

The Junior Observer

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An Old Testament Story

Elisha Helps a Leper Be Cured

Catholic News Service

A man named Naaman commanded the king of Aram's army. Although he was brave and respected, Naaman was a leper.

In a raid against Israel, the Arameans had captured a little girl, who became the servant of Naaman's wife.

"If only my master would present himself to the prophet in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy," the girl said to Naaman's wife.

Naaman went to the king and told him what the girl said.

"Go," the king said. "I will send along a letter to the king of Israel."

Naaman set out, taking along many rich gifts: 10 silver talents, 6,000 gold pieces and 10 festal garments (fancy clothes for special occasions).

He went to the king of Israel and handed him the letter. It read: "With this letter I am sending my servant Naaman to you, that you may cure him of his leprosy."

The king of Israel tore his garments, thinking instead that the king of Aram was trying to pick a fight with him.

Elisha, a prophet of God, heard what the king had said and sent him a message.

"Let him come to me and find out that there is a prophet



Bible Trivia

Did Elisha accept a thank-you gift from Naaman after he was healed? (Hint: 2 Kings 5:16)

Answer: No, Elisha refused a gift.

in Israel," Elisha said.

Naaman went to Elisha's house and stopped his horse and chariot right outside the door. The prophet sent him a message.

"Go and wash seven times in the Jordan, and your flesh will heal, and you will be clean," the message said.

Naaman was angry. He had expected Elisha to come to him in person, call on the name of God and put his hand over the leprous spots on his skin to cure him.

"Are not the rivers of Damascus, the Abana and the Pharpar, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them and be cleansed?"

Naaman said and left in anger.

Naaman's servants ran after him to reason with him.

"My father, if the prophet told you to do something extraordinary, would you not do it? All the more since he told you, 'Wash, and be clean?'"

Naaman relented. He did as Elisha instructed, and his leprosy was cured.

Naaman returned to Elisha and stood before him.

"Now I know that there is no God in all the earth, except in Israel," he said.

Q&A

Who wanted to be cured of leprosy?

What was Elisha's cure for leprosy?

Read more about it in 2 Kings 5

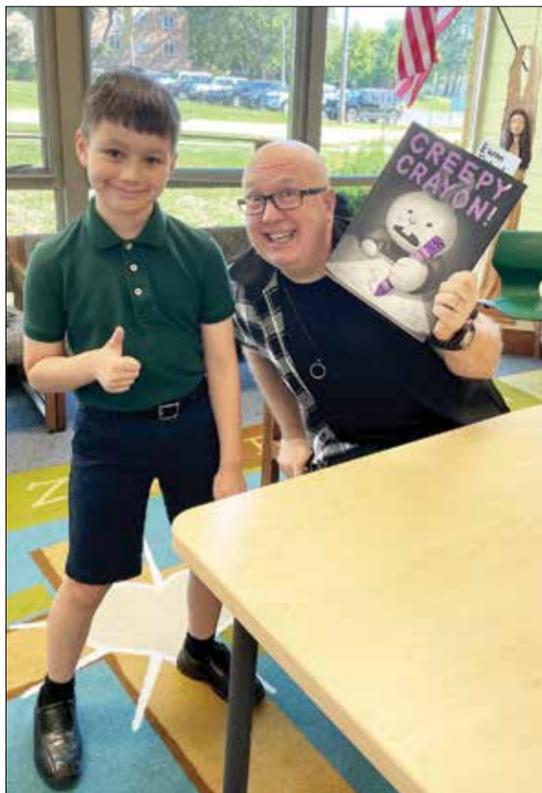
Author Shares Silly Stories With Aurora Students

AURORA—Students at Holy Angels School had the opportunity to meet New York Times bestselling author Aaron Reynolds during a school visit Sept. 1.

Reynolds has written many books for kids including "Creepy Pair of Underwear," "Dude," "The Incredibly Dead Pets of Rex Dexter," and the Caldecott Honor Medalist, "Creepy Carrots."

During his hilarious and hands-on presentation, Reynolds shared his newest book, "Creepy Crayon," the third book in his "Creepy Tales" series about a young rabbit who comes across different spooky items.

His young audience was one of the first student groups to hear him share the book, which proved to be a hit. Afterward, many lined up with copies to ask for autographs.



A Holy Angels student gives a thumbs-up after receiving author Aaron Reynolds' new book.



(Photos provided/ Tonya Forbes)

Reynolds autographs a copy of "Creepy Crayon" for a Holy Angels student.

Write a letter to your favorite author!

1) Ask a grown-up to help you find your author's **publisher's address** in the first few pages of a hardcover edition.

2) Address your letter to the author "**in care of**" the publisher. For example:

Author Bob Book
c/o Holiday House, Inc.
50 Broad St.,
New York, NY 10004

3) Ask your author questions, or write about why you like his or her books.

4) **Help them write back!** Have your grown-up help you write an envelope with your name and address, and add a stamp. Add this to your letter.

—Info: Mary Armato of Reading Rockets at <https://www.readingrockets.org/article/how-write-author>