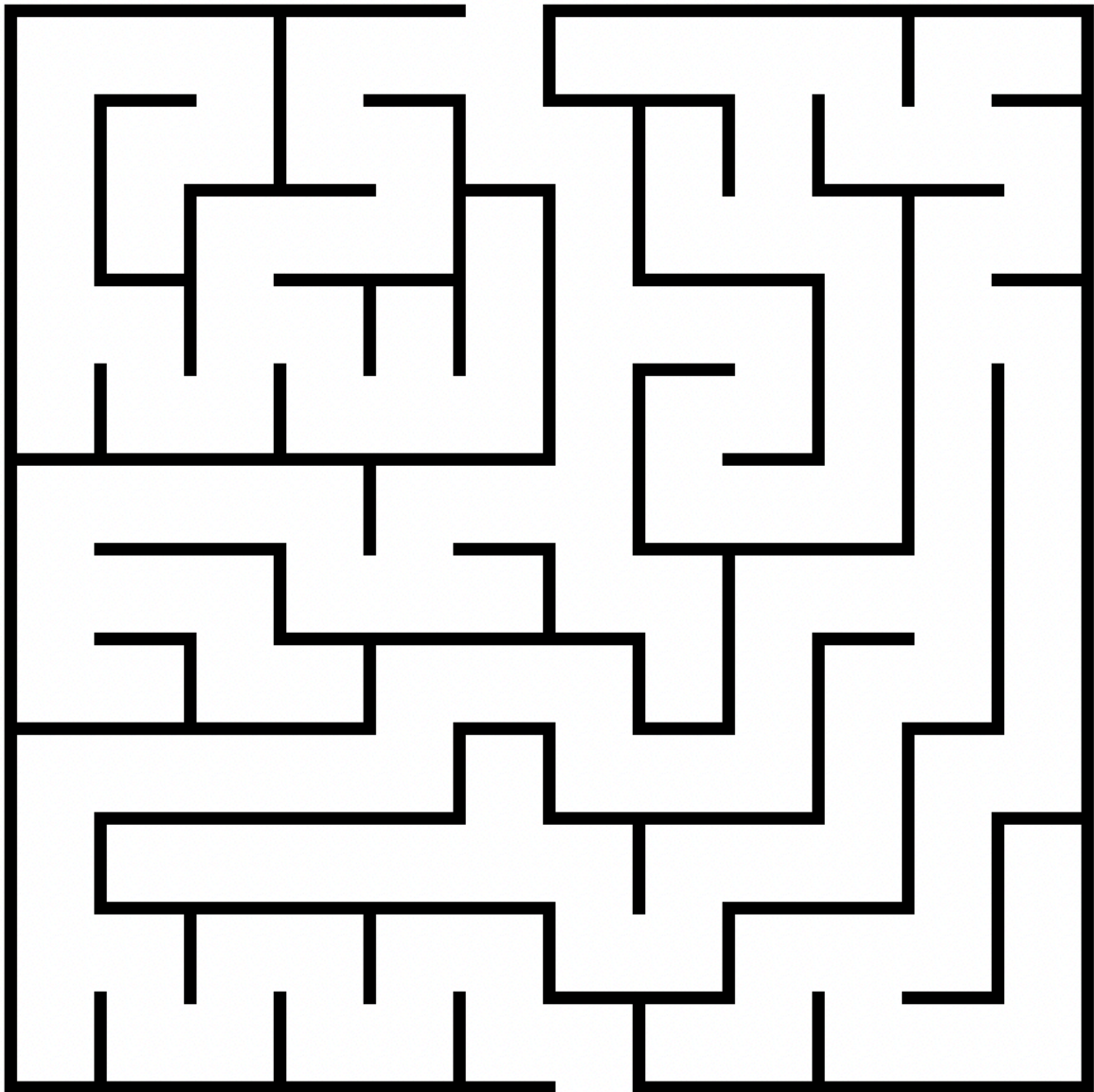




FUN  
ACTIVITY!

# A-MAZE-ING GREY

Help the Grey Squirrel find something to draw.



FUN ACTIVITY!

# A-MAZE-ING GREY SOLUTION

