

Grey

AUTHOR

LAURA DOCKRILL

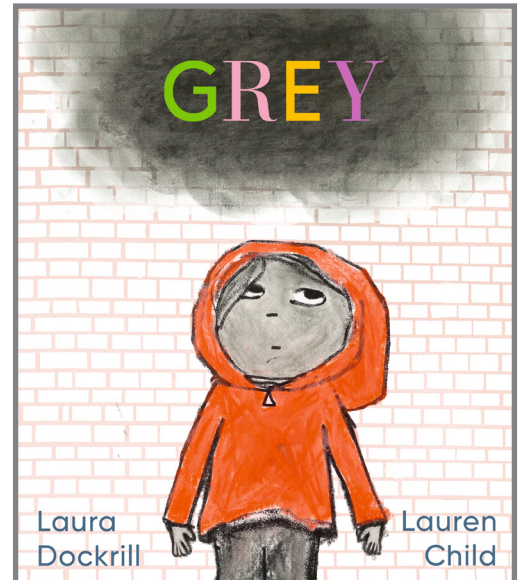
ILLUSTRATOR

LAUREN CHILD

SCIS: 5487914

ISBN: 9781406389562

RECOMMENDED FOR: Lower Primary



SYNOPSIS

Beautifully crafted compositions together with simple die-cut design, reveal the story of a child who feels as though all their colours have disappeared. Despite the joyful orange balloon, the huge yellow sun and the bright green trees, the child still feels grey. That is until a reassuring hand reaches out and shares words of kindness. Soon the child begins to see the warmth of colour again, and understands that their colours will always be there and that they will always be loved, whether they feel grey or sunshine yellow. Laura and Lauren have created a beautiful book full of empathy and understanding that will provide comfort and hope to readers of all ages.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Laura Dockrill, a graduate of the Brit School of Performing Arts, is a performance poet, an author and an illustrator. At the age of twenty-two, she was named one of *The Times*' 'Top Ten Literary Stars'. She is the author of the bestselling Darcy Burdock series, the first of which was shortlisted for the Waterstones Book of the Year prize. Her adult book *What Have I Done?* is an honest memoir about suffering post-natal mental illness. Her debut picture book, and first collaboration with Maria Karipidou, was *Angry Cookie*. Laura lives in south-west London; find her online at lauradockrill.co.uk and on Twitter and Instagram as [@LauraDockrill](https://twitter.com/LauraDockrill).

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Born in 1967, Lauren Child grew up in Wiltshire, the daughter of two teachers. She studied at Manchester Polytechnic and City and Guilds of London Art School. However, Lauren left after one year, as she did not feel that she was getting what she wanted out of it. Luckily for her, that proved to be a good move and after travelling for six months she started her own business, Chandeliers for the People, making exotic lampshades. Her first picture book came in 1999 with the internationally successful, 'Clarice Bean' which went on to start a series. Lauren feels that writing and illustrating picture books combines her fascination with childhood and her talent for designing and creating. Lauren's style is immediately recognisable, as she uses bold black lines and flat colours with lots of surface pattern. She won the Kate Greenaway Medal in 2002 for *I Will Not Ever Never Eat a Tomato*. Some of Lauren's other books include, *I Want a Pet* and *Dan's Angel*.

STUDY NOTES

- Before reading, view the cover and title of the book and identify the following:
 - The title of the book
 - The author/illustrator

- The publisher
- The blurb.
- Based on the title only, what do you think this story is about? Based on the cover, what do you think this story is about? Did your ideas change after seeing the cover?
 - How do you think it will begin/end? Revisit your answer after reading the story to see if your predictions were correct.
- Discuss the title of the book. Do you think this is a good title? Why or why not? If you were asked to choose an alternative title for the book, what would it be? Remember, a good title should capture the audience's attention and give them some idea of what the book is about.
 - Write your own story using the title of the book.
- Look at the front cover, read the blurb on the back to gather clues and use any prior knowledge you may have to predict some events that might happen in this story.

WHILE READING

Exploring the Text

- Who do you think the audience for this book is? Why?
- Is the book an imaginative, informative or persuasive text? How can you tell?
- Literary techniques allow a writer to convey a deeper meaning in their text. What techniques can you find in *Grey*? Eg. metaphor, imagery, alliteration, personification, etc.
- What deeper meaning can you draw from the text?

Exploring the Illustrations

- How do the illustrations add to the story?
- Do you think the illustrator has effectively told the story visually?
- Cover the text in the book and write your own story following the illustrations.
- Choose one of the spreads and have a class discussion about the following illustration decisions:
 - How do you think the people are feeling? What clues might there be in the pictures?
 - Is there a main colour in this spread? How does it make you feel?
 - Do the colours change from spread to spread? Why might that be?
 - Do the pictures take up the whole page, or are they framed?
 - Are any of the words bigger on the page than the others? Why could that be?