

# A PICTURE FOR HAROLD'S ROOM

A Picture for Harold's Room  
by Crockett Johnson (Harper)  
Themes: Fantasy and Imagination  
Level: Grades K-1  
Length: 6 minutes, animated

## Summary

A PICTURE FOR HAROLD'S ROOM, the film, is true to the book, A Picture For Harold's Room, by Crockett Johnson. The story begins with a little boy named Harold drawing a picture on his wall. He draws a town in the moonlight, with a road to get to the town. Harold's imagination takes him into the picture he has drawn, and Harold soon discovers that he is larger than the entire town!  
As he walks along, Harold draws the sea, mountains, airplanes and railroad tracks.  
Eventually, when he discovers that he is smaller than the flowers and birds he has drawn, Harold recalls the tall mountains and enormous sea. He wonders how he will ever get home again!  
Harold solves his problem by crossing out his drawings, realizing that they are only pictures. To reassure himself that he is neither big nor small, but just the right size, he looks at himself in his full-length bedroom mirror. The story ends with Harold still longing for a picture for his room, and once again, he begins to draw....

## Objectives

- Children will consider how it feels to be a child in the big, adult world
- Children will explore the world of the imagination.
- Children will investigate problem-solving techniques

## Before Viewing Activities

Share the book A Picture for Harold's Room with children. Then ask:  
Why did Harold begin to draw a picture with his purple crayon?  
What did he draw first?

What did he draw in the sky to make the town look pretty?  
How did Harold feel when he stepped into the town?  
What did Harold draw in the sea?  
How did Harold get out of the sea?  
What did Harold draw once he was on land again?  
What did Harold draw in the low place in the mountains?  
Why did Harold add flowers and birds in the tracks?  
What happened when Harold drew the daisy?  
What was Harold worried about?  
How did Harold solve his problem about getting home?  
What did Harold do before he went to bed at night?

Supply children with purple crayons and long sheets of craft paper. Have children draw on the paper, thinking about what they might add to the drawings as they go along. Later, have children imagine that they could actually walk into, and be part of a scene they created. Ask: How would you feel if you could really be a part of your picture? What would you like most about this? What might you worry about? Explain to children that the film they are about to see, A PICTURE FOR HAROLD'S ROOM, involves a boy named Harold who draws pictures with a purple crayon. Have children pay close attention to the film to see just what kinds of adventures Harold has when he becomes part of his own pictures!

Take a walk outdoors with children. Have children identify the things they are smaller than and larger than. Ask: How would you feel if you were as tall as the trees? If your head touched the clouds? If you were smaller than the blades of grass? If you were shorter than the flowers? What things could you do if you were this large (small)? Explain to children that the film they are about to see concerns a boy, who, at one point in the story, feels larger than the buildings and mountains around him, and later in the story, feels smaller than the birds and flowers.

## After Viewing Activities

Provide pieces of colored construction paper cut to a variety of shapes and sizes, glue, and pieces of manila construction paper. Have children use the art materials to create some of the environments Harold created, including mountain ranges, the ocean, railroad tracks running across flat lands, etc. Later, have children describe their creations to their classmates. As children

talk, ask them to consider how they would feel, and what they would do, if they were larger than some of the objects in their environments.

Have children pick wildflowers or draw and cut them out from construction paper. Then ask children to discuss what it might be like to be smaller than the flowers. Help children create "If I Were Smaller Than a Flower" stories by printing their ideas as they dictate them. Display children's stories, along with the flowers, on a classroom wall.

Talk with children about what they like, and do not like, about being smaller than the adults around them. Then ask: What would you like to tell adults about being small? What do you want to do when you grow up? How will being big help you do this? Later, take a walk around your school's neighborhood. As you pass shops, homes, fields, etc. ask children to describe what they would do in these different places if they were adults. Emphasize to children that there are many things they can enjoy now (such as hiding behind rocks during hide-and-seek games), that adults cannot enjoy simply because of their size!

Other book based films and videos concerning early childhood issues are available from Weston Woods. These include:

CAPS FOR SALE by Esphyr Slobodkina  
THE CATERPILLAR AND THE POLLIWOG by Jack Kent  
CHANGES, CHANGES by Pat Hutchins  
CORDUROY by Don Freeman  
CURIOUS GEORGE RIDES A BIKE by H.A. Rey  
DANNY AND THE DINOSAUR by Syd Hoff  
DRUMMER HOFF written by Barbara Emberley and illustrated by Ed Emberley  
EACH PEACH PEAR PLUM by Janet and Allen Ahlberg  
HAROLD AND THE PURPLE CRAYON by Crockett Johnson  
HAROLD'S FAIRY TALE by Crockett Johnson  
MAKE WAY FOR DUCKLINGS by Robert McCloskey  
THE NAPPING HOUSE written by Audrey Wood and illustrated by Don Wood  
PICNIC by Emily Arnold McCully

**CALL 1-800-243-5020 TO ORDER THESE AND OTHER WESTON WOODS VIDEOS!**

This guide may be photocopied for free distribution without restriction

Harold and the Purple Crayon (1955). "One evening, after thinking it over for some time, Harold decided to go for a walk in the moonlight." So begins the first of Johnson's books about Harold and his purple crayon, and then off he goes, using the crayon to draw a moon and a path to walk on. Leaving the path, he draws himself into a forest, ocean, and balloon, exploring until he's tired and must find his way to home and bed. By her own account, legendary children's book editor Ursula Nordstrom's "first reaction to Harold was so luke warm and unenthusiastic"

Harold needs a picture for his bedroom wall. So he takes his purple crayon and begins to create a whole new world around him. But then he notices he has gotten very small " half the size of a daisy! Only a very clever artist can find his way home now.

. Expand Product Details.

Harold needs a picture for his bedroom wall. So he takes his purple crayon and begins to create a whole new world around him. But then he notices he has gotten very small " half the size of a daisy! With his purple crayon, Harold draws a picture for his room - and then becomes part of it. Director: Gene Deitch. Share this Rating. Title: A Picture for Harold's Room (1971). 6,3/10. Want to share IMDb's rating on your own site? Use the HTML below. You must be a registered user to use the IMDb rating plugin. Login. Show HTML View more styles. Photos. Add Image Add an image. Do you have any images for this title? Edit. Storyline. With his purple crayon, Harold draws a picture for his room - and then becomes part of it. Plot Summary | Add Synopsis. Plot Keywords With his purple crayon, Harold draws a picture for his room - and then becomes part of it. AU\$2.99. SD. Description. With his purple crayon, Harold draws a picture for his room - and then becomes part of it.