

## TWO SAMPLES WALK INTO THE LAB: THE TALE OF SANDY AND CLAY

On a bright sunny day, Sandy and Clay arrive at the Geotechnics' laboratory. Sandy, the sparkling extrovert, talks fast, her particles are loose and she zips through conversation like water through her pores. She's always bragging about her "well-graded" look and being uniformly stylish. She is confident, neatly packaged, and accompanied by a detailed chain-of-custody form.

Clay, the brooding philosopher, speaks slowly and thoughtfully, loves poetry, especially poems that rhyme with "shear strength." Extremely particularly stubborn under pressure and tends to hold onto thoughts (and moisture) longer than he should. Keeps a journal he titles Plastic Limits and Personal Boundaries. However, Clay is disheveled, his label smudged, his documentation sparse.

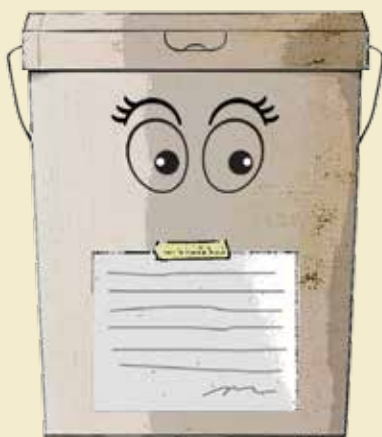
Due to her detailed information, Sandy undergoes grain size analysis, permeability tests, direct

shear tests—each revealing something new: how she resists pressure, how easily she lets things flow, how well she holds her shape. Each test helps Sandy better understand her composition and purpose.

Meanwhile, Clay waits, stuck on the shelf in a dark corner, Clay watches technicians walk past him unnoticed and untouched. He starts to wonder what he might be made of, but with no data, he can only imagine.

After a week of tests and revelations, Sandy is placed into long-term storage. Clay, dusty and confused, is placed beside her. They finally speak. Sandy shares what she's learned about herself, her strengths, limitations, what kind of engineering applications she's good for. Clay listens quietly, realizing that without proper paperwork, he missed the chance to discover his potential. Sandy offers a kind word: "There's still time. Maybe someone will

complete your paperwork one day." Clay nods, hopefully.



SANDY



CLAY

*Kids today don't know stress. When I grew up, if you missed a TV show, you missed it... forever.*



### What's in a name?

#### **Myrmekiaphila neilyoungi**

A species of trapdoor spider named after the musician Neil Young.

#### **Dracorex hogwartsia**

A dinosaur named after the fictional Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry from the Harry Potter series.

#### **Eucritta melanolimnetes**

A prehistoric fish whose name translates to "the creature from the black lagoon."

#### **Alabagrus coatlicue, A. ixtilton, A. mixcoatl, and A. xolotl**

Species of parasitic wasps named after Aztec gods.

#### **Lusius malfoy**

A parasitic wasp named after the character Lucius Malfoy from the Harry Potter books.

#### **Ampulex dementor**

Another wasp, this one named after the Dementors from Harry Potter.

#### **The Gelae genus of beetles**

This genus of fungus beetles includes names like Gelae fish, Gelae bean, Gelae donut, and Gelae rol, with the names being a whimsical, phonetic play on words rather than Latin translations.



**NQA-1**  
COMPLIANT

# Quality samples in, quality data out

## Sample collection guidelines

Name, rank,  
serial number, please.

For best results, samples must be properly identified.

Use a permanent marker, directly on the bag, tube or side of the bucket, to include the following:

- ☐ Client Name
- ☐ Project Name
- ☐ Project Number
- ☐ Sampling Date
- ☐ Boring or Test Pit Number
- ☐ Sample Number
- ☐ Depth or Elevation

### Please note:

Tags or bucket lids may become detached during shipping and handling.

Be sure to place test request forms or other paperwork in a plastic bag before packing it in direct contact with soil. Paper absorbs moisture and documents become unreadable.

Our work is only as good as yours. *Login information is key.*

## HANDY REFERENCE FOR SAMPLES BY TEST METHOD

*Not intended to address impacted soil samples*

- ASTM D1452** Practice for Soil Exploration and Sampling by Auger Borings
- ASTM D1586** Test Method for Penetration Test and Split-Barrel Sampling of Soils
- ASTM D1587** Practice for Thin-Walled Tube Sampling of Soils for Geotechnical Purposes
- ASTM D4220** Practices for Preserving and Transporting Soil Samples
- ASTM D6151** Practice for Using Hollow-Stem Augers for Geotechnical Exploration and Soil Sampling
- ASTM D5079\*** Preserving and Transporting Rock Core Samples
- ASTM D5434** Field Logging of Subsurface Explorations of Soil and Rock

\*This method was withdrawn in 2017.

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