

Harry Hugger

Harry Hugger and the Delightful Day



Discussion Guide (Draft):

Questions to encourage kids to discuss their experience with the pandemic.

Harry and his younger sister Harriet lived in a tall tree.

Harry liked going to school. He woke up early, brushed his teeth, combed his hair and ate a big breakfast.

Discussion: What is your morning routine? What do you like best about mornings? What do you like the least?

Wearing a bow tie let people know that Harry was an extraordinary hairy hamster.

Harry had a special talent. Harry was a huge hugger.

Discussion: What is your superpower? or What is your special talent?

In the morning - Harry hugged his tiny merry Mom and his big daring Dad.

In the front yard - Harry hugged Harriet wonderfully well.

On the bus – Harry hugged his hug-fantastic friends.

At school – Harry hugged his talkative teacher.

At lunch – Harry hugged his friends who'd had dreadful days.

At soccer – Harry hugged everyone who made powerful plays.

When visiting grandparents – Harry hugged his grinning grandma and his goofy grandpa.

Before bedtime – Harry hugged everyone in his fun family.

Every day, Harry spread hugging happiness.

Discussion: What is so special about hugging? Does everybody like hugs?

Michael Marshall, Author

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www.HarryHugger.com

“Hugging is the best way, for those you love, to feel what’s in your heart.”

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One morning merry Mom told Harry that he could no longer give happiness hugs.

An invisible germ had come to town and it made people silly sick.

The germ moved from person to person by the tiniest touch.

Discussion: What did you hear about the virus? What were you not allowed to do? What did you do to stay busy and have fun? What did you miss doing the most?

For the entire spring Harry could only hug his family in their tall tree.

Every day was hard. He could not go to school, he could not play soccer, he certainly could not visit grinning grandma and goofy grandpa.

Every day Harry hugged Harriet, merry Mom and daring Dad, but he stayed away from all his fine friends.

As summer came, the germ began to lightly leave. Harry could visit his friends and play but still, there could be no happiness hugs. Harry knew his friends and family needed those helpful hugs.

Discussion: What was it like not being able to play with your friends?

One day Harry's Mom told him that doctors had chased the germ away. That was a delightful day.

Hugging was once again OK. Harry knew just what to do. He headed out wearing his best bowtie.

That day, Harry hugged all of his friends. Harry hugged grandma and grandpa. Harry hugged his teammates. Harry hugged his talkative teacher.

Discussion: What was the first thing you did when we were told we could see our friends and family? Who did you go see when you were allowed to visit with people again?

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At the end of the delightful day, Harry and his family had a great group hug. Harry, Harriet, Mom and Dad wrapped their arms around each other and squeezed tightly. It was the best way to end a delightful day.

Lying in bed with the lights out, Harry hugged himself. Harry had been brave and strong, even when hugging was weirdly wrong.

Harry slept soundly knowing that tomorrow would be another delightful day.

Discussion: What did you do during the pandemic that you were most proud of? What do you think about when you lie in bed at the end of the day?

--The Beginning--

Discussion: Why did the author end the book with the words, “The Beginning” and not, “The End”?

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Additional Discussion Resources

The key to this discussion is the empathetic response. Don't make it about yourself, don't say, "things will get better", or "you're young, you'll forget". Some empathetic response ideas are below.

Empathetic Statements That Show You Care: [Click Here](#)

Empathy is important because it helps us understand how others are feeling so we can respond appropriately to the situation. It is typically associated with social behavior and there is lots of research showing that greater empathy leads to more helping behavior.

Free Psychological First Aid Resource: [Click Here](#)

National Child Traumatic Stress Network Established by Congress in 2000, the National Child Traumatic Stress Network (NCTSN) is a unique collaboration of academic and community-based service centers whose mission is to raise the standard of care and increase access to services for traumatized children and their families across the United States. Combining knowledge of child development, expertise in the full range of child traumatic experiences, and attention to cultural perspectives, the NCTSN serves as a national resource for developing and disseminating evidence-based interventions, trauma-informed services, and public and professional education. The Five Phases of Psychological First Aid — Listen, Protect, Connect, Model, and Teach

Talking with children about Coronavirus Disease 2019: [Click Here](#)

CDC has created recommendations to help adults have conversations with children about COVID-19 and ways they can avoid getting and spreading the disease.

Children may worry about themselves, their family, and friends getting ill with COVID-19. Parents, family members, school staff, and other trusted adults can play an important role in helping children make sense of what they hear in a way that is honest, accurate, and minimizes anxiety or fear.

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