

# What to do today

*IMPORTANT Parent or Carer – Read this page with your child and check that you are happy with what they have to do and any weblinks or use of internet.*

## 1. Read part of a story

- Read *The Black-Hole Balloon*.
- What do you think Harrison will do next? What things might he make disappear with his black-hole? How could the story end up?

## 2. Listen to persuasive arguments

- Watch the video. Children are explaining one thing that they would like to 'disappear'.  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iE\\_oBYwRiko#action=share](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iE_oBYwRiko#action=share)
- Make *Notes* about what each child chooses. Write what you think about their idea. Do you agree that Gruff's idea was the best thing to 'disappear'?

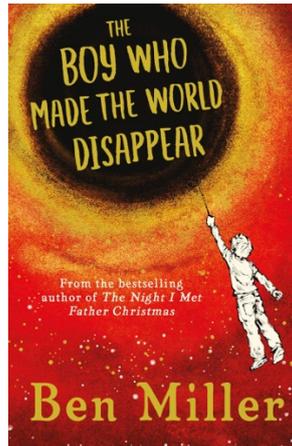
## 3. Decide your own thing to 'disappear'

- Choose one thing that you would like to disappear. Explain why this would be a good thing and how we would manage with it.

## 4. Find out other people's ideas.

- Ask 3-5 other people what they would like get rid of.
- Make notes about their ideas and their reasons. Which do you think is the best thing to 'disappear'?

## The Black-Hole Balloon



*Harrison has been to a party and been given a mysterious balloon. It seems to work like a black hole and make things disappear.*

That night, at supper, Harrison had the opportunity to conduct further tests.

True to form, his parents were trying to make him eat vegetables by giving him broccoli to go with his cottage pie, even though he had tried broccoli three times and most definitely didn't like it. Even worse, one of the boys in his class had told him that eating too much broccoli turned your hair green, and he really didn't want that.

'Harrison, remember the rules,' his mother said. 'Eat all of your vegetables or no pudding.'

'I don't want the broccoli,' Harrison told her. 'It tastes like trees.'

'Don't be silly, you love broccoli!' said his father.

'Just try it,' suggested his mother.

'I have tried it,' replied Harrison. 'Three times.'

'Well . . . try it again,' said his father.

Harrison felt his temper rising. What if the boy at school was right? If he went to school with green hair, everyone would laugh at him! Just the thought of it made his eyes sting with tears. Why were they forcing him to eat something so horrible? He wanted to lash out, scream and shout . . .

He was just about to pick his plate up and fling it across the room, when an idea struck him. What if he didn't? What if, instead of losing his temper, he used his black hole?

'Okay,' he said innocently. 'I suppose I can try it again.'

And instead of growling and grinding his teeth, he broke out into the broadest of smiles.

His parents looked confused at the sudden turnaround, but also relieved. At least their son wasn't going to have another Code Red.

Harrison picked up his fork and took a bite of his cottage pie. Then, while his parents weren't paying attention and his sister Lana shovelled up her own vegetables like they were the most delicious thing on earth, he slowly, slyly, took hold of the string, and manoeuvred the black hole under the table, where no one could see it. Of course, he was very careful not to touch it.

After double-checking his parents weren't looking, he picked up a particularly unappetising piece of broccoli from his plate and dropped it onto the black hole. The effect was remarkable. The moment it struck the black hole the broccoli appeared to freeze in time. Then, after a few seconds it slowly faded, until finally it was completely gone.

Harrison couldn't believe his luck. This was great! No more awful, disgusting vegetables! One after another, he snuck the pieces of broccoli off his plate and threw them at the black hole, waiting for each one to fade from view before disposing of another, until piece by piece, he'd removed every bit of broccoli from his plate.

'Goodness me!' said his father, with delight. 'Every bit of broccoli gone! Well done, Harrison! You've definitely earned your dessert!'

Harrison felt a twinge of guilt, but that quickly vanished with his first mouthful of chocolate pudding.

He raised the black hole up above the table again, so that he could look at it. Hmm, he thought. *This might come in handy.* After all, there were one or two things he wouldn't mind getting rid of.

*From Ben Miller: The Boy Who Made the World Disappear*

## Notes

	What did they want to put in Room 101?	What do you think about their idea?
		
		
		

## Your Choice

*What would you choose to get rid of? Explain your reasons and how we could manage without it.*

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## Other People's Ideas

*Find out what other people would get rid of and why.*
