

Harold and the Purple Crayon

Harold and the Purple Crayon (Johnson, 1955) is a classic story that will involve children in creating their own adventures on paper. It recently became available on video, along with two other Harold stories, *Harold's Fairy Tale* and *A Picture for Harold's Room*.

Teacher's Role

Display posters of adult artwork that show line drawings. Read the imaginative adventures of Harold, a small boy, as he draws his way through one adventure after another with his favorite purple crayon. The simple linear drawings will capture the child's imagination. Offer art materials and invite children to share their own adventures as they draw with purple or their favorite color. The book also demonstrates narrative drawing which can be used as a springboard for narrative writing.



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www.cofc.edu/~nelp/purple/index.html

Outcomes

When participating in this activity, children will . . .

- Attend to the story.
- Learn about the different types of lines they can make with a crayon—thin, thick, smooth, jagged, short, or long.
- Discover various ways to use drawing materials. For example, they can make a wavy line like Harold did when his hand shook.
- Make the connection between verbal, graphic, and written narration.
- Increase the details in their drawings as they increase the details in their storytelling narrative.
- Demonstrate their knowledge of storytelling through their drawings and emergent writing.
- Sequence their stories by showing beginning, middle, and end.



Purple Drawings

Materials

- Purple crayons or markers
- Roll of butcher paper, newsprint, or register tape

Procedure

Cut a length of paper for each child. If using butcher paper or newsprint, allow enough space for each child to work comfortably on the floor. If using register tape, the children can work at the art table. Offer each child a purple crayon and a purple marker. Observe and verbalize as children draw to encourage them to share their adventure.

Adaptations

- Tape drawing paper to table, floor, or wheelchair tray.
- Add adaptive grips onto crayons, markers, CrayPas, or other drawing tools.
- Use graphic software with adaptive peripherals like a switch, touch screen, graphics pad, or expanded keyboard.

Variations

- Use a graphic software program on a computer to create a purple drawing adventure.
- When children finish their drawings, demonstrate folding the paper accordion-style and stapling along one side to create a book. Involve children in helping each other with this process.
- Display the finished drawings in the art area along with the children's dictated adventures.

