



Gerry the Germ: A Fairy Tale

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I am Gerry the Germ—the best germ in the world

You know why I'm the best? Well, this week I'm going to make four brothers sick.

Why these brothers? Their family is the healthiest in the world.

Millions of germs have attacked them, but none have succeeded.

It's because of their mean parents. They always tell the brothers to wash their hands with soap before they eat. They always boil their drinking water or put chlorine in it. Worst of all, they always poop in a latrine. And then they wash their hands with water *and* soap after pooping! What sort of person remembers to use soap *every* time?

Every germ I know hates them.

But now the boys have moved into their own home.

Without their parents to remind them, they are not so careful. I will *finally* have a chance to get them! Soon, I will be the most famous germ in the world!

Chapter 1: Adam

My first target was Adam, the oldest brother.

How did I get to him, you ask? Well, I cannot walk or fly, but that does not mean I cannot travel!

My trip to Adam started in the guts of a neighbor. I gave diarrhea to that guy so he pooped outside. I love being outside!





Then I waited for the rain. The rain washed some poop – and me – to the river. I had fun floating down the river!

When Adam went to the river to fill his bucket, the poop (and I) floated straight into it.

When he got home, Adam drank straight out of his bucket. Slurp! Now both the poop and I were inside Adam.

In no time flat, I made Adam sick. I love being a germ!

He groaned, he moaned, and then he ran outside to poop. As soon as his diarrhea hit the ground, I hopped in. I was on my way to Adam's brother Bernie.

Chapter 2: Bernie

Bernie saw Adam get sick. He asked, “What happened?”

Adam replied, “I forgot to clean the water. The germ got me!”

Bernie thought he was so clever. He found a bottle of chlorine his parents had given him. I was worried, but felt better when I saw the bottle had only a few drops left.

When he gathered water, he carefully poured the last capful of chlorine in his bucket and waited 20 minutes. Bernie knew chlorine could kill me. He was trying to *poison* me!

I guess he forgot he was dealing with Gerry *The Germ*. If water is not safe for me, I have other choices. I am sticky and I am tricky!



The next morning Bernie visited the field where he and his brothers pooped. He didn't even notice when he touched some poop and I hopped on his fingers!



A few minutes later, Bernie used those fingers to pick up food. Slurp! After a few bites, both the poop and I were inside of Bernie.

Then I got to do what I like best. Soon, Bernie was sick too.

Chapter 3: Charlie

The third brother, Charlie, saw what happened to Adam and Bernie. But Charlie thought he was so smart.

He knew that soap was mean to germs. Soap makes poop and me slide off of hands!



So Charlie decided to wash hands with soap *and* to use chlorine to clean his water.

He didn't know that Bernie had used up the chlorine. But I knew. And I was happy!

But then, Charlie did something really nasty. He gathered some wood and boiled the water. He knew I couldn't stay in boiling water!



But do you think a *human* could out-smart me?

When Bernie had diarrhea, I knew water was not the way to get to Charlie. Instead, I waited outside in the poop. Soon, flies came down to visit. Buzz! Buzz! When a fly was close, I hopped on.



And do you know where that fly went next? That nice fly brought the poop and me to Charlie's dinner.

Slurp! When Charlie ate dinner, he got me too. A few hours later, he was sick as well.

Ha, ha, ha. I win again!



Chapter 4: Don

Only Don, the youngest brother, was left. Don saw all three of his brothers get sick.

So Don started thinking. He was careful to wash with soap after pooping and before eating meals. He thought he was smarter than me. But I had out-smarted his brothers, so I was not worried.



Then, Don used all the family's wood to build a latrine.

I was happy, because now Don had no wood left to boil water. Without chlorine or boiling, I could live in his water. He'd be drinking me (and poop) for breakfast. I am the *best* germ ever!



But then, Don did something even *more* clever. He got a water filter!

If I floated down the river to Don's water, I would get stuck in that water filter.

I decided I would stick with the poop and wait for a fly to carry me to Don's food.

But now Don told his brothers to poop in the latrine, not outside. When the sick brothers pooped me out, I went straight into the latrine. I was stuck in the deep dark pit. No fly could carry me to Don's food!



I never got anyone sick again.

This is the saddest story *ever*.



**So remember these lessons from me,
Gerry the Germ:**

Always help me!

Poop outside! Then a fly can carry me
to your food.



Never clean your
water! When you use chlorine,
boil water, or use a water filter, I
can't get you sick.

Do not use soap! Why bother? Your hands
will just get dirty again tomorrow! If you
wash hands with soap when you leave the
latrine, and before you eat, you wash me
off.



I love moving from person to person and making
everyone sick with diarrhea. Next, time, I will get the four
brothers.

I am Gerry the Germ—the most famous germ in the
world. And no human is going to outsmart me!

«Alternate ending for younger children»



So remember these lessons from me, Gerry the Germ:

You don't want to help me!

Poop in a toilet or latrine! Then flies cannot get to me or carry me to your food.



Always drink treated water! Boil water, use a water filter, or use chlorine to get rid of germs. I can't get you sick if I can't live in your water.

Remember soap! If you wash hands with soap when you leave the latrine and before you eat, you wash me off. You won't ever eat poop, or germs!



I love moving from person to person and making everyone sick with diarrhea.

I am Gerry the Germ, the smartest Germ in the world!
Can you stop me from making you sick?

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