

PAULA DANZIGER

AMBER BROWN  
IS NOT A CRAYON



# Chapter One



In just ten minutes, our entire class is getting on a plane for our flight to China.

I, Amber Brown, am one very excited third grader.

My best friend, Justin Daniels, is going to sit next to me.

Right now, he's sitting at the desk next to me, pretending to be an alarm clock.

All I hear now is a quiet tick tock, tick tock, but I'm absolutely positively sure that he has something else planned.

We always sit together when our class flies to some faraway place.



In fact, we've been sitting together since we first met in preschool, but that's another story.

Finding my passport and tickets is not easy because I, Amber Brown, am one very messy third grader.

I quickly pull things out of my desk—the book I'm going to use for my report, half a roll of strawberry licorice, my sticker book, two headbands, seven rubber bands, eleven paper clips, two workbooks, and finally, my passport and tickets, which I have put in a specially decorated case. (I used a lot of my stickers on it.)



“Bzzzzzz. Squawk.” Justin starts rocking back and forth.

I hit him on the head with my passport and tickets. “Okay. What are you doing this time?”

“I’m a cuckoo bird alarm clock and my tail feathers are caught.” Justin bobs back and forth.

Having Justin Daniels as my best friend sure makes life more fun.

So does having Mr. Cohen as my teacher.

“Get ready to board.” Mr. Cohen flicks the lights off and on to signal the end of one activity and the beginning of another.





# FIGHTING WITH YOUR BEST FRIEND IS NO FUN.

Amber Brown and Justin Daniels are best friends. They've known each other for practically forever, sit next to each other in class, help each other with homework, and always stick up for each other. He never says things like, "Amber Brown is not a crayon." She never says, "Justin Time." They're a great team . . . until disaster strikes. Justin has to move away and now the best friends are fighting. Will they be able to work it out before it's too late?



★ "Once again, Danziger demonstrates her ability to connect with her audience."—*Publishers Weekly*, starred review

★ "Danziger reaches out to a younger audience in this funny, touching slice of third-grade life, told in the voice of a feisty, lovable heroine."

—*School Library Journal*, starred review

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