

# ***THE LEAD DETECTORS***

(A mystery regarding the dangers of lead.)

Authored by David Anderson

Music and lyrics by Joan Maute, Ed.D.

Music arrangement and keyboards by Jay Kellner

vocals by Shannon Duraski, Scott Gilchrist,

Megan Luke, Rebecca Melisi, and Doug Thompson

Poster by Bob Provost

Produced by Studio 2

Joan Maute Project Coordinator and Editor

This project was completed in collaboration with the University of Illinois-Chicago School of Public Health, Babette J. Neuberger liaison.

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## Introduction

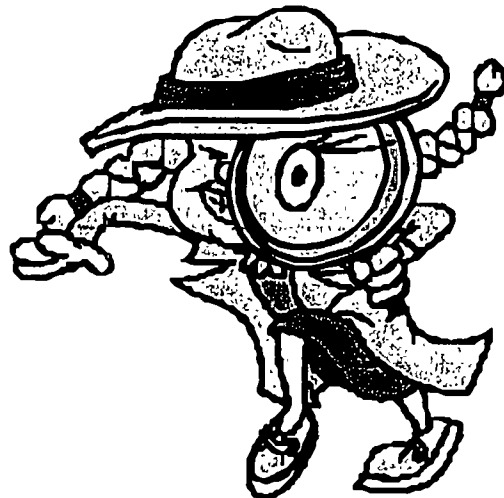
The Lead Detectors is intended to be listened to and/or performed by middle school students. It is a companion to *Let's Get The Lead Out*, an integrated learning unit on the dangers of lead. The curriculum, radio script, audio-tape, and a colorful poster are available free of charge from the U.S. EPA (see address below). Middle school students can take this very important information to local elementary school classes, day care centers, community centers, or parent-night meetings via a performance. The radio mystery/readers' theatre format allows the students to perform without scenery, props, costumes, or memorizing lines. The songs may be played from the tape using the recorded student voices, or performed by students using the musical accompaniment on side B. After the performance it would be very appropriate for the readers and/or singers to ask the audience for signs and dangers of lead poisoning and some preventative measures that can be taken to be "lead free."

You have permission to copy this unit for classroom/school use. For a copy of *Let's Get the Lead Out* please contact  
U.S. EPA  
attn: Publications  
77 W. Jackson (P-19J)  
Chicago, Illinois 60604  
or in the Midwest, call: 1-800-621-8431

# Get the Lead Out

## CAST OF CHARACTERS

- NARRATOR 1: Serves as one of the announcers of the story
- NARRATOR 2: Serves as one of the announcers of the story
- NARRATOR 3: Serves as one of the announcers of the story
- NARRATOR 4: Serves as one of the announcers of the story
- CHRIS: One of the three Lead Detectors, a detective searching out the bad effects of lead
- SAM: Another of the three Lead Detectors, a detective searching out the bad effects of lead
- FREDDY: Another of the three Lead Detectors, a detective searching out the bad effects of lead
- BILLIE: The older of the two siblings who ask the Lead Detectors for help.
- JO: The younger of the two siblings who ask the Lead Detectors for help.
- SPOT: The pet of Billie and Jo
- PROFESSOR: Professor Plumbum, author of the book, Detecting and Correcting Uses of Lead, exists to quote lines of his book as the Lead Detectors consult him as a reference.



# Get the Lead Out

NARRATOR 1: You better watch out!

NARRATOR 2: It could be in the water!  
(sound of gurgling water)

NARRATOR 3: On the walls!  
(sound of knocking)

NARRATOR 4: In the air

NARRATORS 1-4: Whoosh!

NARRATOR 3: In the pipes  
(sound of clanging pipes)

NARRATOR 1: In the cans  
(sound of cans together)

NARRATOR 4: In the glass  
(glasses knocking together)

NARRATOR 2: In the paper  
(paper ripping)

ALL: So you better be careful

NARRATORS 1 & 2: How you breathe

NARRATORS 3 & 4: What you swallow!

NARRATOR 1: Lead could be

ALL: Everywhere!

NARRATOR 2: You need to call

ALL: The Lead Detectors!!!

NARRATOR 3: The Lead Awareness Broadcasting System and [insert name of group]

NARRATOR 4: Take great pleasure

NARRATOR 1: In bringing you

NARRATOR 2: Another transcribed adventure of

ALL: The Lead Detectors!

NARRATOR 4: Starring:

CHRIS: Chris Wee

SAM: Sam Findet

FREDDY: And Freddy Goode

NARRATOR 3: Of the Lead Detective Agency:

CHRIS/SAM/FREDDY: Wee, Findet, and Goode

NARRATOR 1: This week's episode is entitled:

ALL: Get the Lead Out

NARRATOR 2: On one dreary afternoon in the offices of the Lead Detectors,

NARRATOR 4: A timid knock is heard on the front door  
(knocking sound)

CHRIS: Come in.

FREDDY: Ah, it's two kids and their dog!

SAM: What can we do for you?

BILLIE: Hello.

JO: We have a mystery for you to solve.

CHRIS: A mystery?

ALL THREE: That's our job!

BILLIE: Our dog, Spot,  
SPOT: Woof!  
JO: Has been acting really strange lately.  
FREDDY: What has he been doing?  
BILLIE: He hasn't been hungry.  
SPOT: (makes sad dog sounds)  
JO: He's been irritable  
SPOT: (slight groan)  
BILLIE: He doesn't play anymore.  
SPOT: (little yip)  
JO: He even bit the mailman.  
SPOT: (slight growl)  
BILLIE: And all he does is sleeps all day!  
SPOT: (falls asleep and snores)  
BILLIE/JO BOTH: We want our old spot back!  
SAM: Sounds like it could be a serious case of lead poisoning to me.  
CHRIS: Could you show us an example?  
BILLIE: Okay. Jo, wake up Spot there.  
JO: Wake up, Spot.  
ALL: Wake up!  
SPOT: Woof! (sleepily)  
BILLIE: Here, Spot, catch this ball.  
SPOT: Woof! Woof! (getting more excited)

JO: Watch this.

BILLIE: Here you go!

ALL: Catch it, Spot!

SPOT: Ow!

ALL: Oh!

CHRIS: He missed it!

FREDDY: It hit him right on the nose.

SPOT: Ow!

JO: He used to be able to catch that ball all the time.

BILLIE: Now he just wants to sleep all day.

SPOT: (snoring again)

BILLIE: And Jo and I have been acting strange, too!

JO: We always get in fights now.

BILLIE: No, we don't!

JO: Yes, we do!

BILLIE: We don't!

JO: Do!

BILLIE: Don't!

JO: Do too!

BILLIE: Don't too! (if more humor is desired, a fake spitting at each other could be continued here)

CHRIS: Hey!

SAM: Both of you

FREDDY: Are irritable!



BILLIE/JO: Sorry!

JO: Can you help all three of us?

SAM: Sure thing, kid!

FREDDY: Okay, tell us, what have you done differently lately?

BILLIE: Well, we've gone to a different school.

JO: But Spot doesn't go to school with us.

BILLIE: And Jo is getting a D in English.

JO: Really, I was getting a B at my last school!

SAM: Hmmm, why have you changed schools?

BILLIE: Because we moved to a new neighborhood.

FREDDY/CHRIS/SAM: Ah!

CHRIS: And you moved into a new home?

JO: That's right!

FREDDY: How old is your house?

BILLIE: I don't know. But my parents had to paint all the dirty walls.

SAM: Sounds like we better check out your home.

CHRIS/FREDDY: That's right!

ALL THREE: "Lead" us to your home!

NARRATOR 1: So our brave detective trio follow

JO: Jo

BILLIE: Billie

NARRATOR 2: and their dog Spot

SPOT: Woof! (sleepily)

NARRATOR 3: To their home to solve

NARRATOR 4: The mystery of the House of Lead!

(During this, the group members could act like they are riding in a car.)

[Possible place for a commercial or a song.]

NARRATOR 1: As the Lead Detectors pull up to the mysterious

NARRATORS 1-4: House of Lead

NARRATOR 2: They immediately notice that the front door has

CHRIS: A stained glass window.

SAM: A rare specimen

FREDDY: Most definitely made over 40 years ago

CHRIS: And put together with

ALL THREE: LEAD.

JO: Is that bad?

FREDDY: Well, lead has many good uses.

CHRIS: It is an easily bendable metal that can protect people from x-rays and other harmful radiation.

SAM: Because it's so soft, it has good uses, such as

FREDDY: Tin cans

CHRIS: And batteries

CHRIS: And sinkers for fishing lines

SAM: And stained glass!

FREDDY: But it can also be negative if people get lead into their bodies.

BILLIE: Like being filled full of lead bullets?

CHRIS: Well, bullets are made out of lead!

SAM: But we're talking about other ways of getting lead in your body.

FREDDY: People can get lead in their bodies by

GROUP: Breathing lead

GROUP: And swallowing lead.

JO: I would never eat lead!

ALL: Yuck!

SAM: Well, Jo, you may not know that you're eating it.

CHRIS: And once lead is in your body, it is a toxic substance that can

FREDDY: Make you very sick,

BILLIE: Like Spot is feeling?

JO: And it's making us so irri-, irri-

BILLIE: Irritable! No wonder you're getting a D in English!

SAM: That's right. It could be the cause.

CHRIS: And it takes a long time

ALL: To get the lead out

SAM: Of your body!

FREDDY: And because your house is over forty years old,

CHRIS: According to the age of the stained glass window,

SAM: Your house could be full of lead hiding in all places!

CHRIS: Just like this stained glass window is being held together by lead

FREDDY: Lead could be used in other places in your house as well.

JO: And hurt poor Spot!

BILLIE: And us too!

JO: So, that explains my bad grade in English!

SAM: Let's start with where your dog eats.

BILLIE: Okay, here's where we give Spot fresh water and good food.

CHRIS: Let's examine the dog's bowls more closely.

JO: My grandmother brought those back from her vacation.

FREDDY: Hmmmm, a nice ceramic bowl with a clear glaze.

SAM: Let's turn it over.

(sound of splashing water)

CHRIS: Hey, these are new shoes!

FREDDY: See,

ALL THREE: Made in Mexico!

SAM: Let's consult Professor Plumbum's book of "Detecting and Correcting Uses of Lead."

FREDDY: Here it is, according to the professor . . .

PROFESSOR [as a separate voice giving advice]: Many dishes made out of ceramic, especially made in foreign countries, can contain lead. Some dishes may even have a glaze made out of lead.

BILLIE: So Spot could be getting lead in his system by eating out of these dishes.

JO: Billie, didn't grandma give us the same type of glasses with our names on them?

BILLIE: That's right!

JO: What do we do?

CHRIS: Simple, just replace these ceramic dishes with a dish that you know doesn't contain lead,

SAM: Such as stainless steel for Spot.

CHRIS: And glass or plastic for you two!

JO: Will we all be better then?

FREDDY: Well, let's examine this house more closely.

CHRIS: Look at what is placed under the dishes.

BILLIE: Yeah, it's the Sunday's funnies.

JO: Mom doesn't like Spot to get food and water all over her

GROUP: Clean

GROUP: Kitchen

ALL Floor.

SAM: Yes, but the professor has a good piece of information about colored newsprint.

PROFESSOR [continuing]: "Some colored inks, including those used on newsprint, contain lead."

BILLIE: Wow! I didn't know that.

JO: So, when Spot is being a good dog to clean up his food,

FREDDY: He could be picking up the lead from the ink on the newspaper.

BILLIE: That's easy! We won't put colored newspaper on the floor anymore.

CHRIS: And don't let the dog chew any funnies!

JO: Not even my Spiderman comics books!

SAM: And the professor even advises that

PROFESSOR: "Children should wash their hands after they have touched comics or comics books."

JO: I never knew that Spiderman could be so dangerous!

FREDDY: Next, we need to examine the water in this house.

CHRIS: Sam, do you have your handy dandy test kit for water.

SAM: I sure do, and it says that the water does contain high levels of lead.

BILLIE/JO: Oh, no!

BILLIE: What do we do?

FREDDY: Let's look in your basement.

BILLIE: Okay, right down here.

SAM: Look at these pipes,

CHRIS: Even though they are made of copper,

JO: Like pennies?

FREDDY: Yes, but the pipes are put together

SAM: Or soldered

ALL THREE: With lead!

CHRIS: According to the professor:

PROFESSOR: Lead was used as a common method for putting together the joints in pipes and in tin cans.

FREDDY: So, when the water sits in your pipes, the water gets high levels of lead in it.

JO: And I thought that only Colonel Mustard got hurt by lead pipes!

BILLIE: How can we solve this problem? My parents can't afford to put whole new pipes in the house.

SAM: There are many solutions:

CHRIS: Only use cold water for drinking or eating purposes

JO: Why is that?

FREDDY: Hot water pipes will more likely dissolve the lead into the water.

SAM: And let the water run for a few seconds to clear out the old water before you fill your dog's bowl.

BILLIE: Or we could give Spot only pop to drink!

SPOT: Woof!

JO: For us too!

CHRIS: No, but you could use bottled water

FREDDY: Or filter the water you have.

BILLIE: Those sound like good solutions!

JO: We must be more careful what we drink!

SAM: And if this an old house, there's a good chance that we have to be careful with the walls.

BILLIE: Really?

CHRIS: Has Spot been chewing on any of the walls or eating paint chips?

JO: The window sill!

BILLIE: Here, look at this!

SAM: Looks like teeth marks.

FREDDY: This could be deadly!

BILLIE: I know. Dad almost killed Spot when he saw that!

CHRIS: No, Freddy means that many painted objects can be deadly.

SAM: Professor Plumbum has written that . . .

PROFESSOR: Many old paints used to contain high amounts of lead in them. And lead can be ingested in the body . . .

SAM: Through eating paint chips

GROUP: Yuck!

CHRIS: Rubbing against painted surfaces.

FREDDY: Or breathing dust from painted surfaces.

BILLIE: Wow, so that could explain Spot being so sluggish and irritable.

JO: And we could be breathing the dust too!

BILLIE: Which is why we have been so IRRITABLE Jo!

JO: What do we do?

SAM: Have your house's paint inspected.

CHRIS: There are professionals who can take care of the lead paint.

FREDDY: And don't ever chew on painted surfaces or eat paint chips.

ALL: Yuck!!!

SAM: And make sure mom or dad cleans the floors, window frames, window sills, and other surfaces weekly

CHRIS: With warm water and a general all purpose cleaner.

FREDDY: Also, you children should wash your hands often,

SAM: Especially before you eat and before nap or bed time.

BILLIE: We're too old for naps!

CHRIS: But your baby sister isn't.

FREDDY: And mom or dad should keep your baby sister's play area clean by washing her bottles, pacifier, toys and stuffed animals often.

SAM: If you take care of all these things, your dog and the both of you should be better in no time.

BILLIE: And can we do anything to

GROUP: Get the lead out

JO: Of us?

CHRIS: It's a good idea to eat food with lots of calcium and iron



SAM: That should help chase out that lead very soon!

JO/BILLIE: Thanks, Lead Detectors.

CHRIS/SAM/FREDDY: Anytime, kids!

NARRATOR 1: And the Lead Detectors leave Billie, Jo, and Spot

NARRATOR 2: To take care of the house of lead.

NARRATOR 3: Soon to be unleaded!

NARRATOR 4: And remember kids,

NARRATOR 2: Be sure to

NARRATORS 1-4: Get the lead out!

NARRATOR 3: By being good lead detectors in your own houses.

NARRATOR 1: And eat foods rich in calcium and iron.

NARRATOR 4: Like Milk,

GROUP: Hmmmm

NARRATOR 2: Yogurt

GROUP: Yum

NARRATOR 1: Cheese

NARRATOR 3: And vegetables,

NARRATOR 2: And fruits

NARRATOR 4: And meats

GROUP: And fish!

NARRATOR 3: So that you can be healthy

NARRATOR 2: And free of lead

JO: And your dog too!

BILLIE: Catch, Spot!

SPOT: Woof!!

GROUP: Great catch!

SPOT: (muffled, as with ball in mouth) WOOF!

SAM: Sign Spot up with the Cubs!

BILLIE: I love my dog and Jo too!

JO: I love you too Billie!

CHRIS: Friends again!

SAM: Doesn't it make you feel good to see such lead-free kids!

JO: And I'm getting an A in English now!

NARRATOR 1: Stay tuned for another

NARRATOR 4: Exciting

NARRATOR 3: Transcribed

NARRATOR 2: Adventure of . . .

ALL: The Lead Detectors!

## **Lead Rap**

words and music by Joan Maute

We're the lead detectors and we're here to help you  
'Cause keepin' you lead free is a thing we can do.  
Lead can creep into your life and into your world.  
It doesn't care if you're a boy or a girl.  
So listen to us; hear what we're talkin' about  
And together we'll keep or get the lead out!  
get it out.....keep it out.....get it out.....keep it out

It can be in water comin' out of lead in pipes too;  
It can be in paints and crayons things that little kids chew.

We're the lead detectors and we're here to help you  
'Cause keepin' you lead free is a thing we can do.  
Lead can creep into your life and into your world.  
It doesn't care if you're a boy or a girl.  
So listen to us; hear what we're talkin' about  
And together we'll keep or get the lead out!  
get it out.....keep it out.....get it out.....keep it out

You know air can get polluted from lead fumes or lead dust;  
It can make you sick or cranky if you breathe it too much.

We're the lead detectors and we're here to help you  
'Cause keepin' you lead free is a thing we can do.  
Lead can creep into your life and into your world  
It doesn't care if you're a boy or a girl.  
So listen to us; hear what we're talkin' about  
And together we'll keep or get the lead out!  
get it out.....keep it out.....get it out.....keep it out

If lead gets in your body it gets in your bloodstream;  
It travels through your systems gives you lead poisoning.

We're the lead detectors and we're here to help you  
'Cause keepin' you lead free is a thing we can do.  
Lead can creep into your life and into your world.  
It doesn't care if you're a boy or a girl.  
So listen to us; hear what we're talkin' about  
And together we'll keep or get the lead out!  
get it out.....keep it out.....get it out.....keep it out

You can help get the lead out be a lead detector too,  
Spread the word, be alert, keep the lead out of you!

Come on; move it. Get the lead out!

## **Make it Lead Free**

Words and Music by Joan Maute

Lead can make sick; lead can make you feel down.  
So you need to watch whenever lead is around.  
Here are some simple rules to keep in mind.  
Don't you forget them; do them all of the time.

Make it lead free, keep it lead free.  
Make it lead free, keep it lead free.

You need to clean your floors; clean your window sills too.  
You need to clean that door where the paint's chipping through.  
Just get a good detergent, get some water and see  
How you can help yourself and family to stay lead free.

Make it lead free, keep it lead free.  
Make it lead free, keep it lead free.

Watch your younger sisters; watch young brothers also  
Don't let them chew paint blisters, help them by saying "no".  
And when they drop their bottles or their toys onto the floor  
Make them nice and clean and wash them once more.

Make it lead free, keep it lead free.  
Make it lead free, keep it lead free.

Wash your hands real often, 'specially before you eat  
Or when they get real dirty, or you're ready to sleep.  
Eat a balanced diet; eat the food that will stick.  
Let the water run; drinking it won't make you sick.

Make it lead free, keep it lead free.  
Make it lead free, keep it lead free.