

Perils at the Picnic

[student reading]

Calling all detectives! The Detection Team has learned of a possible foodborne illness incident in progress! As a detective, you must investigate the facts and give your "expert" conclusions. Since you are now an "expert," you can *FightBAC!*TM for food safety!

It was a Saturday morning in early summer . . .

1

Tom gets a call from his friends to meet them in the park down the street to play ball. They tell him to bring food for a picnic lunch, so they can stay all day. One of his buddies, Nicki, is bringing her older brother along to help with the barbecue. The group can't wait to get to the park early so they can start playing before it gets too hot!

2

Tom looks in the refrigerator and finds some potato salad his mom made during the week. He also finds some cold cuts, leftover turkey, cheese, a tomato, an apple and some grapes in a drawer. He wraps the meat and cheese in plastic wrap and packs them in a big paper bag with some paper plates, bread, the fruit and tomato and a knife and fork. Just before he leaves, he checks the freezer and finds three hamburger patties wrapped in plastic - he throws them in the bag, too.

3

As Tom runs out the door, he tosses his baseball and glove in the bag and grabs his bat. When he gets to the park, several of his friends are already there. Nicki's older brother, Stephane, is setting up a grill for cooking hamburgers.

4

Tom and his friends claim the last picnic table - a great spot in the sun! Tom grabs his baseball and glove out of the food bag and leaves the bag on top of the table - this way the hamburger will be thawed enough to cook by lunchtime!

5

When it's time to break for lunch, Tom's friends go to find a washroom to wash up while Tom unpacks the picnic food. The hamburgers are dripping on the outside, but still frozen on the inside and stuck together! So Tom sets them on a paper plate and uses the knife and fork he brought to pry them apart. When they're almost apart, he uses his fingers to separate them the rest of the way and then leaves them on the plate so they can thaw a bit more before he takes them over to the grill.

6

Tom then sets the cheese and the tomato on the plate and slices them to use on top of the burgers. That way everything will be ready to put on top of the burgers!

7

When the other kids return, they brush off the surface of the picnic table with their hands and lay the bread out to make a couple of sandwiches from the cold cuts, cheese, and turkey. Nicki's brother starts grilling the burgers.

8

Once the burgers have turned brown on the outside, Tom and his friends add cheese to the top of the burgers. Stephane says he wants to cook them a bit more, but they insist that they love to eat them rare.

9

Retrieving the fork Tom used to separate the frozen burgers, they serve themselves some potato salad. Using the knife, they cut up the apple, which had been sitting on top of the picnic table and share it along with the grapes, which had also been sitting out on the top of the picnic table.

CRACKING THE CASE

[Student Response Form]

1. What food safety mistakes did Tom make ...

at home? _____

at the park before they played ball? _____

while getting the food ready? _____

while he and his friends were eating? _____

2. What questions do you have for Tom and his friends ...

about what they did? _____

about the food they were eating? _____

3. Does it matter . . . (and explain why ...)

how long Tom and his friends played ball? _____

that Tom didn't go to the washroom to wash up with his friends? _____

that they chose a table in the sun? _____

that the hamburgers were dripping on the outside but still frozen on the inside? _____

that they ate their hamburgers rare? _____

4. What might happen to Tom and his friends? _____