



Notes for teachers and parents on *The Adventures of Super Toilet*

Summary

The Adventures of Super Toilet is a fun, yet educational, means of introducing elementary school children to global water and sanitation issues.

The online animation features a villain, Vinny the Poo, who makes children sick so they are unable to attend school. The heroes, the Super Hygiene Team, comprised of Super Toilet, Driplette and Soapy Hero, save the day by helping eliminate Vinny so that the children can get well again.

The moral of the story is how toilets, safe water supplies, and good hygiene practices such as regular handwashing with soap, are essential in keeping children safe from traces of fecal matter that can transmit deadly diarrheal diseases such as cholera, typhoid and dysentery.

While children in the US have access to safe water and toilets in their homes, *The Adventures of Super Toilet* helps them to envisage what life is like in areas of the developing world where these vital facilities are lacking. It also reminds children everywhere of the importance of washing their hands.

The problems

- 2.5 billion people have nowhere safe and clean to go to the toilet
- 900 million people lack access to a safe water supply
- As a result nearly 5,000 children die every day from diarrheal diseases
- Many more children regularly miss school because they are helping their mothers collect water, or they are too sick from water-related diseases

Find out why children are particularly affected by water and sanitation problems on our Children and WaterAid page at:

http://www.wateraidamerica.org/what_we_do/children_and_wateraid/default.aspx

The solution

WaterAid is a non-profit organization that works across Africa, Asia, and the Pacific Region helping poor communities to gain access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene education. We work with local partner organizations to help communities set up and manage projects using low-cost, sustainable technologies they can maintain themselves.

Safe water supplies are usually constructed by digging wells that access uncontaminated water found in the ground. The water is brought to the surface with

the use of a handpump. In the animation, Driplette is seen divining for water, and then drilling a tubewell and fitting it with a handpump.

Sanitation involves the construction of low-cost toilets. In some cases this means connecting to sewers, but mostly it involves the construction of pit latrines. In the animation Super Toilet is seen digging a pit and fitting it with a latrine slab – a round concrete slab with footplates and a keyhole-shaped drophole over which people squat to use the latrine.

Hygiene education means raising awareness amongst communities of the importance of good hygiene in stopping the spread of disease. The most vital lesson is to wash hands with soap after using a latrine and before eating, to ensure that any germs left on people's hands do not reach their mouths when they eat. In the animation Soapy Hero makes sure there are lots of bubbles during handwashing so that the children's hands are well scrubbed.

Discussion points and activities

- Download and print the Super Hygiene Team fun sheet – it has activities including a maze, wordsearch, spot the difference and a picture to color.
- Ask children to write a list of the different ways they use water each day. Then ask them to write a story describing the life of a child who has to fetch water from a pond, rather than turn on a faucet in their home.
- Discuss with children at what points in the day they should wash their hands – and why this is so important.
- Tell the children about some of the diseases that can be spread by unsafe water and poor sanitation. You can find out more on the diseases page of our website:
http://www.wateraidamerica.org/what_we_do/the_need/disease.aspx Then discuss other ways diseases can be spread – such as through coughing or handling animals – and discuss how to stay safe from them.
- Ask children to write a poem about the Super Hygiene Team. And please send us the end results – we'd love to see them. You can email us at:
inquiries@wateraidamerica.org

Watch *The Adventures of Super Toilet* online now at:
www.wateraidamerica.org/supertoilet

Please help raise awareness of the global water and sanitation crisis and WaterAid's work by passing on this link to other teachers and parents.