

# Beyond the Book Activities

## *Harold and the Purple Crayon*

### By Crockett Johnson

**Parents/Caregivers: Why do books matter? It all comes down to ABCs.**

- **A child deserves to be prepared:** Educators emphasize that reading with your preschool child is one of the most important activities to prepare them for kindergarten.
- **Books are essential:** Studies by the National Assessment of Educational Progress organization have consistently found that the more reading material available in the home, the better students' reading levels are likely to be.
- **Cost of children not being prepared:** According to the Wilder Research, in Minnesota, the cost of children entering kindergarten unprepared is approximately \$113 million annually to school systems due to increased:
  - Student aid
  - Special education and grade repetition
  - Teacher related costs
  - Impact on school safety due to delinquent behavior

Utilize the following activities to take you and your child(ren) beyond the book you just read.

These activities were developed through the cooperation of United Way Success By 6, Marshall Lyon County Public Library and Marshall ECCE Little Cubs.

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## Supplies Needed

### **Activity 1**

- White paper
- Purple crayons
- Purple construction paper
- Scissors
- Tape
- Pen/Pencil

### **Activity 2**

- Markers
- Crayons
- Stickers (optional)
- Purple construction paper

- Tape
- Scissors

### **Activity 4**

- Blue paint
- Red paint
- Purple crayons
- White paper
- Paper plates
- Paint brushes
- Newspaper
- Wet wipes

**\*Read book before getting ready for each activity.**

## **Activity 1: Moose Hat**

**Supplies you'll need:** White strip of paper, purple crayons, tape, scissors, purple construction paper, pen/pencil

**Directions:**

- Explain to your child that they are going to make a moose hat by using their hands.
- Give your child a strip of paper and purple crayons to create and design whatever they would like on their hat.
- When completed, tape the strip so that it fits comfortably around their head.
- Trace your child's hands onto purple construction paper and help them cut it out.
- Tape the hands to the strip of paper to create the moose antlers.

## **Activity 2: Hot Air Balloon**

**Supplies you'll need:** Hot air balloon template (provided), scissors, square basket handout (purple), balloon circle handout (purple), crayons, markers, stickers (optional), yarn and tape.

**Directions:**

- Have your child cut out the square basket and balloon from purple construction paper.
- Have your child decorate their hot air balloon by using crayons, markers and stickers.
- Next, give your child three pieces of yarn. With each piece, have them tape one end to the square basket and the other end to the circle balloon.
- Hang up the hot air balloons and watch them float.

## **Activity 3: I Spy**

**Supplies:** None

**Directions:**

- If your child hasn't played I Spy before, explain to them how it is played.
- Tell your child that they will be playing I Spy, focusing on purple items.
- Have your child say, "I spy with my little eye something purple."
- Guess what the purple item is.

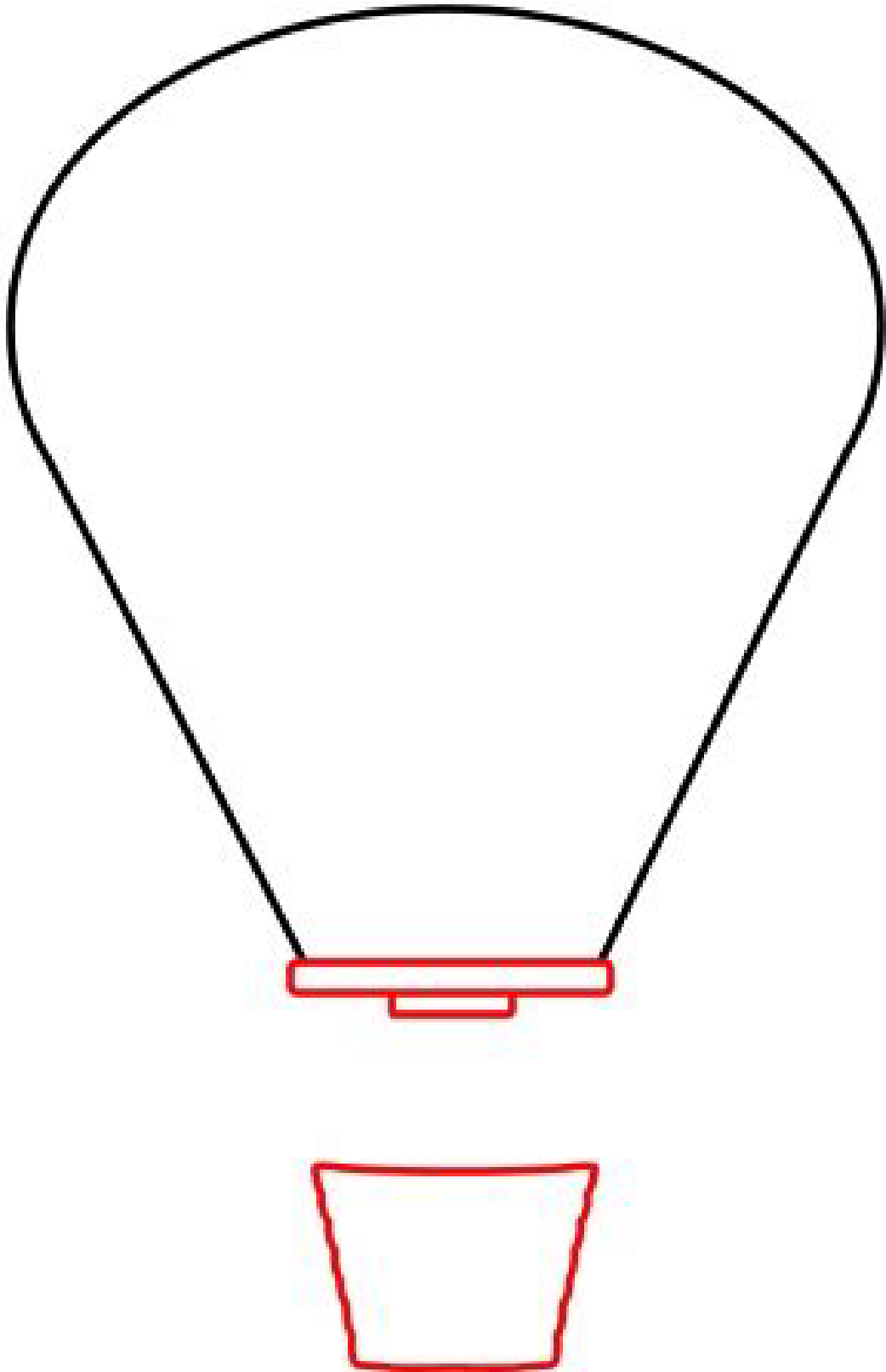
- Once the purple item is found, have another child (or you!) come up and be the “spy.”

## **Activity 4: What Make the Color Purple?**

**Supplies you’ll need:** Blue paint, red paint, purple crayons, white paper, paper plates, paint brushes, newspaper and wet wipes.

### **Directions:**

- Explain to your child that he is going to make the color purple.
- Ask your child what colors makes the color purple.
- Layout the newspaper on the area where the children will be painting.
- Give your child a paper plate, paint brush, and some blue and red paint. Have your child mix the two colors together and watch what happens.
- After your child has made the color purple, clean up the area by using the wipes.
- Give your child a purple crayon and a piece of white paper for them to create their own drawing with the purple crayon.



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