

# SEVEN ESSENTIAL LIFE SKILLS

## Skill Building Book Tips

You can read *Harold and The Purple Crayon* in a way that highlights Making Connections, a Life Skill that promotes Executive Functions. This Life Skill is at the heart of learning—**figuring out what's the same and what's different, and sorting these things into categories. Making unusual connections is at the core of creativity.** In a world where people can Google for information, it is the people who can see connections who are able to go beyond knowing information to **using this information well.**



### TIP:

At every decision point—the long straight path, leading nowhere; the apple tree that needed guarding; and Harold being over his head in an ocean—Harold draws the solution.

Ask your child:

- “What would you draw if you were in Harold’s situation?”

There are no right answers here—what you want to do is promote your child’s imagination. You can offer your child a crayon and paper to create his or her own journey.



### SKILL:

*Harold and the Purple Crayon* is a great illustration of **creativity, which involves making unusual connections** and calls on **Executive Function** skills.



### TIP:

At the end of the book, Harold is lost and, despite his ability to draw solutions, he can’t find his way to his room. Harold is finally able to **make a connection** that helps him find his way.

You can ask:

- “Why do you think Harold remembered his window with the moon?”
- “What would you remember about your room?”



### SKILL:

Making Connections between **your own experiences and others’ experiences** can provide a powerful learning opportunity.

These tips sheets were developed by *Mind in the Making*, in collaboration with First Book. *Mind in the Making* and Vroom are programs of the Bezos Family Foundation. Find more books and materials on the First Book Marketplace, a resource available exclusively to educators and programs serving children in need. Visit: [www.fbmarketplace.org](http://www.fbmarketplace.org).



## Harold and The Purple Crayon

By Crockett Johnson

This heartwarming classic has enchanted generations of readers. With his magical purple crayon, Harold is able to draw anything he’d like and watch it come to life.

The book is a wonderful celebration of art and the imagination!

