

BIBLIOTHERAPY LESSON PLAN

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SOCIAL SKILL: BEING RESILIENT
CASEL COMPETENCY: SELF-AWARENESS

BOOK INFORMATION

Book Title: Harold and the Purple Crayon

Author: Crockett Johnson

Publisher: Harper & Row

Year: 1955 (reprinted several times since the original publication)

ISBN Number: 9780060229368

Number of Pages: 30 pages

Reading Level: K-3rd grade

BOOK SYNOPSIS

Harold and his purple crayon go on a grand adventure. He creatively uses his imagination and his purple crayon to draw himself out of dangerous situations, such as falling into the ocean and falling off of a tall mountain. However, in each case he continues to creatively draw solutions to his problematic and dangerous situations. Ultimately he draws his way back to the safety of his bedroom. He then goes to sleep.

LESSON OBJECTIVE

Help students recognize their creative potential. Help them identify ways they can rely on their creativity to solve problems and face challenging situations with courage and a hopeful attitude.

LESSON MATERIALS AND ADVANCE PREPARATION

Review the options for the activities (at the end of the lesson plan). Decide which activity best fits your students' interest and needs.

Save Harold Drawing

Materials: "Harold on the Mountain" printouts (provided in this lesson plan), crayons

Preparation: Print copies (one for each student) of the "Harold on the Mountain" activity.

Invention Design

Materials: Paper, pencils, colored pencils/crayons, list of possible inventions

Preparation: Print out list of possible invention opportunities (provided with the activity after the lesson plan)

Comic Book Strip

Materials: Paper, pencils, colored pencils/crayons

Preparation: As an example, print a comic strip from an internet site or from the newspaper or magazine. Internet sites with examples:

Calvin & Hobbes: <http://www.gocomics.com/calvinandhobbes/>

Charlie Brown & Snoopy: <http://www.gocomics.com/peanuts>

***Print a copy of the empty comic strip for each student (included in this lesson plan)

KEY VOCABULARY AND CONCEPTS

Forest - a large area of land covered mostly with trees and plants

Trim - to make smaller by cutting away unwanted parts

Porcupine - a large rodent with defensive spines or quills on the body and tail

Mountain - a large steep hill, that rises high above the surrounding land

City - a large town

Creative - using your imagination to think in unique ways that are typically above and beyond normal problem solving skills; expanding your mind beyond the typical way that things are done; the talent of making something unique (such as art work) that comes from your imagination

PRE-READING ACTIVITY

Show the cover of the book and ask students to raise their hands if they like to draw. Explain that the boy on the cover of the book is Harold. Like many students, he likes to draw. Share with the students that Harold has a very creative imagination and he uses drawing to create an adventure for himself. Harold does not give up when challenges arise. Each student in the classroom also has a unique, creative mind that can help them in school and in their home life. Encourage students to pay attention to how Harold uses his creativity to solve the many problems he encounters.

READ THE BOOK

POST READING DISCUSSION

Ask the following questions:

- What are some of the problems Harold faced?
- How did he solve those problems?
- How did his creativity help him?
- How can being creative help us at school?
- How can being creative help us help those around us?
- Describe an example of how someone creatively solved a problem? (Offer an example if needed.)

- In what ways have you been creative in solving problems?

POST READING ACTIVITY: CHOOSE ONE OF THE ACTIVITIES

Can You Save Harold?—Drawing Activity (grades K-2)

Show students the page in the book where Harold is falling off of the mountain and draws a hot air balloon to save himself. Explain that there are many different things we can draw to help save Harold. Give each student a print out of the sheet below and encourage them to draw a creative way to help Harold get off the mountain. After the students have finished their drawings, have them share their creative solutions with the class or as part of a “pair and share” with another student. Explain that by using our creativity we are able to think of different ways to solve our daily challenges.

Invention Design (all grades)

Describe inventions that are in the classroom (pencil sharpener, lights, computer, table, window blinds, door and door knob, whiteboard / chalkboard, air conditioning, heater, etc. These inventions make our lives easier or more enjoyable. We can use our creative minds to create inventions that make life easier. Below is a list of problems individuals face every day. Have students get into groups of 4-5 students; ask each group to choose one of the problems (listed below) and together use their creative minds to design an invention that will solve the problem; and ask students to draw what their invention will look like. After students have had approximately 5 minutes, ask each group to share their invention with the class and explain how their invention works.

- Having a hard time staying awake in class
- Losing your homework
- Snow covering your car
- Sitting in hard uncomfortable classroom seats
- Problems keeping all of your stuff organized
- Leaves all over the yard
- Forgetting to water plants
- Losing car keys

Comic Book Strip (grades 3-6)

Ask students how many of them have read a comic book before. Explain that comic books are similar to Harold’s story in that they use drawings and creative solutions to help the characters get out of complicated situations. Popular movies today such as the Avengers and Batman are based off of comic books. Encourage students to think of a problem they have recently experienced and use that problem as the basis for drawing a five-picture comic strip in which the problem is solved in a creative and unique way. Show the class an example of a comic strip. Then, give each student a Comic Strip activity page (included in this lesson plan). After students have finished their comic strip, ask them to “pair and share” with another student. Explain that while some of these solutions may seem unrealistic in the real world, we can still use our creative minds to help us solve problems we face every day.

Creative solutions help us solve problems.

Help Harold draw a way to get off the mountain.



COMIC STRIP

CREATIVE PROBLEM SOLVING

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“Creativity is intelligence
having fun.”

Albert Einstein



"You can't use up creativity. The more you use, the more you have."

Maya Angelou