HAROLD AND THE PURPLE CRAYON
by Crockett Johnson
Themes: Creative Thinking/Problem-Solving
Grade Level: PreK – 1
Running time: 8 minutes

SUMMARY
HAROLD AND THE PURPLE CRAYON concerns a little boy who literally "colors his world" by using a crayon to draw whatever he happens to need. The story begins with the little boy, Harold, wanting to take a walk in the moonlight. Because there isn’t a moon, Harold decides to draw one, as well as a path to follow on his walk. When Harold realizes that the straight path is getting him nowhere, he decides to draw a short cut. As the story moves along, Harold and his crayon move along too. Harold draws what he desires, finds himself in difficulty, and draws his way out of his dilemmas.

This is a wonderful exploration of the powers of the imagination. It also serves as an example for children about how problems can be solved through perseverance and creative thinking.

OBJECTIVES
• Children will explore the world of imagination
• Children will investigate problem-solving techniques
• Children will appreciate the importance of patience and perseverance

BEFORE VIEWING ACTIVITIES
Share the book HAROLD AND THE PURPLE CRAYON with children. Then ask:
• If you had a magic purple crayon, what would you draw?
• What could you draw to make your neighborhood a better place? Your city? Your state? The world?

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Harold is an adorably curious four year old with his purple crayon, who has the power to create a world of his own simply by drawing it. Harold wants to go for a walk in the moonlight, but there is no moon, so he draws one. He has nowhere to walk, so he draws a path. He has many adventures looking for his room, and in the end he draws his own house and bed and goes to sleep. Harold is an adorably curious four year old with his purple crayon, who has the power to create a world of his own simply by drawing it. Harold wants to go for a walk in the moonlight, but

Creators The overarching theme of Harold and the Purple Crayon is deciphering reality. As an oddly ambiguous and usually assumed idea, the discussion of reality will throw the children into a fun and active topsy-turvy discussion of what it means to be real, and how one gives objects the power of reality. In a world represented by a blank page, Harold is free to draw his surroundings with his big purple crayon. Is Harold making-believe? Is that different from what is real?