



The Usual Suspects

Harry, Ella, and Johnny were sitting outside during recess. Suddenly Johnny sneezed into the inside of his elbow.

"Uh-oh," Ella said, "I hope you aren't getting the same illness Harry had last week."

"Not a chance," Harry assured them. "I had strep throat. That doesn't make you sneeze."

"I think I'm just sneezing because of allergies," Johnny said. "Those aren't contagious. You can't spread them to other people."

"That's good," Ella said. "But illnesses can be spread to others when you sneeze, so thank you for sneezing into your elbow so you wouldn't spread germs—just in case!"

"Yeah!" Harry smiled. "I don't want to get sick again. I had to miss my soccer game."

"No problem," said Johnny. "Thank you for staying home from school when you were sick so you wouldn't share your germs with the rest of us."

"You know," Ella said thoughtfully, "sometimes it's hard to tell when you are getting sick with something that could be contagious. It can be hard to know if you should stay home."

"Yeah," said Harry. "A sneeze may be suspicious, but how do you know if you are really sick or just inhaled some dust? I would hate to miss school just because I didn't do a good job cleaning my room."

Ella laughed. "You would probably never make it to school in that case! But seriously, I think a little investigation is in order here. Let's track down the usual suspects, the illnesses that often keep kids home from school, and figure out how to identify them."



Help Ella, Johnny, and Harry track down the usual suspects that can make kids sick. Research an illness and create a BOLO (Be On the LookOut) poster to help other kids identify it. Use the form below to plan your poster.

Be on the Lookout for _____

1. Describe the suspect (type of germ that causes it and its symptoms): _____

2. Describe what to do if you catch the suspect (treatment): _____

3. Describe how to prevent catching the suspect: _____

4. Describe what NOT to do if you think you have caught the suspect (how it spreads): _____

Other important information:

1. Describe some images you want to include on the poster: _____

Case Report: After you look at all the BOLO posters in your classroom, it is time to write your case report. Now that you have seen the symptoms for several common illnesses, what main symptoms would you tell others to watch out for? What advice would you give others to help keep them from spreading an illness?
