

Grades  
**4 TO 5**



**HERE**  
For Healthy Schools

**GOOD HYGIENE HABITS**

# **ONCE UPON A...CHOO!**

**THE BIG IDEA:**

You're never too old to enjoy a good story. This lesson teaches students to construct a fun, creative story that also incorporates what they know about healthy habits.

**HEALTHY HABITS**

Presented by Lysol® in collaboration with NEA and National PTA.

## Goals and Skills

### Students Will:

- Practice skills and strategies of creative writing with other students
- Write parts of a creative story about healthy habits with a beginning, middle, and end
- Illustrate it with a drawing that supports the story

### Supplies and Preparation:

- Pencils and paper
- Make copies of the My Healthy Hero student handout (see page 4) OR display on an overhead/projector
- **Optional:** Computers, MS Word/Pages, Internet access

### Background for Teacher:

You can access the CDC's germ stats and scientific information (which students can use in the Germ Review step below) here: <https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/index.html/>

## INSTRUCTION STEPS

**1. Germ Review!** Refresh your students' minds by reviewing the facts about germs and handwashing with students. Write the facts on the board or display them on an overhead so students can follow along.

### Germ Facts: Germs...

- Are so tiny we can't see them
- Can live for a long time on surfaces like doorknobs
- Can spread when a sick person touches shared surfaces
- Are also spread by coughing or sneezing

Invite students to add to the list of germ facts. What other facts have they learned or researched?

### The Importance of Handwashing:

- Cleaning with soap and water removes dirt and most germs from hands and from surfaces
- You need to wash hands for 20 seconds, as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)—long enough to sing “Happy Birthday” twice!
- Wash hands before every meal, after using the bathroom, and after playing outside

### Modification:

If possible, have students visit the CDC website to gather more information and facts about handwashing and germs: <https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/show-me-the-science-hand-sanitizer.html>

**2. Discuss Healthy Habits.** Now that students have reviewed the facts about germs and handwashing, discuss preventative and healthy habits they can practice. For instance:

- Practice the “elbow” cough and sneeze—using elbow instead of hands to cover your mouth
- Cover mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze, then throw it away and wash hands
- Leave book bags, shoes, and coats at the door when you come inside
- Eat a well-balanced diet that includes plenty of fruits, vegetables, protein, and whole grains to help your body stay healthy
- Eat breakfast for energy to start your day
- Get plenty of sleep

Invite students to share ideas of what to add to the list of healthy habits. Next, have students choose one healthy habit from the list that is most important to them and write it down.

**3. Creative Writing.** Explain to the class that they will work together in groups to write creative stories that explain and illustrate healthy habits, like handwashing.

First, share copies of the Creative Writing Tips handout with students or display the handout on a projector. Review the brainstorming questions (i.e., who, what, when, where, why).

Next, go over the elements of a good story, including the need for a beginning, middle, and end.

### Teacher Tip:

Provide examples of familiar stories students have read that have a clear beginning, middle, and end. Review the stories to give students ideas of how they can craft their own.

**4. Story Starters:** If students need a little more guidance, you can provide the following “story starters” to give them ideas:

### ONCE UPON A...CHOO!

Whenever Mr. Fuzzle tried to bake bread, he ended up with flour dust everywhere. The problem was that the powdery flour made Mr. Fuzzle’s muzzle twitch, which made it itch. And that always made him sneeze. (Hint: maybe the customers in the bakery find out about Mr. Fuzzle’s germ-y sneezes and stop buying his bread. What will Mr. Fuzzle do?)

### THE GERM THAT GOT SICK

A germ was minding its own business when a gamma ray from outer space made it grow and grow. At first it just looked like a small puddle, but over a few days it grew to the size of a car. (Hint: what healthy habits can WE do that will prevent the germ from growing and make it disappear?)

### THE ADVENTURES OF HEALTHY STEALTHY

It was a brisk October evening, when Henry wandered into his neighbor’s garden and spotted the oddest pumpkin he had ever seen... (Hint: maybe this pumpkin has magic powers and turns Henry into a healthy habits superhero who performs super secret feats of germ-busting.)

**5. Collaborative Writing.** Divide the class into groups of 3 – 5. Guide students through the collaborative writing process. Each student will start by writing only the beginning of a story. They will then pass the story to the next person in their group to write the middle. And again, the story is passed to a third person for the ending. Through this process, each student will have the chance to contribute to at least three different stories and work together.

Encourage students to be funny, silly, or dramatic! But, they should remember to focus on the healthy habits they have learned about and reviewed in the beginning of the lesson.

### Teacher Tip:

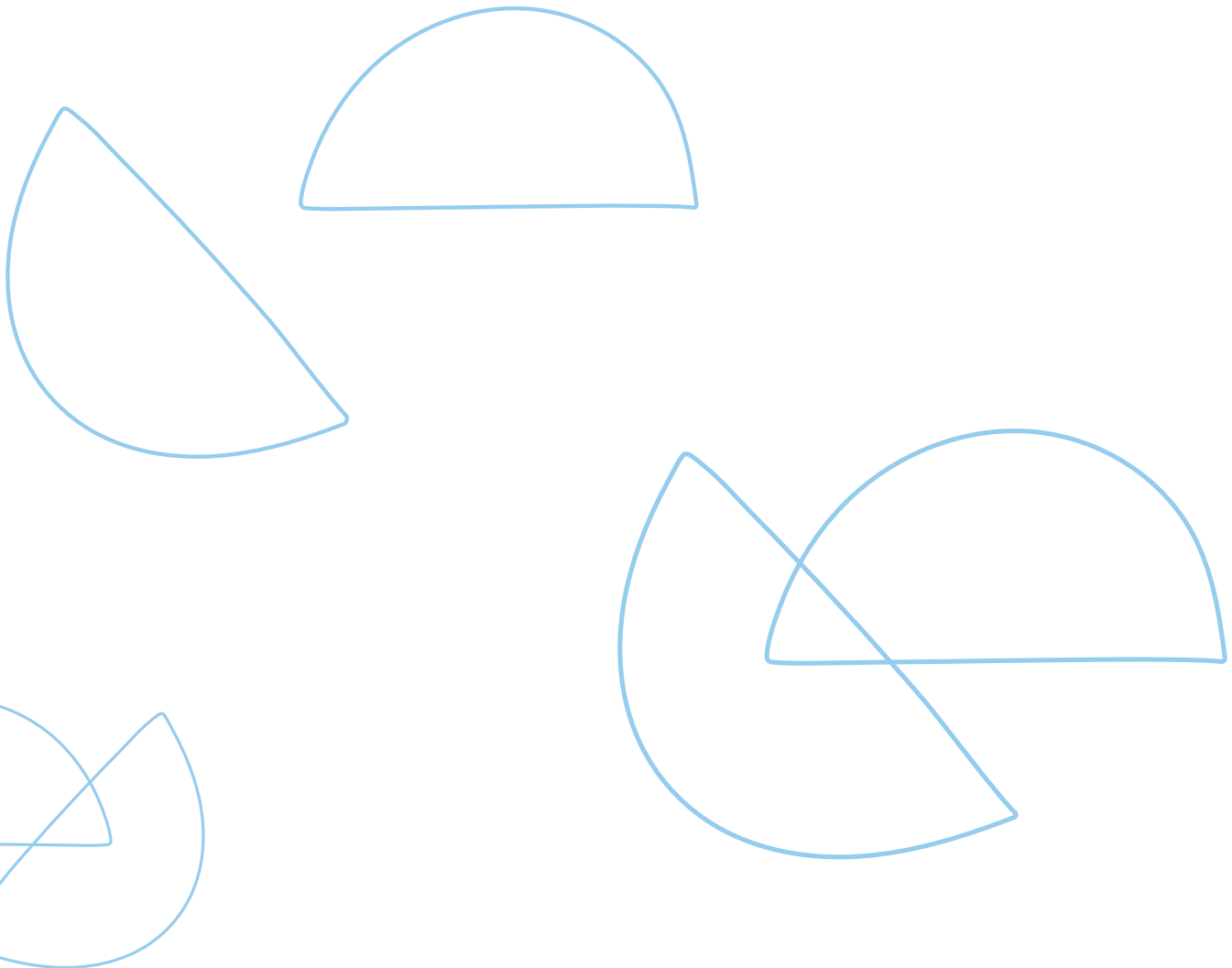
- If groups are larger (i.e., more than three), have the remaining students draw illustrations or prepare a title page
- A timer can help keep things moving forward every 10 minutes or so

**6. Share.** The creative writing exercise is sure to produce some entertaining stories! When all stories are complete, have students in groups take turns reading their stories to the rest of the class. Discuss the lessons in each story.

**7. Extend the Lesson.** If students didn't have time to illustrate their stories, provide them with supplies to do so. Consider having the stories professionally bound and included in the school's library, posted around the school, or publishing them on a class blog.

### **Additional Resources:**

- CDC - Be A Germ Stopper Poster  
<https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/posters.html#stopgerms>
- CDC - BAM! Body and Mind  
<https://www.cdc.gov/healthyschools/bam/teachers.htm>
- CDC - Healthy Schools Parent Engagement Materials  
<https://www.cdc.gov/healthyschools/parentengagement/parentsforhealthyschools.htm>
- CDC - Handwashing Posters  
<https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/posters.html>



## STUDENT HANDOUT: Creative Writing Tips

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### Here are things to think about as you write your stories:

- **Who?** Think of possible characters. Who are they? What are they like? What are they trying to do? What makes them interesting?
- **What?** What is the problem or conflict your character is trying to address?
- **When?** Is this happening now? In the past or future? What time of day?
- **Where?** What is the setting for this story? Is there more than one place?
- **Why?** What is the purpose of the story? Is there more than one purpose?

### For instance:

- Learn, educate, share
- Entertain
- Motivate action
- **How?** How is the problem or conflict resolved?

### Elements of a Good Story:

A good story has a beginning, middle, and end, and flows from start to finish. In a good story, it can be hard to tell where each part begins and ends.



### Here are some guidelines:

- **Beginning:** Introduces the main characters and sets up a problem
- **Middle:** The characters try different things to solve the problem
- **End:** The problem is resolved, and there is something different about the characters and their world as compared to the beginning of the story