

HAROLD'S FAIRY TALE

Harold's Fairy Tale

by Crockett Johnson (Harper)

Themes: Fantasy and Imagination

Grade Level: Pre-K - 1

Length: 8 minutes, animated

Summary

This is one of a series of stories in which a little boy named Harold creates worlds of magic with his purple crayon. In this story, Harold decides to take a walk in an enchanted garden. Harold wonders why nothing grows in the garden and decides to ask the king. Since kings live in castles, Harold draws a castle with his crayon. When he cannot get inside the castle, he draws a tiny mouse hole on one of the castle walls and scoots inside. Once inside, he draws stairs, a throne, a crown, and a king.

Without much help from the king, Harold surmises that nothing grows in the enchanted garden because of an invisible witch. Eventually, Harold draws a witch and decides that she must be the cause of the trouble. To be rid of her, Harold draws mosquitoes, then does away with the mosquitoes with drawings of smoke, fire, and rain.

With the rain comes flowers, which grow beautifully in the dampness. Harold turns one of the flowers into a fairy with his crayon and the fairy gives Harold a wish. Harold's wish lands him back home, at the foot of his mother's arm chair. The story ends with Harold asking his mother for a bedtime story.

Objectives

- Children will explore creative thinking
- Children will learn to follow a sequence of events
- Children will investigate problem-solving techniques

After Viewing Activities

Share the book *Harold's Fairy Tale* with children. Talk with children about the different things they dream about or imagine. Ask: How does it feel to be able to dream about or imagine things? When do you dream and imagine? What might happen if your dreams and imaginings could come true?

Supply children with purple crayons and white pieces of construction paper. Have children draw whatever they wish on the paper and then share the pictures with their classmates.

After Viewing Activities

Once again, supply children with purple crayons and pieces of white construction paper. This time, see if children can recall and draw the sequence of things Harold drew with his purple crayon. When children have finished, have them share their drawings with their classmates, thereby retelling the sequence of events that took place.

Have children try this activity in pairs. Supply each pair of children with two paintbrushes, several cups of poster paint, and a large sheet of newsprint. Have one child in each pair make a mark on the newsprint with his/her paintbrush. Have the next child in each pair make something with his/her paintbrush from this mark. Then it is the first child's turn in the pair

to add something else to the painting, starting from what his/her partner has drawn. Allow children to continue painting until they are satisfied that their painting is complete. Later, give each pair of children in the class a chance to describe their painting to their classmates.

Remind children of the ways Harold solved many of the problems he confronted in the film. Then ask: What else might Harold have drawn to get into the castle? To find the king? To get out of the castle? To do away with the witch? To get back to his own living room? Encourage children to be as creative as possible as they search for alternative solutions to each of these problems.

Other book based films and videos about fantasy/make believe are available from Weston Woods. These include:
THE AMAZING BONE by William Steig
THE DAY JIMMY'S BOA ATE THE WASH written by Trinka Hakes Noble and illustrated by Steven Kellog
HAROLD AND THE PURPLE CRAYON by Crockett Johnson
A PICTURE FOR HAROLD'S ROOM by Crockett Johnson

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