

Teaching Guide

The Bug That Plagued the Entire Third Grade

By Lori Calabrese, illustrated by Chet Taylor

Dragonfly Publishing, Inc. |

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2009 DFP Awards: Best Children's Book

Reading Level

Reading Level: Grades 2-3

Interest Level: Grades K-4

Guided Reading Level: N

Themes

Germs, Bugs, Extinction, Environment/ Nature

National Standards

LANGUAGE ARTS

Reading for Perspective;
Participating in Society

SCIENCE

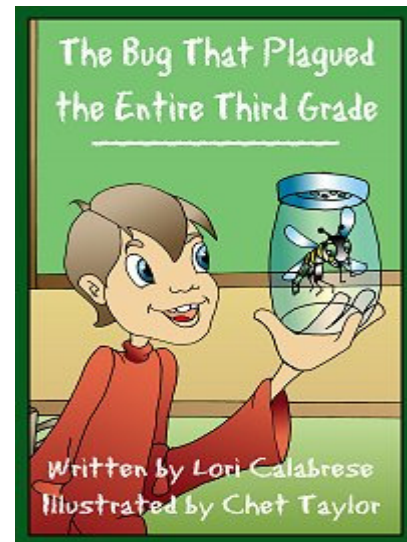
Personal and Social Perspectives

PHYSICAL EDUCATION
AND HEALTH STANDARDS

Health promotion and disease prevention;
Reducing health risks; Setting goals for good
health

Synopsis

Hoping to win the upcoming Bug-A-Fair, Matt pries a strange bug off the grille of Dad's car. But as the fair nears, Matt catches a different kind of bug: a cold. Will Matt become student of the year or will he create a third grade epidemic?



Background

Ever wonder why the phrase “I’ve caught a bug” has come to mean “I have a cold” in our modern language? Our bodies are pretty amazing. Day after day, they work hard — digesting food, pumping blood and oxygen, sending signals from our brains and our nerves, and much more. But there is a group of tiny invaders that can make our bodies sick — they’re called germs.

Some kids may think that germs are bugs or cooties or other gross stuff. Actually, germs are tiny organisms, or living things, that can cause disease. Germs are so small and sneaky that they creep into our bodies without being noticed. In fact, germs are so tiny that you need to use a microscope to see them. When they get in our bodies, we don’t know what hit us until we have symptoms that say we’ve been attacked!

Teaching Tip

Since *The Bug That Plagued the Entire Third Grade* is a story told in verse, you may wish to feature this book as part of your celebration of National Poetry Month in April.

BEFORE READING:

Pre-reading Focus Questions

Before introducing this book to students, you may wish to develop background and promote anticipation by posing questions such as the following:

1. What are some of the ways we come in contact with germs?
2. Given all the ways germs can enter your body, why don’t you get sick all the time?
3. What are some of the best ways we can prevent spreading germs?

Exploring the Book

Display the book and discuss the title with students. Ask them what they think the title means. What might the book be about?

Draw attention to the cover illustration. Ask them what type of insect is on the cover. Point out that the Hines Emerald Dragonfly is the only dragonfly listed on the endangered list.

VOCABULARY:

Discuss the power of words and how language is used for different purposes. Ask students what a pun is. Explain that a pun is a word that has more than one meaning. There are many puns and creating your own can be lots of fun.

Why do we use them? How do we learn words we don't know?

Ask students to come up with more puns. Write their ideas on the chalkboard. Use these to get them started:

1. Our social studies teacher says that her globe means the **world** to her.
2. A dog not only has a fur coat, but also **pants**.
3. A boiled egg in the morning is hard to **beat**.
4. What did the toy store sign say? Don't feed the animals. They are already **stuffed**.
5. Why is a fish easy to weigh? Because it has its own **scales**!
6. Why did the turkey cross the road? To prove he wasn't **chicken**!

AFTER READING:

Discussion Questions

After students have read the book, use these or similar questions to generate discussion, enhance comprehension, and develop appreciation for the content. Encourage students to refer to passages and illustrations in the book to support the responses.

1. What does the author mean when she says Matt caught a bug?
2. What is a germ? How big is it? Why is it important to wash your hands?
3. What do you do if you wake up really sick on a school day?
4. Matt's mom makes chicken soup to help him get better. What does your mom or dad do for you when you're sick?
5. Why does Matt still go to school even though he's sick?
6. What's the best way to not spread germs?
7. What can we do to help our body fight germs?
8. Why are the other students at the end of the book blowing their noses?
9. Which part of the book is your favorite? Why?

Reader's Response

The following questions or similar ones will help students personalize their

responses to the book. Suggest that students respond in reader's journals, in oral discussion, or in drawings.

1. What did you like about this story? Why?
2. What questions do you have about the characters that the story doesn't answer?
3. If you were to catch a bug for your school's 'Bug-A-Fair,' what would it be and why?
4. What does it feel like when you get sick?

PROJECTS ACROSS THE CURRICULUM

Language Arts/ Writing

1. Point out to students that the lines in this book rhyme, then challenge students to identify the rhyming words. Follow up by having students write their own bug poem. They can use Lori Calabrese's poem for inspiration but choose a new situation at school or home. Share!

Art

1. Create a collage with your poem, photographs of your bug.
2. Draw a picture of what you think a germ looks like.
3. Students will "Create a Germ Comic Strip." In this activity, students create a comic strip that tells the story of a germ invading a human body.

Science

1. Using a spray bottle filled with water, hold up the spray bottle and explain that the water inside is like a sneeze or a cough. Spray some water above the students. Ask students to raise their hands if they felt water. Try this from a few different angles. Explain that germs can be found in sneezes and coughs and that one way they can spread from one person to another is through little droplets, just like the water. You can also sprinkle some talcum powder on your hand and blow it into the air away from the students. Ask students to observe how long the talcum powder hangs in the air and how long it takes to settle. Explain that some germs are very, very small—like the powder—and can travel in the air farther and longer. We can become sick if we inhale them. Use a doll to show that a person can inhale germs from the air.

Health and Nutrition

1. In the book, Matt spreads his germs to his classmates. Explain that germs are

everywhere. Have students clip pictures of possible germ locations from magazines, etc... Talk about where germs can be found. Talk about why germs can be found there. Ask students what we can do to keep those germs from getting in our bodies.

Reading

As you read the book aloud, ask students to raise their hand when they hear the names of different bugs.

Musical/ Rhythmic

1. Lori Calabrese, the author, uses rhyme to enhance the rhythm of the story. Find the part that you like best, and memorize it. Then, try to write a couple of lines about your favorite bug using that same rhythm.

2. Find the rhyming pairs throughout *The Bug that Plagued the Entire Third Grade*. Then, try to list at least one more word that would rhyme with each pair. Can you make another sentence that would fit in with the storyline?

3. Sing this song to the tune of Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star.

*Twinkle, Twinkle little star
See how clean my two hands are
Soap and water wash and scrub
Get those germs off rub a dub
Twinkle, Twinkle Little star
See how clean my two hands are.*

About the author

Lori Calabrese is an award-winning children's author. Her first picture book, *The Bug That Plagued the Entire Third Grade*, was named Dragonfly Publishing Inc.'s 2009 Best Children's Book. She writes for various children's magazines, is the National Children's Books Examiner at Examiner.com, and enjoys sharing her passion for children's books at festivals, schools and events. Visit her website to learn more, www.loricalabrese.com.

About the illustrator

Chet Taylor is a Navy veteran and a graduate of Oklahoma City University with a degree in fine arts. As well as having had a career in newspaper, radio, and television sales, he has over twenty years experience in 2-D animation for television commercials. He has illustrated over a dozen children's books and continues to work in animation. Chet and his wife Jan have one son and three grandchildren.

BOOK INFORMATION:

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\$11.99 average retail price, PAPERBACK (8X10 Perfect-Bound)

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RESOURCES ON THE WEB

Learn more about The Bug That Plagued the Entire Third Grade and find more activities at:

<http://www.loricalabrese.com>

Order Information:

On the Web:

<http://www.dragonflypubs.com/dfp/thebug.html>

For wholesale discounts on Color Hardbacks, contact the [publisher](#). Color Paperbacks are available wholesale to vendors through both [Createspace Direct \(see listings\)](#) and [Ingram Book Group \(see listings\)](#).

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