

PBS Lesson Series

ELA, Grade 8, Lesson 12

Teacher Packet

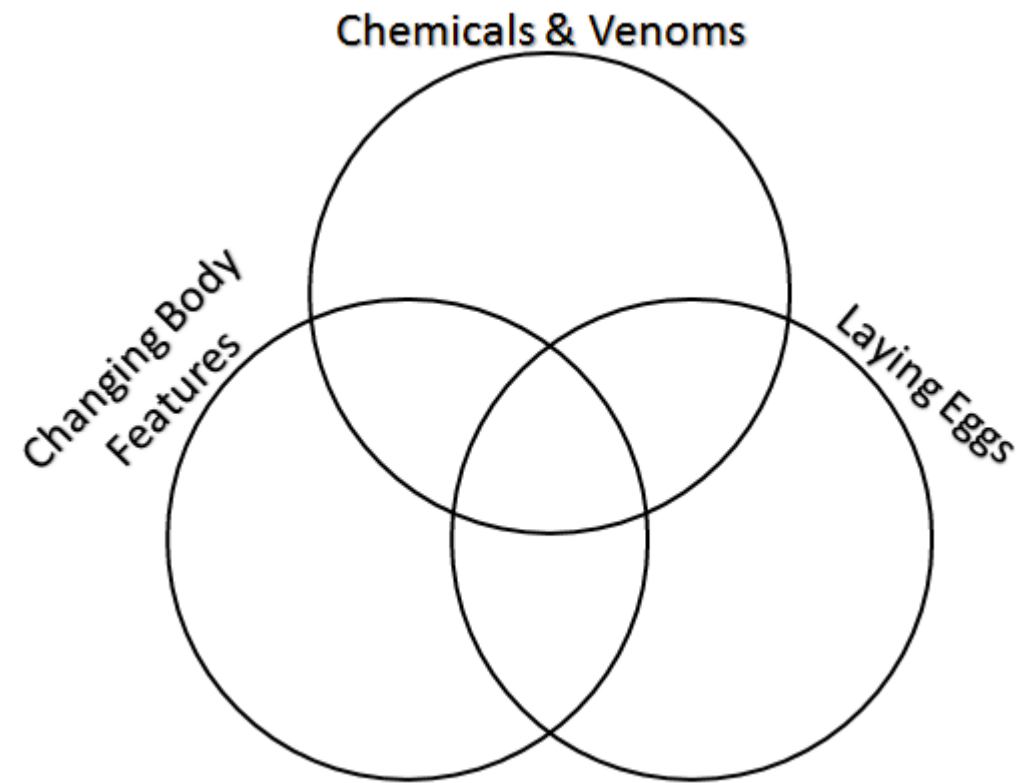
INVASION *of the* BODY SNATCHERS

©COPYRIGHT MCMLV BY ALLIED ARTISTS PICTURES CORPORATION
ALL RIGHTS RESERVED









“Top 10 Real-Life Body Snatchers”

1. *Paragordius tricuspidatus* So exactly how a hairworm parasitizes a cricket is unknown. Scientists suspect that the insect ingests either an infected mosquito or water containing hairworm larvae. Scientists suspect that the insect ingests either an infected mosquito or water containing hairworm larvae.



Parasitize: to take advantage of in a way that a parasite does

“Top 10 Real-Life Body Snatchers”

1. *Paragordius tricuspidatus* So exactly how a hairworm parasitizes a cricket is unknown. Scientists suspect that the insect ingests either an infected mosquito or water containing hairworm larvae. **Scientists suspect that the insect ingests either an infected mosquito or water containing hairworm larvae.**

Ingest: to take something into the body by swallowing or absorbing it

“Top 10 Real-Life Body Snatchers”

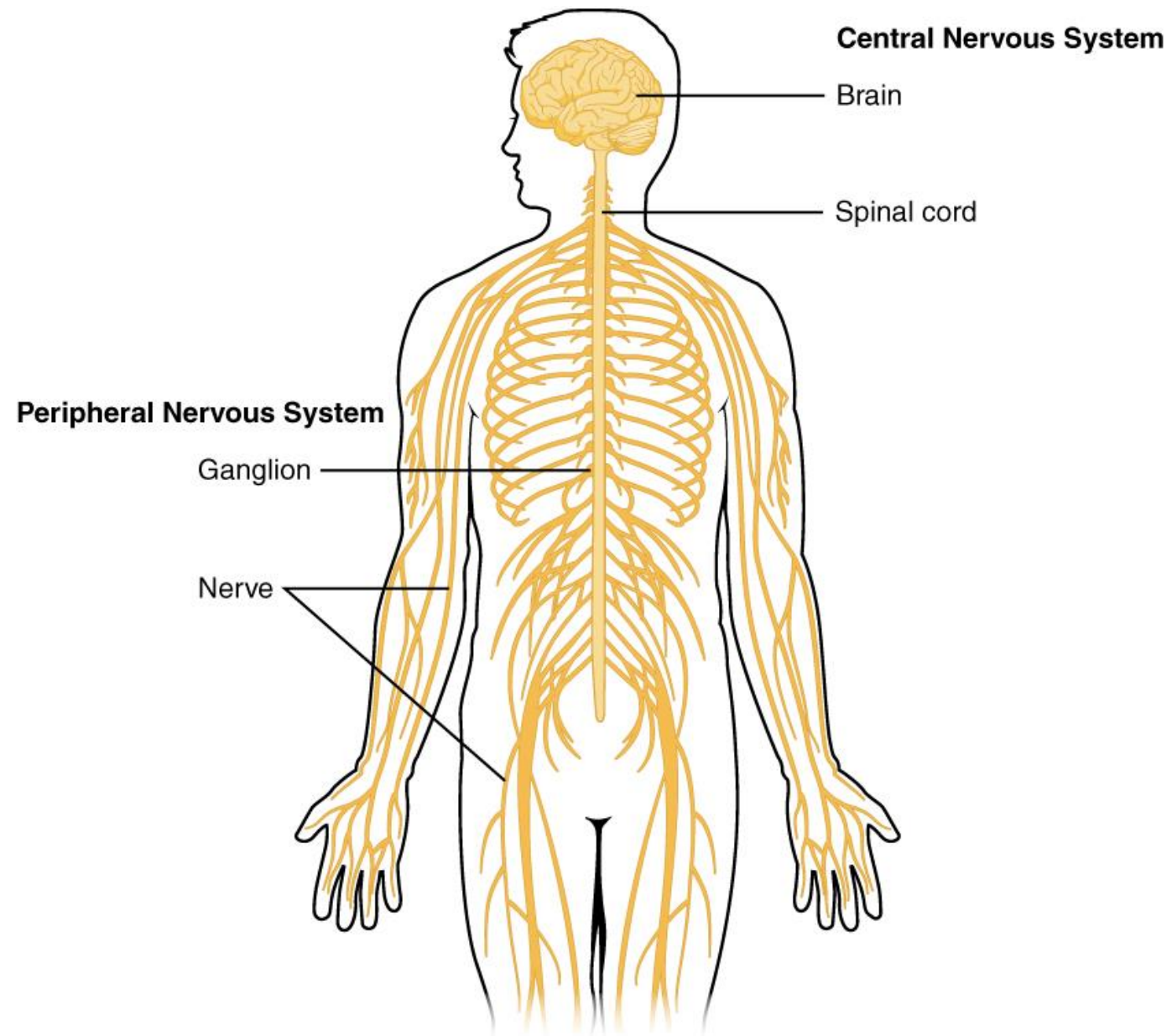
1. *Paragordius tricuspidatus* So exactly how a hairworm parasitizes a cricket is unknown. Scientists suspect that the insect ingests either an infected mosquito or water containing hairworm larvae. Scientists suspect that the insect ingests either an infected mosquito or water containing hairworm larvae. **But once inside, the hairworm grows three to four times as long as the cricket, filling all parts of its body except the head and legs.**



“Top 10 Real-Life Body Snatchers”

1. *Paragordius tricuspidatus* So exactly how a hairworm parasitizes a cricket is unknown. Scientists suspect that the insect ingests either an infected mosquito or water containing hairworm larvae. Scientists suspect that the insect ingests either an infected mosquito or water containing hairworm larvae. But once inside, the hairworm grows three to four times as long as the cricket, filling all parts of its body except the head and legs. **What happens next is even more bizarre. The parasite, *Paragordius tricuspidatus*, produces proteins that hijack the cricket’s central nervous system, making it attracted to areas brighter than its shaded forest home.**

Hijack: take control of something by force.





“Top 10 Real-Life Body Snatchers”

1. *Paragordius tricuspidatus* So exactly how a hairworm parasitizes a cricket is unknown. Scientists suspect that the insect ingests either an infected mosquito or water containing hairworm larvae. Scientists suspect that the insect ingests either an infected mosquito or water containing hairworm larvae. But once inside, the hairworm grows three to four times as long as the cricket, filling all parts of its body except the head and legs. What happens next is even more bizarre. The parasite, *Paragordius tricuspidatus*, produces proteins that **hijack** the cricket's central nervous system, making it attracted to areas brighter than its shaded forest home.

Tone: how a writer communicates an attitude toward a subject or topic

“Top 10 Real-Life Body Snatchers”

1. Paragordius tricuspidatus So exactly how a hairworm parasitizes a cricket is unknown. Scientists suspect that the insect ingests either an infected mosquito or water containing hairworm larvae. Scientists suspect that the insect ingests either an infected mosquito or water containing hairworm larvae. But once inside, the hairworm grows three to four times as long as the cricket, filling all parts of its body except the head and legs. What happens next is even more bizarre. The parasite, *Paragordius tricuspidatus*, produces proteins that hijack the cricket's central nervous system, making it attracted to areas brighter than its shaded forest home. The cricket, *Nemobius sylvestris*, heads then to an exposed pond or river and dives in, at which point the hairworm emerges from its host. In an aquatic, or water-based, environment, the worm can find a mate and reproduce.

Expose: to uncover something, to make it easier to see

“Top 10 Real-Life Body Snatchers”

1. *Paragordius tricuspidatus* So exactly how a hairworm parasitizes a cricket is unknown. Scientists suspect that the insect ingests either an infected mosquito or water containing hairworm larvae. Scientists suspect that the insect ingests either an infected mosquito or water containing hairworm larvae. But once inside, the hairworm grows three to four times as long as the cricket, filling all parts of its body except the head and legs. What happens next is even more bizarre. The parasite, *Paragordius tricuspidatus*, produces proteins that hijack the cricket's central nervous system, making it attracted to areas brighter than its shaded forest home. The cricket, *Nemobius sylvestris*, heads then to an exposed pond or river and dives in, at which point the hairworm emerges from its host. In an aquatic, or water-based, environment, the worm can find a mate and reproduce. **For some crickets, it's a leap to their death. But others lucky enough not to have drowned have lived for several months after the parasite removes itself. In fact, the crickets' strange attraction to light subsides as little as 20 hours later.**



Parasitize: to take advantage of in a way that a parasite does



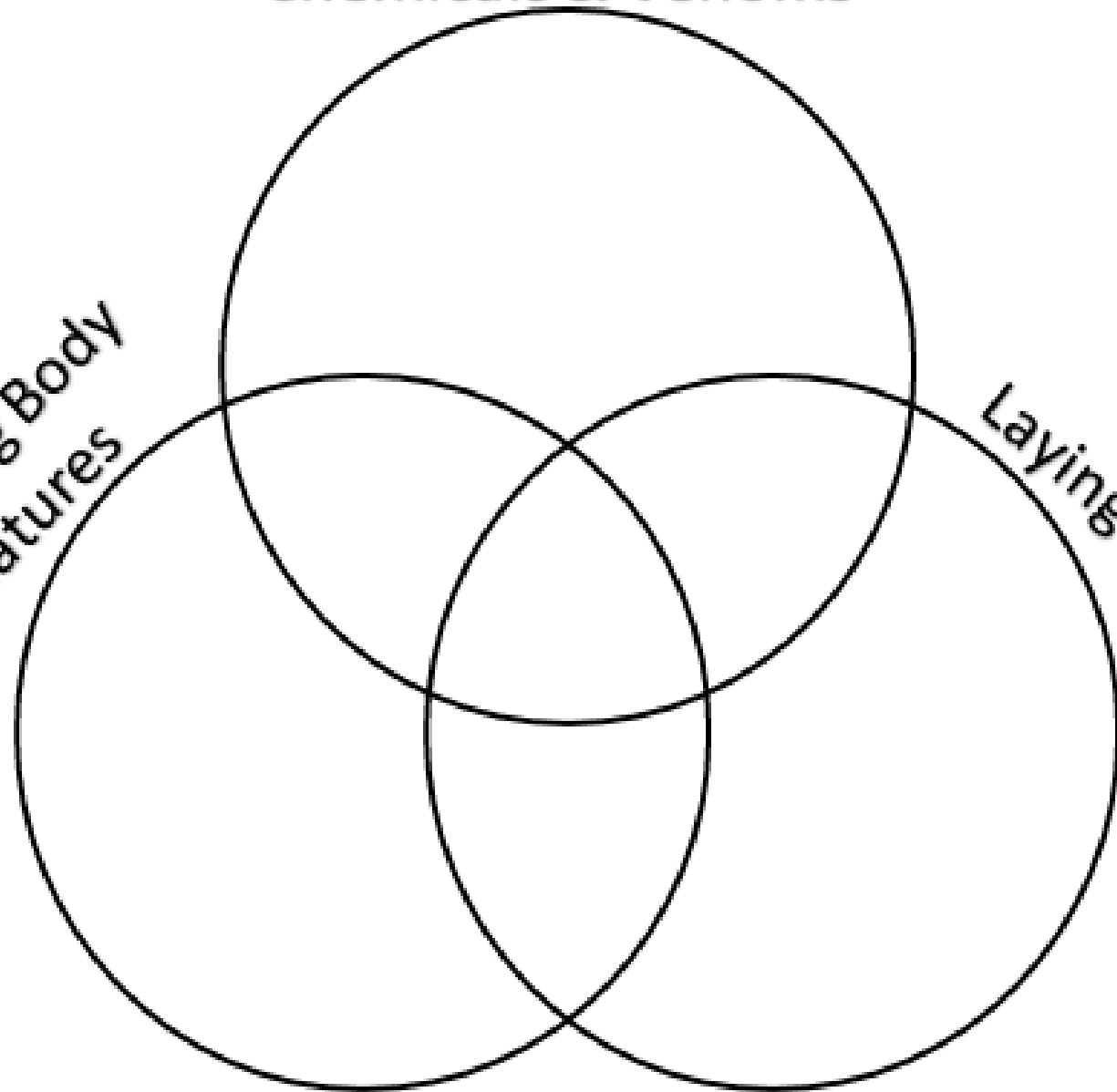
“Top 10 Real-Life Body Snatchers”

1. Paragordius tricuspidatus So exactly how a hairworm parasitizes a cricket is unknown. Scientists suspect that the insect ingests either an infected mosquito or water containing hairworm larvae. Scientists suspect that the insect ingests either an infected mosquito or water containing hairworm larvae. But once inside, the hairworm grows three to four times as long as the cricket, filling all parts of its body except the head and legs. What happens next is even more bizarre. The parasite, *Paragordius tricuspidatus*, produces proteins that hijack the cricket's central nervous system, making it attracted to areas brighter than its shaded forest home. The cricket, *Nemobius sylvestris*, heads then to an exposed pond or river and dives in, at which point the hairworm emerges from its host. In an aquatic, or water-based, environment, the worm can find a mate and reproduce.

Chemicals & Venoms

Changing Body
Features

Laying Eggs



Chemicals & Venoms

Hairworm & cricket

Changing Body
Features

Laying Eggs

“Top 10 Real-Life Body Snatchers”

1. *Paragordius tricuspidatus* So exactly how a hairworm parasitizes a cricket is unknown. Scientists suspect that the insect ingests either an infected mosquito or water containing hairworm larvae. Scientists suspect that the insect ingests either an infected mosquito or water containing hairworm larvae. But once inside, the hairworm grows three to four times as long as the cricket, filling all parts of its body except the head and legs. What happens next is even more bizarre. The parasite, *Paragordius tricuspidatus*, produces proteins that hijack the cricket's central nervous system, making it attracted to areas brighter than its shaded forest home. The cricket, *Nemobius sylvestris*, heads then to an exposed pond or river and dives in, at which point the hairworm emerges from its host. In an aquatic, or water-based, environment, the worm can find a mate and reproduce. **For some crickets, it's a leap to their death. But others lucky enough not to have drowned have lived for several months after the parasite removes itself. In fact, the crickets' strange attraction to light subsides as little as 20 hours later.**

When the hairworm gets inside the cricket it hijacks the cricket's behavior, making it dive into water and risk drowning. Then, the hairworm comes out of the cricket and reproduces in the water.

Independent work

In your own words, write a summary of today's passage on the hairworm and the cricket. As you write the summary, be sure to use each of the following vocabulary terms that we used today:

- **Parasitizes**
- **Hijack**
- **Ingests**
- **Expose**
- **Subsides**