

A Field Guide to the Genus and Species of Bead Class Students

Teaching beadwork has become a very popular sport. There are more and more Teachers (as the lead players are called) engaging in this sport every day. The typical game includes a playing field (otherwise known as a classroom) which can be small, as found in a small bead store. It can also be large, as found in a national bead convention.

In either case, the challenge for the Teacher is to handle and properly care for the variety of genus and species of Students (also referred to as opponents) that are assembled without “losing it”. The Students have the challenge to drive the Teacher into a complete blithering fool, having lost her sense of composure and professionalism. A well won game by the opposing side, will send the Teacher into a screaming fit, throwing beads and creating major destruction and bedlam. Bloody noses and bruises gain points for the opposing side.

If the Teacher wins, the classroom will be calm and the opponents will have learned the project at hand. There will be no chaos, no bloody noses, no opponents knocked to the floor with an ensuing fist fight. Everyone appears happy. Or at least subdued.

The game is usually played with one Teacher and multiple opponents. It is an unbalanced playing field, but the Teacher is given a “handicap” to try to keep the playing field level. She does have ultimate control if she knows how to use it. She can throw in the trump card: ask for assistance of the bead store owner or class organizer. And finally, she can bar certain bad players from ever participating again.

For a Teacher, walking into a classroom is like walking into a jungle filled with wild beasts. Students with calculating eyes, frothing mouths and a ferocious appetite are at the ready to devour what the class offers. They

are eager to challenge the Teacher in a battle of wits and outrageous behavior. The Teacher has only moments to assess the types of students that have come to the watering hole otherwise called a Bead Class and take defensive action. Recognizing the genus and species of students and how to handle them is vital to the survival of the Teacher. Each of the various genus and species of student is unique. Each needs to be handled slightly differently. This guide only covers the most commonly encountered varieties. I hope that this guide will be valuable in preserving your hide in the Teaching Jungle.

Classification: Low Maintenance (LM)

Joyous Immensicus

These are the pearls, the darlings, the absolute saints in any class. They are a gift from God, and they are probably only visiting earth for a short, but glorious time. These are the students that you dream about having, they prove beyond a doubt that there is a Supreme Being, in whatever form you believe in Him or Her.



Joyous Immensicus is identifiable by their happy demeanor, their extraordinary ability to be prepared and on time for class. While they sit on the “opponent side” they are actually allies of the Teacher. They can be the strength behind a Teacher, if used wisely.

They have read the class description, and have the prerequisite experience when needed. They have all their supplies ready, and have even anticipated the need to bring items such as a pair of scissors that you may have forgotten to include in your supply list. They don't ask for much, they come to learn, they aren't disruptive, and they even help the High Maintenance Classification (HM) when they can. They always seemed pleased no matter what.

The danger with Joyous Immensicus is that they are so good and so self-reliant, that sometimes with a classroom of HM's, Teachers might not give the Joyous the time they deserve, and as a result, Teachers may miss the joy that these heavenly beings have come to bestow upon the class. Make sure that they are given their fair time, no matter what. If you, as a Teacher, have to knock an HM off her chair or knock her beads on the floor just to give Joyous Immensicus some time, do so. Just make sure no one helps the accosted HM, or if help is offered, it is done by other highly troublesome HM's. It might take her a while to gather herself together...perhaps just long enough to give enough attention to the Joyous Immensicus to make them feel as special as they deserve.

Cherish these wonderful creatures. They are few and far between. In fact, there is only one genus and species of this Classification. If there are more than one of these glorious creatures in your bead class, hurry and play the Lottery...you must be having a run of luck like you will never experience again!

Classification: High Maintenance (HM)

This class has several Genus and Species. The following are the most commonly encountered.

Snootus Facicus

You know her for what she is the moment she walks through the door. Her snooty face is unmistakable. Deep furrows between her eyes, her lips are pursed, and she has piercing glaring eyes. She hasn't smiled in over 5 years. And she isn't going to any time soon.



Snootus Facicus has a mission and it is to find fault. Even if that fault is simply that you are human, she will find it with glee. She will pick apart your punctuation, your grammar and the clothing you are wearing. She

will dissect your samples to find that mistake you know is there. It will be too cold, or too hot, the chairs won't be comfortable, there won't be enough lighting or enough elbow room. Coming to your class is an opportunity for a Class A Gripe Fest. The more problems she can find, the happier she is and the more miserable she will look.

REMEDY

Realizing that finding fault will make her happy, beat her to the punch. Tell her a few of the things that aren't right. It will break the ice. She will be happy knowing that you acknowledge her perfection. Ask her for advice on how to do things better. She will be all too happy to help.

Caution: Don't help her too much with the fault finding mission. She may actually smile. If this does happen, call 9-1-1 as her facial muscles and ligaments will be in need of emergency repair.

Hijacker Holdemupus

This species looks innocent at first. But beware, she has an arsenal of weapons at her disposal. She may start small, and work her way up to a rapid fire machine gun if you ignore her. She will hijack your time, and steal everyone else's time while she is at it.

She may come disguised as another species of student. Beware, it won't be long before the weapons come out, and you are held captive helping only her.



REMEDY

Do not get within her grasp! If you do, you may need to call for help. She will tie you up with Fireline, with some Silamide thread for good measure. Address her questions to the class, as if someone else asked. If you are lucky, the Angels of Mercy (Joyous Immensicus) will help you out.

Socialitus Talkalotus

This creature usually comes in pairs or more. If she is alone, then she will try to find a companion. The Socialitus looks harmless. She is usually of a pleasant nature, it appears that she only wishes to have fun.



This classification of student does not attend class to learn. It is her night out and away from her own herd who have become bored with her stories. New ground is needed for her to sing and be the center of attention.

REMEDY

Separate her from her companion(s). This may keep her quiet. Give her a project to do that will involve her to the point where she can't talk. If all else fails, send her on an errand to buy sodas for everyone. If she won't go, hold her down and stuff her mouth with anything you can find.

Knowis Allus

This creature is a close cousin of The Snootus Facicus. While she is not set out to find fault with you, her mission is to prove that she knows everything better than you. When a question is asked, she will jump in with the answer. When you try to explain a detailed project, she will offer several other ways to reach the same end, believing her method is the best. It won't be long before you are wondering why she is *taking* the class and not teaching it herself.



REMEDY

You may not realize it at first, but Knowis Allus can be a fantastic asset. Since she has opinions and answers to every situation. She can assist with any of the other species of HM's that you have in your class. Have her sit next to your hungriest, most demanding HM critter. You will have two problems solved. Knowis Allus will feel needed, and the other critter will have all the help she needs, and then some!

Helpless Twiticus

This flighty creature has panic written all over her face. She is no more than a baby in diapers. From the simplest of decisions to the more complex, there is nothing that the Twit can do on her own. You will wonder if someone gives her a potty schedule to follow!



The Twiticus will go into a full body sweat fueled by her panic if the color of beads you have in your sample are not available in the bead store. She will want the *exact* same beads, heaven help you if the dye lot has changed. She *will not* be able to handle a color substitution, even if you pick it out for her. You could probably teach her the same class over and over in different colors, and each time it will be a new class for her.

REMEDY

Encourage Twiticus to enroll in monochromatic colored projects, preferably with only a handful of different types of beads. Tell her that monochromatic jewelry is "in". Who wants a jumble of colors any ways?

If she insists on attending a class that involves multi colors, seat her where the light is the dimmest. Maybe then she won't notice color differences.

Cranial Defectus

This species is identified by the vacant look in the eyes. While at first she may appear to be of the genus HelplessTwiticus, you will be able to classify her properly when you realize a panic actuated sweat does not occur. While she cannot make a decision on her own, she is happy with that, and happy with any guidance you give her.



The Defectus may be in the wrong class. Perhaps she didn't even read the class description or the prerequisites. She is totally unprepared, but she doesn't know it.

There are two subspecies as follows:

Subspecies A

Cranial Defectus Angrious: This subspecies will become irritable when the brain awakes (if there is one) or if a free brain cell enters her cranium. She may become angry at herself (unlikely), or will blame you for not telling her personally that the loom class she took when she was 10 does not serve for the prerequisite of peyote for the class she is attending.

Subspecies B

Cranial Defectus Funicus: You can't help but love her. She is well meaning and very pleasant. She may even have bought chocolate chip cookies to class to share. She might think that she is at a church function. She migrates towards any gathering of people like a moth to the flame. She doesn't know why, she just does.

Remedy

Sub species A: Treat gently, do not wake her. Keep her clueless and answer all questions in a manner that confuses her more. This should keep her subdued. If needed, modify your project to the stitch she knows.

Sub species B: Give her a hug, make her welcome. Give her something to play with, even if it has nothing to do with the class. She will be happy just to be around you.

Diseasus Spreadicus

This creature paid for her class, and will attend it to spread whatever contagious disease she has. She is the rat carrying Black Plague, the mosquito bearing Malaria. She is pure misery and she will gladly share it with you. She will cough on you, wipe her pink eye on her beads for you to touch, and leave a foul smelling stench that makes a porta-potty smell like roses. She may cause discomfort amongst your other opponents which may be an asset, since their attention is now focused on her.



Remedy

Diseasus Spreadicus is highly dangerous to you, and to the other species of students in the class. Remove her if possible. If her removal is not possible, then with gloved hands and a surgical mask, stuff all exposed orifices with tissue. Place a welding helmet over her head to further contain the germs she may spread. Tell her it will aid in seeing the beads. Have plenty of soap and water on hand, some Lysol and some anti bacterial hand sanitizer.

Phonicus Stuckus

This species is easily identifiable due to an abnormal growth on one of her ears. There are times when this growth appears to have suddenly cured itself. Then it suddenly reappears. There is usually an audible warning when this growth reappears. This sound is different from creature to creature within this species. The reinfection tends to be highly disruptive to the class.



It appears that when this growth is firmly attached to the ear of Phonicus Stuckus, that the playing the game is of secondary importance. You may hear groans of pain that sound like conversations dealing with family, friends, real estate and even escort services. Do not confuse these

sounds of pain with conversations. The growth prevents the full expression of pain as we know it, and has the uncanny ability to make the infected animal sound like it is engaging in conversation. It is obvious from the hunched shoulder and loss of control of the neck muscles as the head leans to one side, that when this growth appears, it is painful, deforming and all consuming.

Do not follow this species in a car when she is driving. She is particularly dangerous and unpredictable while behind the wheel. She should be shot at this point, before she kills another driver.

Remedy

During the short interludes of when the growth is disattached, attempt to grab it from the table or from where it is hiding. Fling it as far as you can, preferably where a large truck will smash it flat like roadkill on the freeway. Phonicus Stuckus will wail in pain, reassure her that the pain is temporary and she will feel much better in no time.

Romicus with Stashicus

This species appears to have no home. Or if she does have a home, beads are not allowed to cross the threshold. She brings *all* of her beads with her to every class. She has case after case, tube after tube of beads. In some cases, some specimens of this species, have more beads than the store where the class is held.



Romicus with Stashicus tends to be generous. She is all too willing to share where she got her stash, even if the store owner is within earshot. Sharing of this information must be to develop more of her species. This species is somewhat self limiting because of the space that they require.

Remedy

Discouraging Romicus with Stashicus to bring her stash will be difficult. You will need to find a place for her to securely leave the stash. Be careful that genus Shopicus Addictus is kept away from Romicus's stash,

otherwise she may mutate to a sub species: Shopicus Lightfingerous.

Opportunicus Vulgaris

This species is highly dangerous. Opportunicus Vulgaris is a parasite. In the larval stage, She takes as much from you as she possibly can: Extra handouts, resources and anything that she can extract from you. Then, as all parasites do, when their host is bled dry, she will move on.



The next stage of this parasite is the nymph stage. As she emerges from the larval stage you will notice the transformation. She stops asking as many questions, she listens, and she makes her maturity in the parasitic life cycle known with a simple statement. "I will teach this class in [_____]."

As an adult (and this is a questionable term for this stage of the life cycle), Opportunicus Vulgaris will teach your class, sometimes in the same town, sometimes in a large convention. Sometimes she even defends her actions with saying that she developed the class and handouts herself.

Remedy

Sadly, there may be no remedy for dealing with this species. You may opt to bar her from your classes, but she will only attach herself to someone else who has the information she wants. Pesticides and traps rarely work, neither does fly paper impregnated with the Copyright Laws. Ethics infused beverages are of little help either, This is an extremely hardy, dangerous creature, to be handled with great caution.

Shopicus Addictus

This species is identifiable by the glazed eyes she has when she is in a

bead store. She is related to the Magpie and Pack Rat..

This is the most beloved of all species to a bead store owner because she is the owner's life blood to financial well being. To a teacher, this is one of the most frustrating species of student. This creature would rather spend the class time shopping for beads. She goes back and forth to the store's offerings gathering more material for her nest. She puts them in place, and before you know it, she flies off again to gather more. It must always be bead breeding time for this species.



The problem with Shopicus Addictus is she spends so little time on her project, that when the class is over, she has barely started. Sometimes she is happy just building her nest. Other times, she is unhappy that her time is up, and she did not learn what she should have.

Remedy

The only remedy may be, is to hold classes where beads are not sold. But it is doubtful Shopicus Addictus will go to take a class in this environment. Catching her and putting her in a cage may help, but she may squawk.

Hopefully this field guide to identifying the genus and species of students will be of great help. If you are interested in field trips to gain skill in your classification abilities, we will be hosting one per month. You will need binoculars, and camouflage to be able to sit on the sidelines unnoticed.

A schedule for upcoming viewing and ID'ing trips and seminars will be posted shortly.

