



The Usual Suspects



Prep **15** minutes



Activity **30** minutes



Grades **K-2**

OBJECTIVE:

To investigate common childhood illnesses and how to prevent them.

MATERIALS:

- *The Usual Suspects* Handout
- *Miss Bindergarten Stays Home from Kindergarten* by Joseph Slate
- Drawing and art supplies

EDUCATION STANDARDS:

Health: 1.2.3 Describe ways to prevent communicable diseases.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Have students read *The Usual Suspects* handout. Explain that you will also be investigating how diseases are spread and how you can help keep from spreading and catching them.
2. Read *Miss Bindergarten Stays Home from Kindergarten* by Joseph Slate aloud, pausing to examine the images and discuss the text as you read.
3. Ask students to identify the illness that Miss Bindergarten and her class get. What are the symptoms?
4. Discuss why the students all come down with the flu, one by one. How might they have gotten it? Are there any clues in the pictures that show how students might have spread the germs that cause flu? Picture walk through the book and have students point out ways the flu germs could have been spread.
5. In a real class, could all the students get sick from the same thing? Could some of them? Have students brainstorm illnesses they or friends have had that have kept them home from school. Select a few of the illnesses, such as diarrhea or stomach bug, cold, and pinkeye, and discuss the symptoms.
6. Ask students how each of these illnesses are spread. Discuss what students could do to keep from spreading and getting these illnesses, such as handwashing, coughing and sneezing etiquette, staying home when you're sick, not sharing cups and forks, etc.
7. Picture walk through the book again. This time have students suggest what characters could have done differently to keep from spreading or getting the flu.
8. Have students draw a picture on their handout showing something you can do to keep from spreading germs. If they want, students can use characters from the book in their drawing or members of the *Clean Club*.



Interactive Whiteboard Extension

1. Create a T-chart on the whiteboard labeled "guilty" and "not guilty."
2. Show students images of people doing things that either spread germs or prevent the spread of germs. For example, you might show someone washing their hands, coughing into their elbow, sneezing without covering their mouth, etc.
3. Have students drag each image to the appropriate place on the chart, depending on whether they are guilty or not guilty of spreading germs.



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INVESTIGATION 4 STUDENT HANDOUT

GRADES K-2



The Usual Suspects

Johnny sneezed. He wondered if he was getting sick. He wondered if he should go home from school.

"Maybe you have a cold," Ella said.

"Maybe you have the flu," Harry said.

"Be careful not to spread your germs," Ella said.

"How do I do that?" Johnny asked.

They decided to investigate to find out.



Help Ella, Johnny, and Harry investigate the usual suspects that make kids sick. Draw a picture of something you can do so you won't spread germs.



Case Report: Every good investigator writes case reports. Case reports tell what you found. Write one way to keep from spreading germs.
