

PBS Lesson Series

ELA, Grade 8, Lesson 14

Teacher Packet

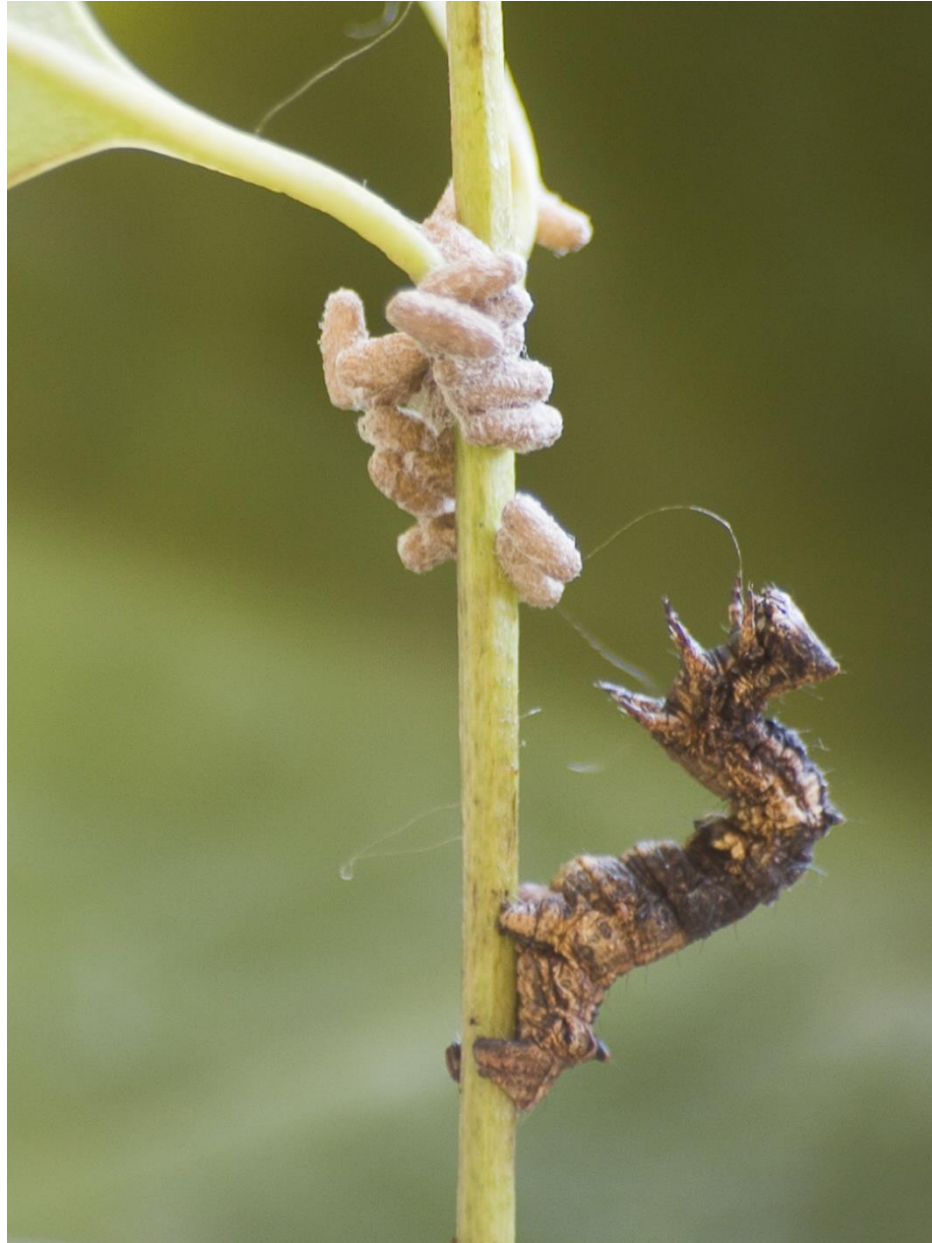
INVASION *of the* BODY SNATCHERS

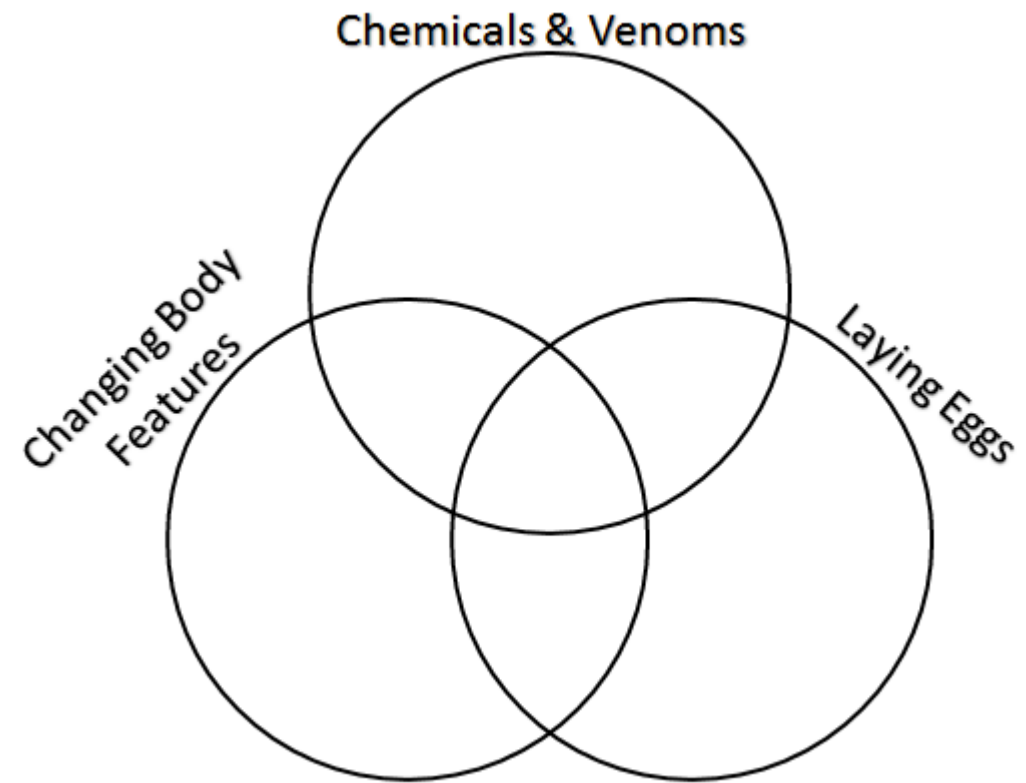
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“Top 10 Real-Life Body Snatchers”

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Surrogate mother: A female that serves as a mom on behalf of another female

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Sterilized: Unable to lay eggs

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- **A parasitic barnacle invades crabs to turn them into surrogate mothers.**
- **A surrogate mother is basically a substitute mom.**
- **In the larval stage, the female barnacles swimming around in seawater use their sense of smell to locate crabs.**

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Simile: A figure of speech that directly compares two unlike things using the words “like” or “as.”

Alliteration: Words closely together that have the same initial consonant sound.

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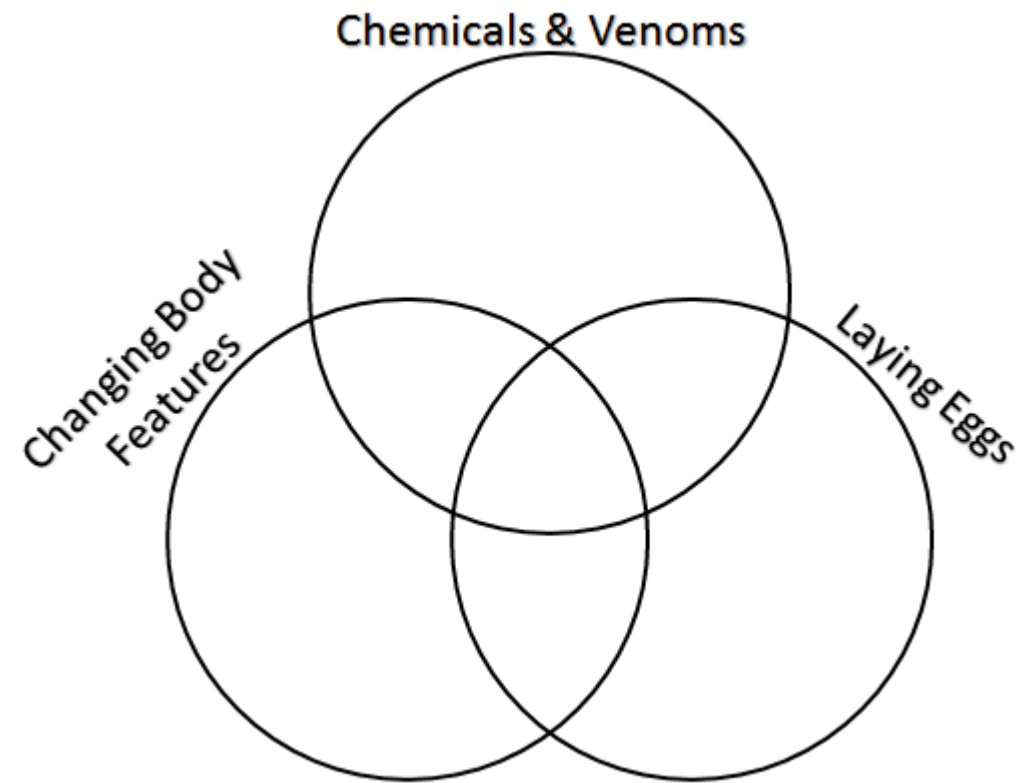
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- **Now that the barnacle has invaded the crab, it travels to the tail end of the crab.**
- **There it grows tendrils or threadlike arms that wrap around the inside of the crab to steal its blood.**
- **If it happens to be a male barnacle, it find a spot on the crab's underside where the female stays and he fertilizes the female's eggs.**

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- **The crabs infected with the parasite cannot have babies.**
- **But since the parasite's eggs sit in the same place that the crab usually holds its eggs, the crab takes care of them as if they were her own. Like a substitute mom, or a surrogate mom.**
- **This happens even when the crab is male. It acts like a mom too.**
- **Then, when the larvae are big enough to be on their own, the crab goes to a rock, waves its claws in the water, and pushes the parasite larvae out.**



Crustacean: A type of animal that lives in water and that has a hard shell and many legs.

Polymorphus paradoxus. Pond- and river-dwelling crustaceans called *Gammarus lacustris* typically dart deep into the water, away from light, when ducks are at the surface. But when the crustaceans are infected with *Polymorphus paradoxus*, a type of thorny-headed worm, they practically throw themselves at their predators.



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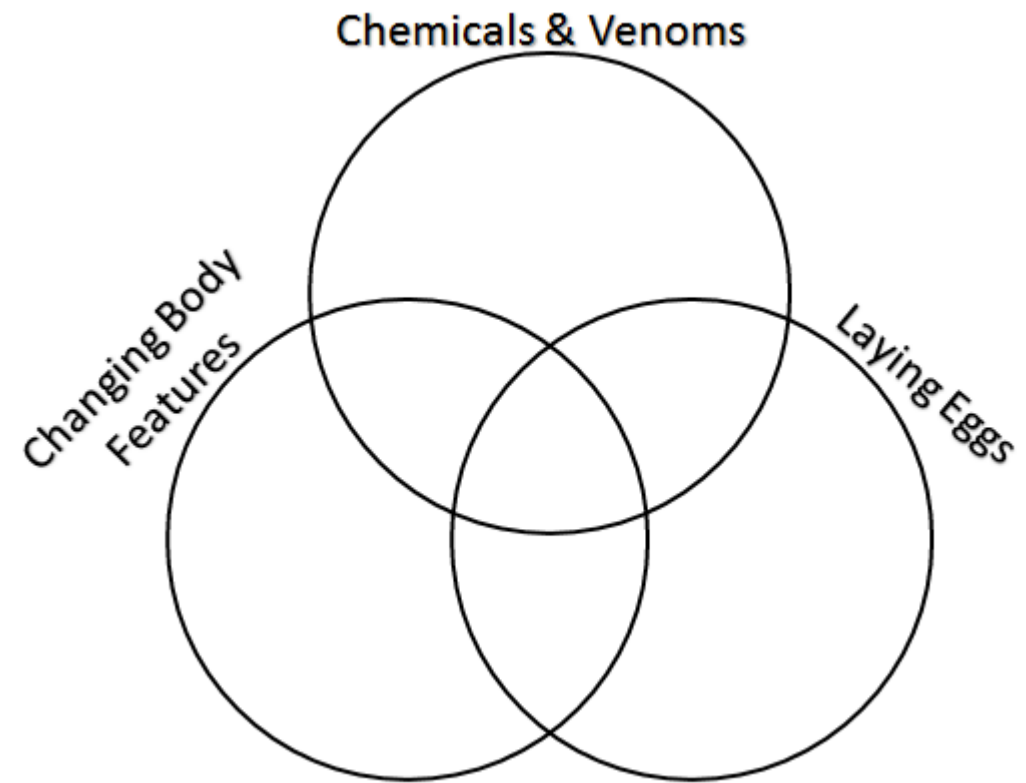


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- **This parasitic relationship involves a thorny-headed worm and a crustacean.**
- **A crustacean is a sea-dweller with a hard shell.**
- **They usually like to stay in places out of the light so they are not spotted by predators, like ducks.**
- **But when a parasite infects the crustacean, it literally does the opposite. It swims toward the light and makes itself more visible to ducks.**
- **The parasite needs to be inside the duck in order to reach adulthood.**
- **When the crustacean is clinging to the rock and basically begging the duck to eat it, it is making the same motion that it does while mating.**
- **Scientists think that the parasite increases serotonin, or hormone levels, in the crustacean, possibly making it think it is mating.**



In a brief essay, compare and contrast the parasitic relationships discussed today.

What are the similarities between the barnacle and the crab relationship, and the thorny-headed worm and the crustacean relationship?

What are the important differences between them?

Be sure to use specific details from your notes to support your answers.