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Lesson 2: Epistemology

1st Grade: Ages 6-7

Materials:

- *Harold and the Purple Crayon*
- Purple crayons
- Paper
- Optical illusion printouts

Timeframe:

- Introduction - 0-5
- Optical illusions - 5-10
- Read the book - 10-18
- Book discussion - 18-23
- Drawing - 23-28
- Final discussion - 28+

Lesson Goals:

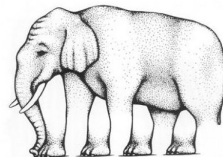
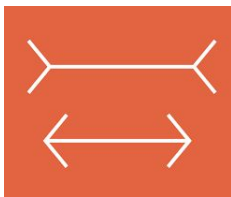
- Introduce epistemology and the conflict between perception and knowledge
- Address reality as a matter of perspective
- Objectivity vs subjectivity, reality vs personal experience

Introduction (5 minutes):

- Names and types of questions again
- “How do you know what is real?”
- What is reality? Today we are going to focus on questions like these

Optical illusions 5 min

- Optical Illusions (using printouts):
 - Image of two arrows: “Which line is longer?”, etc.



Harold and the Purple Crayon (6-8 minutes):

- Read the book
- Have some movement in acting out/ engaging with the story

Discussion about the book (5 minutes):

- Does he think it's real
- Is what he draws real
 - Our perspectives
 - Yes- he can interact with the things he draws, he perceives that the drawings are real
 - No- they are drawings and less real than the rest of the world. If he is the only one for whom it is real, it must be part of his imagination
- What do we mean when we say “santa is skinny”

Drawing- 5 min

- We are all going to draw our purple crayon worlds

Discussion about the drawing- rest of the time

- Is what you've just drawn real?
 - Does drawing it make it real
 - Is fiction/ books/ movies?
 - Do any characters exist?
 - How do we know we are not characters?
 - Are we real?
 - “Yes, of course we are” or “No, we aren't” - but how do you know?
 - How do we tell what's real from what's not?