



## **Sick Simon**

*Dan Krall*

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Are germs gross, or great? Sick Simon learns how to be health-conscious during cold and flu season in this clever picture book from the author-illustrator of *The Great Lollipop Caper*.

Simon is going to have the best week ever. Who cares if he has a cold? He goes to school anyway, and sneezes everywhere, and coughs on everyone, and touches everything.

Germs call him a hero! Everyone else calls him Sick Simon. When will it end? How far will he go? Will the germs take over, or can Sick Simon learn to change his ways?

## **Sick Simon Details**

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Author : Dan Krall

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Genre : Childrens, Picture Books, Academic, School, Fiction

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## **From Reader Review Sick Simon for online ebook**

### **Sara Grochowski says**

Blech, the pictures in this book just make me cringe - just like they're supposed to! Simon loves going to school, but he does not love covering his mouth when he coughs, washing his hands, or resting when he's ill. We all know what's bound to happen next. Germs loooove Simon; he's the perfect way for them to take over the world!

This funny and undeniably gross picture book is sure to be an effective way to talk about germs and preventing the spread of illness. I highly recommend this one for the classroom!

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### **Erica says**

Plague vector Simon has to learn a tough lesson about personal hygiene and the spread of germs.

Teaching kids about germs is difficult. I worked in a daycare center for a year and man, I don't understand why children don't have to walk through a vat of Lysol before they can interact with others.

Telling them to wash their hands, to not sneeze on their friends, to cover their mouths when they cough, it's like telling a cat to be industrious and motivated. It just doesn't compute in their little heads.

On the flip side, sometimes telling kids about the spread of illness makes them into crazy little germaphobes who won't go out without a face mask and gloves.

Where's the line?

This book helps with that first set of kids, the oblivious ones who seem to find delight in passing their diseases along to everyone else. It will only serve to further horrify that second set of kids so if your child is already freaked out about uncleanliness, don't read this to her/him.

The message I would have liked to have seen is the one that says: Sick people, stay home. That is one of the most unpopular messages in our culture because we value money over most everything and workers who stay home can't make bucks for their employers or themselves and this is why we will all succumb to the zombie apocalypse; we suck at self-quarantine.

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### **Erin says**

This is a book teachers have begged me for. Usually this happens when the weather changes and flu season hits, but sometimes it happens earlier in the year. "What do you have that will teach my students about spreading germs?" Initially I purchased a few non-fiction titles about germs, which are great and purposeful, but here we have an engaging storyline with pictures kids will love (they turned my stomach, just like they are meant to!) Simon is sick but he LOVES school, so he continues to go. Worse than that, he is one of those kids that has no understanding of the ways he is spreading his germs to his friends and teachers.

I think this story can be effective as a teaching tool in the classroom. Teachers will have to explain that germs are really too small for us to see, unlike the pictures of the hidden germs on all of the "sick" pages. My

8 year old daughter pointed those out to me. It would be great to pair it with a non-fiction title on germs.

This review was first posted on my blog [Get Your Book On](#).

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### **Elisha says**

First off, the illustrations in this book are remarkable! Any elementary child would love to read this book. It was given to me as a gift from my children's lit teacher. It's about a boy named Simon who was excited for his week at school, because on Friday there would be a kickball game. Simon came to school sick and would get everyone else sick as well, there would be no one to play kickball with him by Friday. Simon would then learn about germs and how to prevent others from getting sick. This book would be good to teach children about sickness and how we can prevent spreading it.

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### **Ellie Reardon says**

\*\*\*I received a free copy of this book through Goodreads' First Reads program\*\*\*

I read this book to my 3 year old son as a bedtime story. He really enjoyed it, and I did too! I love how it had so much information about germs and ways to avoid getting sick. It was also super cool that it came with a poster! As a mom who's turned into a little germaphobe, and drowns the house with Lysol as soon as I hear the first sniffle, this book was perfect! Not just for me, but for the whole family! I loved it! I love the author's style of writing, and also the illustrations! He might be one of my new favorites!

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### **Jackie says**

Simon's sick...he doesn't cover his mouth when he sneezes, he doesn't wash his hands, he touches everything. In short, virus, protozoa and bacteria love him. Simon is their hero because he spreads germs everywhere! And, all his friends, teachers, and family get sick, too! But when Simon realizes that everyone is sick and it's no fun...he decides to do something about it.

*Sick Simon* is full of gross illustrations, germ humor, and a whole bunch of yuck. Kids will love it (and teach a lesson, too).

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### **Wendy Phung says**

I won this book through the Goodreads Giveaways and I am so thankful I got the chance to read this cute and informative book. Dan Krall is a genius turning a very boring topic for children into a fun and easy way to learn it. The book is filled with awesome pictures and dialogs. The book also came with a poster of how to prevent being sick and what to do. I would love to read this book to my nieces and nephews, even my future children to teach them about the importance of being sick and how to prevent it and how to get better and not spread germs everywhere. Bottom line is every parent needs to buy this book and every child needs to read this book and learn from it because this is an important topic which is explained in a very creative way. I love it!

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## **Krystal says**

tommy loved this book so much i'm going to buy it for him.

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## **Carmen says**

Despite the absolutely disgusting, snot-filled illustrations, this book is actually a little gem.

Simon is sick. But so happy! And so enthusiastic about school, his favorite place! He's going to have the best week ever!

He sneezes on everyone and gets snot on everything.

Even though he doesn't notice, the reader sees that all people surrounding him (family, schoolmates, teachers) are getting sick as a result of his careless actions.

Finally this culminates in him going to a kickball game, but no one is there.

On the bus, some germs congratulate him.

*"Hey, Simon. Nice work this week. You're the man!!"*

What are you talking about? Simon replies.

The germs explain how amazing he is for never using a Kleenex or washing his hands.

Unfortunately for them, once Simon realizes what he was doing, he starts being conscientious and stops spreading germs.

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Tl;dr - Even though adults might be put off by the gross illustrations here, kids will love them. Also, I have to give this book points for delivering a great message about keeping germs to yourself WITHOUT being preachy or lesson-y at all. Instead, it just seems like a fun kids' book. This is super-hard to do, so way to go, Krall!

Not available in Spanish.

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## **Miss Ryoko says**

This book was fantastic! Hilarious illustrations paired up with a good moral (and so relatable) - I loved it. I also loved the added bonus of trying to find the germs in all the places Simon went

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## **Krissy says**

This book was absolutely disgusting. So *of course* my son loved it. He also had fun locating the cartoon germs on each page.

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## **Elliott says**

Sick Simon is a fun book that teaches children ages 4 - 8 about germs and proper hygiene.

The book follows Simon throughout his week. He is sick on Monday, but doesn't care, and looks forward to the best week ever. The book proceeds to describe all the hygienic mistakes he makes: he touches different surfaces and foods without washing his hands, and sneezes, coughs, and throws up in different places.

Simon feels worse as the week continues, and the germs celebrate Simon as a hero. They tell Simon how much they love the fact that he doesn't wash his hands or cover his mouth, which helps them spread. Simon then decides to change his ways and begin resting so he can recover from his illness, and to cover his mouth and wash his hands more often.

This book has fun illustrations with a lot of gross-out humor and bodily fluids depicted in neon colors. Children will enjoy the gross illustrations and the humor of the germs celebrating Simon.

This is a good book to teach children ages 4 - 8 about germs and health. It would make for a fun independent read, a read-aloud, and would make a good addition to a school nurse's office.

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## **Sara says**

I know that the lesson was heavy-handed, but after being around snotty, unhygienic sick children for a decade+ (including my own three), they really need it spelled out in huge, pink letters from the cover. Plus, I laughed so hard at the illustrations that it completely made up for it. I think the kids will love it and it will make a much needed impression.

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## **Sandra Guerfi says**

Simon has a cold but that doesn't curb his enthusiasm to get to school come Monday morning but while he's rearing to go others are not as happy to see him as he spreads his cold to adults and kids. As the week progresses Simon begins to realize the week is not going to go as expected but there are those who think Simon is great, a real hero. When Simon meets his germs and they tell him how much of a help he's been, he's astonished but when they start to dream of a world made for germs he decides to take action. This book was hysterical.

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## **Anna Brown says**

Simon loves school and he does not want anything to stop him from going to from not getting to play the big kickball game at school. Simon wakes up not feeling good, but instead of staying in bed and resting, he decides to toughen it out and go to school. Simon had no idea that he was going to spread his germs to everyone at school. He ends up being the only kid at school because he gets all of his friends sick by his germs. On the way home, Simon meets some germs that are so proud of him for getting everyone sick. They call him a "germ hero." He realizes what he has done and starts making better choices about cover his coughs and sneezes, and resting. This book really shows the importance of not spreading germs. I really enjoyed reading it because it was easy to read and had great pictures with a little bit of humor to it.

I would definitely use this book in my classroom to teach a health lesson. This book teaches about three types of germs: protozoa, bacteria, and virus. This book can give the students visuals of why they need to cover their mouth when they sneeze and cough. This book also teaches that if a student is sick, he/she needs to stay at home instead of spreading their germs to their friends. I would love to share this book in my classroom someday because I feel like the students would find it funny and be engaged and learn as well.

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