



Ms. Carey's class was very excited about their field trip to the zoo.

The plan was to have a potluck picnic lunch after visiting the animals. The school would provide sandwiches and the students would each bring something to share.

On the morning of the field trip things were very busy in the school cafeteria. Some lunchroom workers were preparing two different types of sandwiches: tuna salad and peanut butter and jelly (there were no students with peanut allergies in the whole school). Other people in the kitchen were preparing for a school-wide Thanksgiving feast that evening, washing and stuffing lots of turkeys, getting them ready for the ovens.

The sandwiches were packed in cloth bags to make it easy for the teachers to carry them.

The students were busy at home that morning as well, getting their contributions to the meal ready. Most of them had to scramble to pull something together.

- Suzy had forgotten to tell her dad about it so they stopped to buy a bag of apples from the farmer's market.
- Tou brought a large container of a deli pasta salad that his mom bought last week. It was one day past the expiration date but it still smelled delicious.
- Victor was prepared though, he baked his family's special chicken fingers the night before, let them cool, and brought them in a cooler filled with ice packs. He knew from experience that his friends loved them even when they were cold. He also baked some brownies, which meant he had to pull the chicken fingers out a little early in order to get everything finished by his bedtime. His mom was impressed with his efficiency.
- Other students brought things like pretzels, carrots, oranges, and cookies.

It was so much food! Fortunately the bus driver let the teachers and students leave the bags of sandwiches and the other containers on the bus. It made the day more fun to not have to lug all that stuff around to the primates area, the big cats section, the petting farm, and all the other great spots in the zoo.

The picnic was a big success too. Some students thought cold chicken was weird and didn't try it, some were so excited about what their friends' brought that they skipped the sandwiches, and only a few had room for apples after all the other options. But everyone got to enjoy something they liked.

The next morning Ms. Carey was excited to hear what the class had to say about the field trip and picnic. Imagine her surprise, however, when she took attendance and found out that HALF her stu-

dents were absent! Shortly thereafter the nurse paid a visit to Ms. Carey's classroom to say that the missing students were all home with symptoms like upset stomach, vomiting, fevers, and, yes, even diarrhea.

Ms. Carey was quite upset by this news and said to her class, "What do you think could have happened between yesterday and today?"

Several students hands went up right away. What do you think they said when Ms. Carey called on them?

Teacher instructions: Give students time to talk about the story and then share their ideas about what might have happened. Write their ideas on a flip chart or white board. Then go to #1 in the existing lesson: Introduce the topic. Then do the myths activity. Then revisit the list of things they think could have caused the illness in the half the class. Be sure to include the following:

- Preparing raw meat (the turkeys) in the same place as the sandwiches were being made could have contaminated the sandwiches.
- The tuna sandwiches might have contained mayonnaise and both tuna and mayonnaise need to be kept chilled.
- Suzy's apples weren't washed.
- Tou's salad may have gone bad even though it smelled okay.
- Victor's chicken may have been undercooked since he rushed it.
- Students may not have washed their hands after visiting the petting farm.