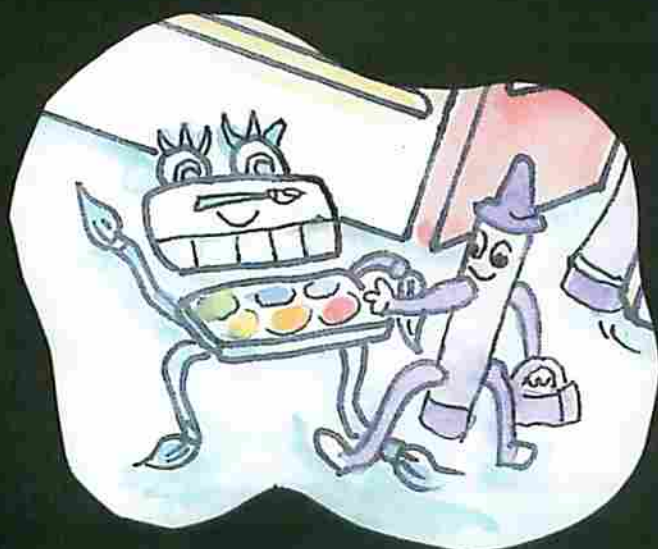


Crayons and
Watercolors Just Don't
Mix!

By Hanna Morris

Illustrations by Karen Weil

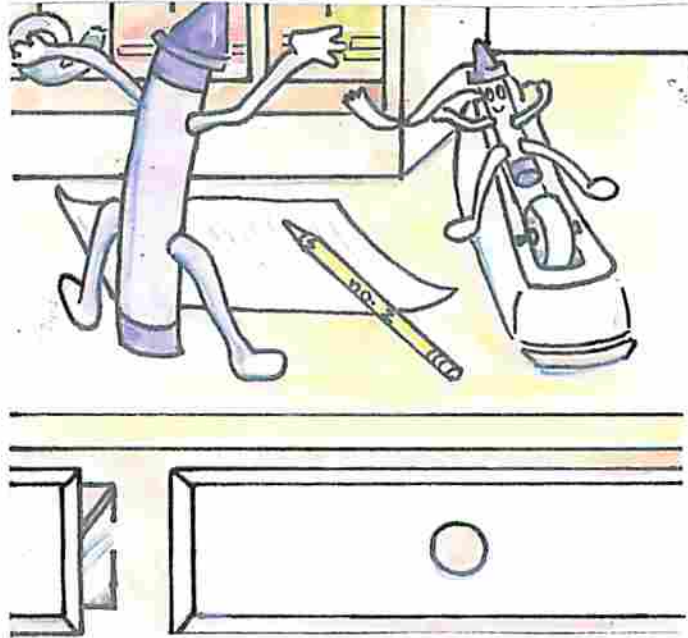


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Once upon a time, there lived a crayon named Polly Purple, who lived with her mother in a desk. Polly had a bright purple appearance, and so most people expected her personality to be bright and outgoing, as well. Surprisingly, Polly was a shy crayon. She had a hard time making new friends.



One night, Polly lay in bed, her head whirling with worries. You see, she would be starting a new school the next day. *What if my teacher doesn't like me?* she thought. *What if the other kids make fun of me? Who will I play with during recess?* Polly Purple tossed and turned in her bed for hours.



The next morning, Polly Purple was so nervous that she could only eat a few bites of breakfast. She felt butterflies in the pit of her stomach. Being too unsettled to eat, she grabbed her new purple backpack, purple lunchbox, and purple notebook, and rode off to school in her mother's purple car.

Polly Purple's mother held Polly's hand as she slowly walked through a wooden gate with a sign that read "Colorville Elementary School." Polly looked around to see students of all different shapes and sizes. Polly saw swings and jump ropes and books and lunchboxes. As Polly walked through the hallways with her mother, she noticed many flyers on the wall. One flyer caught her eye: it was a bright pink piece of paper with blue block letters that stated in all capital letters: COLORVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TALENT SHOW THIS FRIDAY. ALL TALENTS ARE WELCOME. DON'T MISS OUT!



Finally, Polly and her mother arrived at a red door, labeled with a sign that read, "Mrs. Womboe's First Grade Classroom." Polly's mother entered first, and Polly hesitantly trailed behind her.

Right when Polly entered the room, she noticed a student with a rectangular body, spotted with different colors of watercolor. The student saw Polly looking at her and walked over to Polly.

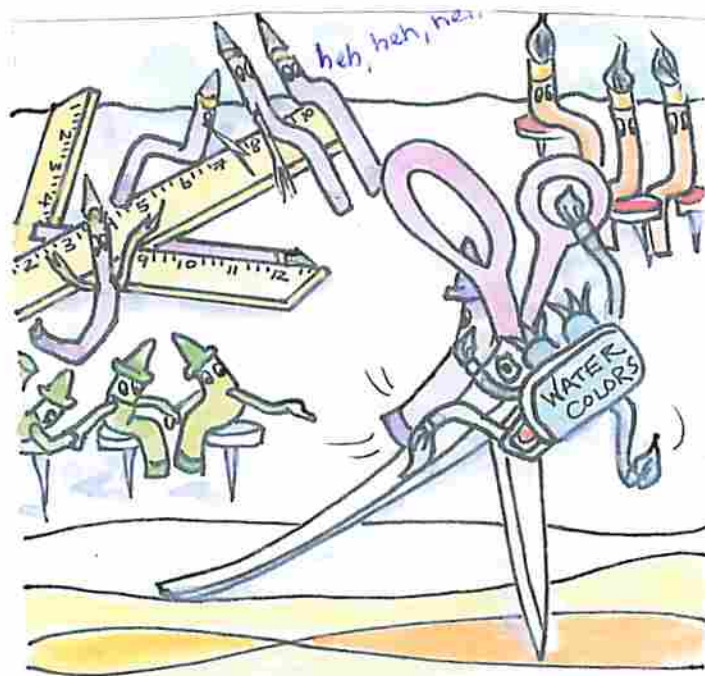


"Hi, my name is Wally Watercolor. What's your name?" asked the student.

Polly introduced herself to Wally, and they talked and laughed. Polly was having so much fun, that she didn't even notice that her mother had left. Wally even asked Polly if she wanted to be in an act in the talent show with her! Polly had forgotten all about the butterflies in her stomach.

Soon enough, Mrs. Womboe introduced Polly to the class. Then, Mrs. Womboe read a book to the class about coral reefs. Polly was so excited about her new friend that recess seemed to come in no time!

During recess, Polly Purple sat with Wally Watercolor. Polly traded her animal crackers for Wally's potato chips. After eating lunch, Polly and Wally played on the jungle gym. As Polly sat on top of the slide, she looked around at the other first graders. All of the green crayons sat with the other green crayons, the purple colored pencils with the other purple colored pencils, and the paintbrushes with the other paintbrushes. She noticed a few of the students looking at her and Wally and giggling.

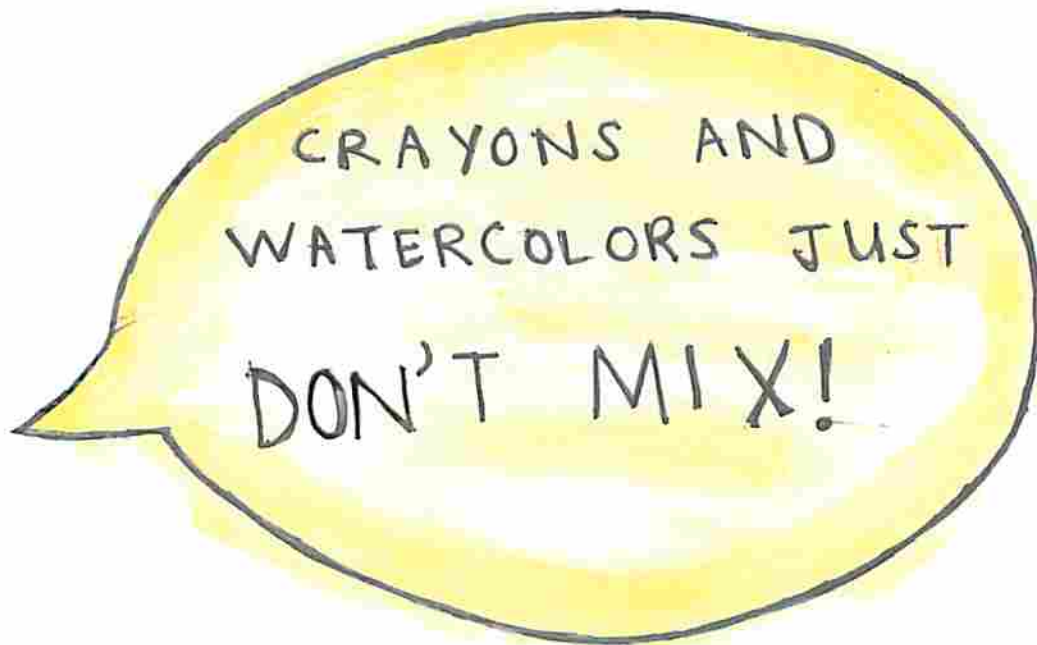


After school, Polly Purple was picking up her purple backpack from her cubby, ready to go home and tell her mother all about her exciting day, when Vivian Violet came up to her.

"Hi Polly," Vivian began. "Why were you playing with Wally Watercolor during recess?"

"I don't know," responded Polly hesitantly. "Because she is nice and I like her, I guess."

"But Polly," Vivian began firmly, "Crayons and watercolors just *don't* mix! They are too different to be friends." Then, Vivian Violet grabbed her lunchbox from her cubby and walked away.



Polly ignored Vivian and went to sit on the curb, waiting for her mother to pick her up. As she sat waiting, Ian Indigo approached her. "Don't you know what they say about crayons and watercolors?" Ian Indigo asked Polly. "What do they say?" asked Polly, although she thought she might know the answer. "Crayons and watercolors just *don't* mix!"

Polly began to feel doubtful. Maybe she shouldn't be in tomorrow's talent show with Wally. Maybe she wasn't supposed to be friends with Wally, after all.

When Polly's mother finally pulled up in her car, Polly was practically in tears. Polly told her mother all about her day, and all about how she couldn't be friends with Wally Watercolor. "The other kids said that 'crayons and watercolors don't mix,'" sobbed Polly.

"Oh Polly Purple," began Polly's mother, "Is Wally Watercolor kind?"

Polly thought back to how Wally had been the first to welcome her to Mrs. Womboe's class.

"Yes," replied Polly.

"Did you have fun when you played with Wally Watercolor?" continued Polly's mother.

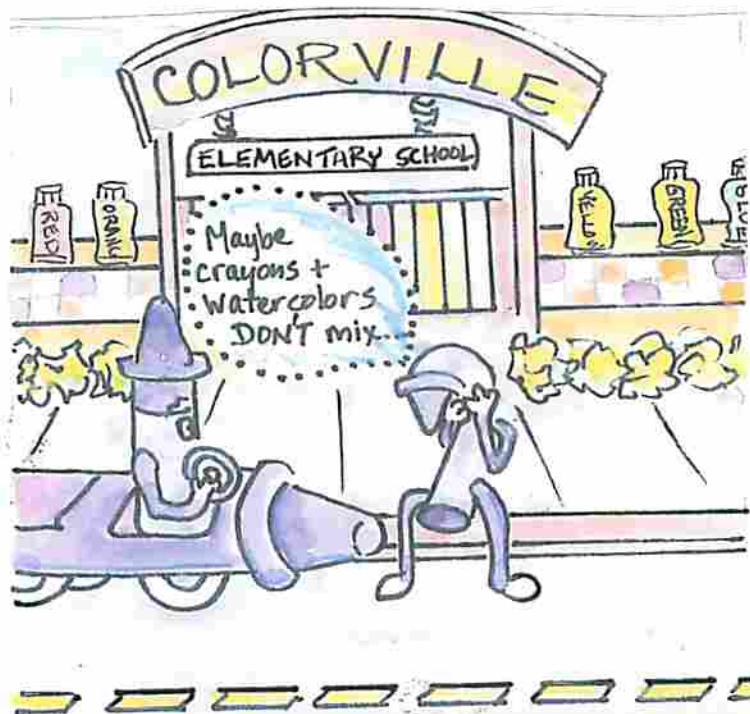
Polly thought back to when her and Wally were laughing and playing on the jungle gym during recess.

"Yes," replied Polly to her mother.

"And Polly, do you want to be friends with Wally Watercolor?"

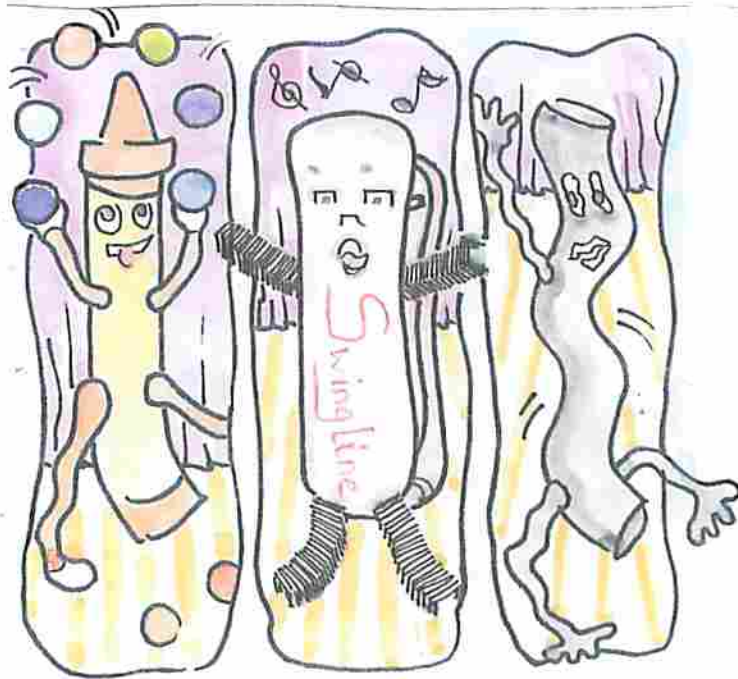
"Yes!" shouted Polly.

"Well then," Polly's mother began, "Wally Watercolor sounds like a true friend. Friends come in all shapes in sizes."



The next day during recess, Polly sat with Wally and didn't bat an eye when she saw other kids giggling at them. Polly and Wally had work to do. They had to prepare their performance for the big talent show that night. They didn't have much time!

Polly arrived to the talent show promptly at 7:00. Bobby Brown juggled, Cindy Stapler sang a song, and Charlie Charcoal did a dance. Now it was Polly Purple and Wally Watercolor's turn to perform!



Polly and Wally unrolled a huge piece of white paper onto the stage. Polly slid across it, making beautiful spirals and swirls. Next, Wally Watercolor used her paintbrush hands to streak the paper with watercolor of every color of the rainbow. The audience 'oohed' and 'aahed.' When they were finished with the picture, they held it up for everyone in the school to see. The audience clapped and cheered so loudly that the whole room shook. The other students in Polly's class cheered the loudest out of everyone. Polly had a huge smile across her face. Her mother was right: *friends come in all shapes and sizes.*

