

Problem Solving with  
HAROLD *and the* PURPLE CRAYON  
(Books by Crockett Johnson)



One evening, after thinking it over for some time, Harold decided to go for a walk in the moonlight.

There wasn't any moon, and Harold needed a moon for a walk in the moonlight.

And he needed something to walk on.

He made a long straight path so he wouldn't get lost.

And he set off on his walk, taking his big purple crayon with him.

But he didn't seem to be getting anywhere on the long straight path. So he left the path for a short cut across the field. And the moon went with him.

The short cut led right to where Harold thought a forest ought to be. He did not want to get lost in the woods. So he made a very small forest, with just one tree in it.

It turned out to be an apple tree.

The apples would be very tasty, Harold thought, when they got red.

So he put a frightening dragon under the trees to guard the apples.

It was a terribly frightening dragon.

It even frightened Harold. He backed away.

His hand holding the purple crayon shook.

Suddenly he realized what was happening.

But by then Harold was over his head in an ocean.

He came up thinking fast.

## HELP HAROLD *out of a* JAM!

Use your purple crayon to help Harold out of this jam?



And in no time he was climbing aboard a trim little boat.

He quickly set sail.

And the moon sailed along with him.

After he had sailed long enough, Harold made land without trouble.

He stepped ashore on the beach, wondering where he was. The sandy beach reminded Harold of picnics. And the thought of picnics made him hungry.

So he laid out a nice simple picnic lunch.

There was nothing but pie.

But there were all nine kinds of pie that Harold liked best.

When Harold finished his picnic there was quite a lot left.

He hated to see so much delicious pie go to waste.

So Harold left a very hungry moose and a deserving porcupine to finish up.

And, off he went, looking for a hill to climb, to see where he was.

Harold knew that the higher up he went, the farther he could see.

So he decided to make the hill into a mountain.

If he went high enough, he thought, he could see the window of his bedroom.

He was tired and he felt he ought to be getting to bed. He hoped he could see his bedroom window from the top of the mountain.

But as he looked down over the other side he slipped –

And there wasn't any other side of the mountain. He was falling, in thin air.

But, luckily, he kept his wits and his purple crayon.

## HELP HAROLD *out of a* JAM!

Use your purple crayon to help Harold out of this jam?



## HELP HAROLD *out of a* JAM!

Harold and Grandma had planned to shop for school supplies today. Then grandma caught the flu and had to stay home.  
How can you help Harold out of this jam?



## DRAW YOUR WAY *out of a* JAM!

Think about a time when you felt disappointed that things didn't go as planned. What are some things you could do to get out of this jam?

Draw a picture showing one solution.



## DRAW YOUR WAY *out of a* JAM!

Think about a time recently when things did not go the way you wanted them to or when you got yourself into a jam. What are some things you could do to get out of this jam? Draw a picture showing one solution.



