

**The Official  
Kilter Academy  
Troublemaking  
Handbook**



# THE OFFICIAL KILTER ACADEMY TROUBLEMAKING HANDBOOK

*Aladdin*

New York London Toronto Sydney New Delhi



**For troublemakers everywhere**





**Welcome to Kilter Academy**, home of the most talented tricksters and rabble-rousers around. We take trouble-making very seriously here, requiring students to prank teachers in order to excel. It's not just fun—it's our way of life.

The art of troublemaking, however, does not come naturally to everyone. That's why the teachers of Kilter Academy have created this handbook to help you become the ultimate troublemaker. This book contains every secret skill, tactic, and scheme you will need in order to successfully mess with the adults in your life—from parents to teachers, and everyone in between.

Remember: The more wrong you do, the more right you are. Are you ready? If so, turn the page and get started...





**... or not.**

Did you really think it would be that easy? We can't just spill our secrets to anyone! This wouldn't be a book on troublemaking without a few tricks itself.

Instead, we've compiled a guide to the Academy's student groups and faculty. Pay attention, and maybe one day you'll be wreaking havoc at Kilter Academy with us.



# Troublemakers



**Students at Kilter Academy** are divided into Troublemaking groups based on their natural skill set. The following pages outline the groups you'll find yourself up against if you gain acceptance to this elite group of mischief-makers.

## **The Athletes**

**Logo:** Winged sneaker

**Popular Weapon:** Their own two feet

**Notable Members:** Finn “The Flash” Gordon, Lucy Armstrong, Brian “Catch Me if You Can” Collins

Armed with supreme physical strength, speed, and agility,

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Athletes run faster, throw harder, and jump farther than other Troublemakers. They use a variety of sports equipment—everything from tennis balls to skateboards—to win any game adults try to play.

### **Les Artistes**

**Logo:** Easel and canvas bearing human skull

**Popular Weapon:** Black Marker

**Notable Members:** Margo “Munch” Parker, Chris “Van Gogh” Gross, Ali “The Charcoal Chiller” Lynch

If a normal picture paints a thousand words, a picture made by a Les Artistes member paints a million. Common adult responses to troublemaking masterpieces include “Ew,” “Ick,” “Yikes,” and “What kind of twisted imagination came up with THAT?” Such declarations are often followed by physical distance as disturbed adults try to forget what they just saw.

### **The Biohazards**

**Logo:** Outline of human torso

**Popular Weapon:** K-Pouch

**Notable Members:** Tabitha “Toots” McGraw, Logan O’Hurl,

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Emily “Bug Eyes” Baker

Ah, the human body. So beautiful. So complex. So...weird. Biohazard members make the most of Mother Nature’s oddest oddity by burping, sneezing, snorting, regurgitating, and performing (or pretending to perform) other bodily functions around unsuspecting adults. Extreme startling may cause crying, fainting, and the occasional pants-wetting as grown-up bodily functions fail.

## **The Dramatists**

**Logo:** Drama masks

**Popular Weapon:** A blank expression

**Notable Members:** Katie “Hepburn” Harris, Liam Clooney, Brayden “Standing O” O’Malley

And the Oscar goes to...no one in Hollywood! At least not if these talented Troublemakers are in the running. The whole world’s a stage for the Dramatists, who act, sing, dance, cry on cue—and trick even the most perceptive of adults. Using these skills, perfectly healthy Troublemakers can always convince parents they’re too sick to go to school whenever they want to stay home and hone their craft (or play video games). To the

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outside world, this is lying. At Kilter, it's art.

### **The Fire Starters**

**Logo:** Flickering flame

**Popular Weapon:** Wind-and-waterproof matches

**Notable Members:** Evan “The Inferno” Nelson, “Blazin”  
Beth Green, Lemon Oliver

Though often considered the most dangerous Troublemakers—for everyone, not just adults—the Fire Starters are actually quite harmless. Unless, of course, flames accidentally spread. And heat intensifies. And smoke billows. But that hardly ever happens...at least outside a certain first-year Fire Starter's dorm room.

### **The Sniper Squad**

**Logo:** Hand grenade

**Popular Weapon:** Kilter Painter 5000

**Notable Members:** Ike “Bull's Eye” Egan, Sarah “Straight Shooting” Lewis, Seamus Hinkle

Ever feel like you have an invisible target on your back? You probably do, thanks to the always-aiming Sniper Squad members.

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These sneaky Troublemakers can fire anything (an arrow or apple), anytime (in the dark of night or bright light of day), anywhere (the Kilter campus or a middle school cafeteria) to confuse and distract adults. Although careful never to cause physical injury, they don't mind instigating a little emotional distress.

# Faculty



**While you may be accustomed** to being on your best behavior in front of your teachers, the Kilter Academy faculty expect nothing less than your worst. Respect from the faculty is gained by pranking those who are there to teach you. Use the following information wisely.

## **Annika Kilter**

Annika, the illustrious director of Kilter Academy for Troubled Youth, started the school twenty years ago, when she was only eighteen. Back then she was the sole teacher (and chef, custodian, and everything else), but she did such a good job, she



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was soon able to hire new teachers and expand the program. She possesses extraordinary troublemaking talent and a kidlike mentality.

### **Mr. Tempest**

Known as Mystery by many Kilter students, Mr. Tempest is the academy's oldest and most secretive instructor. In addition to teaching history, he is Annika's right-hand man and hardly ever leaves her side. Mr. Tempest believes that keen attention to detail and a sharp memory are two of the most important assets a Troublemaker can have. He is the only faculty member students can defeat by any means necessary—and the only one students don't have to get in order to advance. Those who outsmart him receive extra demerits and respect from the entire Kilter community. But beware: He earned his mysterious nickname for a reason...

### **Houdini**

He might be constantly yawning and snoozing, but don't let this very sneaky math teacher fool you. Houdini teaches addition and subtraction of stolen personal

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belongings—and enhances his lessons by regularly swiping items from students without them knowing. When he succeeds, he receives demerits; when he fails, students do.

### **Fern**

Always appearing as if she just stuck her fingers into an electrical outlet, Fern is Kilter's quirky gym teacher. One of her favorite pastimes is making younger students perform wind sprints while older students, dressed as adults, chase them.

### **Wyatt**

You're not learning linear perspective in this art teacher's class! Instead, Wyatt imparts the troublemaking effects of petrifying masterpieces.

### **Samara**

As the biology teacher, Samara demonstrates that bodily noises, real or phony, are some of the most powerful weapons in

### **Devin**

Among other useful skills, Devin, Kilter's music maestro,

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teaches students how to whistle symphonies without moving their lips.

### **Lizzie**

Fluent in fifteen languages (some more secretive than others), Lizzie especially enjoys teaching Pig Latin and Pig French, the latter of which is similar to Pig Latin but adds an extra “ay” to the end of every word.

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**TO:** loliver@kilteracademy.org;  
ahansen@kilteracademy.org;  
gryan@kilteracademy.org  
**FROM:** shinkle@kilteracademy.org  
**SUBJECT:** Winter Break

Hey guys!

I'm missing the Kanteen's fish sticks already. This ride is sooo long. I'm glad I have my K-Pak to keep me busy. I'm bummed I won't see you for a while, but you can always shoot me an e-mail! I'll be here...

—Seamus