



Smart People are Cool.™



## THE FLUNKSTER'S STORY

J.K. Capaldo has always been plagued by failure. On his first day of school, he was so nervous that he threw up all over his desk. Then, while frantically trying to clean it up, he bumped the girl who sat in front of him and made her drop her books into his "second time around" breakfast cereal and orange juice. His life has been nothing but embarrassment after embarrassment ever since, and as a result, he has always believed that he can achieve very little. Because he finds it difficult to do anything without embarrassing himself, he doesn't do much and has therefore given up on the idea of being successful.

J.K. is now 31 years old and still in high school. He has a part time job as a telemarketer selling toothbrushes and is constantly being rejected over the phone by people who don't want to buy what he is selling. This only reinforces his theory that he is a failure.

Every villain has somehow affected his life - he suffers from a self-worth problem, he cannot get motivated, his time management is hopeless, he cheats on the tests he does pass, he never takes notes, disorganization is his way of life, he continually procrastinates, he sleeps whenever he is not at school or work, and he never sets any goals for himself. It is no wonder he is called **THE FLUNKSTER**. His main problem is not that he flunks but that he seems proud of his failure and has no desire to change. He only wants people to think that he doesn't care - but deep down inside it really bothers him.

To make himself feel better, **THE FLUNKSTER** does whatever he can to make students flunk with him. He uses unique strategies to convince students that flunking is cool. The "Excuse Inducer" is a digital voice recorder that he carries with him to make excuses for his bad grades. He plays his Excuse Inducer for students, providing them with convincing excuses for failure. The most common excuse is, "I don't care if I fail because it's not like I tried anyway."

**THE FLUNKSTER'S** world is filled with disappointment and stress. But instead of dealing with his stress, he developed the "Dodge Ball." This device looks like a typical stress ball, however, when raised over his head and squeezed, **THE FLUNKSTER** is instantly transported to a stress free location of his choice allowing him to "dodge" his problems. He understands that this is only a temporary solution, but continues to offer this stress alternative to students by providing them with their own Dodge Ball.

"The Flunkies," a group of students who always fail and are proud of it, are the biggest threat to students. He sends The Flunkies out to recruit other students who are tired of trying to get passing grades to "join the club." This is the most difficult tactic to resist because failures feel better when they are surrounded by other failures.

**THE FLUNKSTER** is a powerful enemy and if students are not careful, they get caught making excuses, avoiding their problems and surrounding themselves with other failures. Becoming a successful student is more than just avoiding failure; it is also about making choices that will promote success. Remember, smart people are cool!

## THE FLUNKSTER'S TACTICS AND TOOLS

**EXCUSE INDUCER** is a recording device that provides students with excuses for their failure.

**DODGE BALL** transports students to a stress free environment, allowing them to "dodge" their problems.

**THE FLUNKIES** recruit other students to join the club of failures.

If you are using the DVD/Workbook program in your school or for your family, you may read the stories as a way to set up each section.

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