

PBS Lesson Series

# ELA, Grade 8, Lesson 15

Teacher Packet

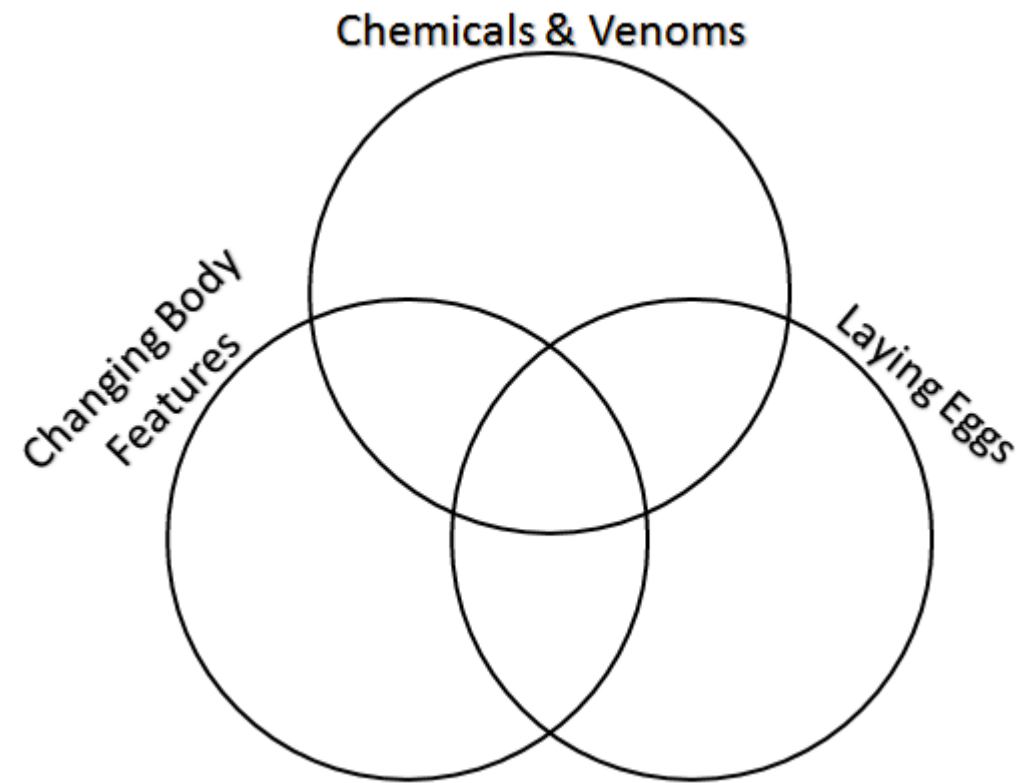
# INVASION *of the* BODY SNATCHERS

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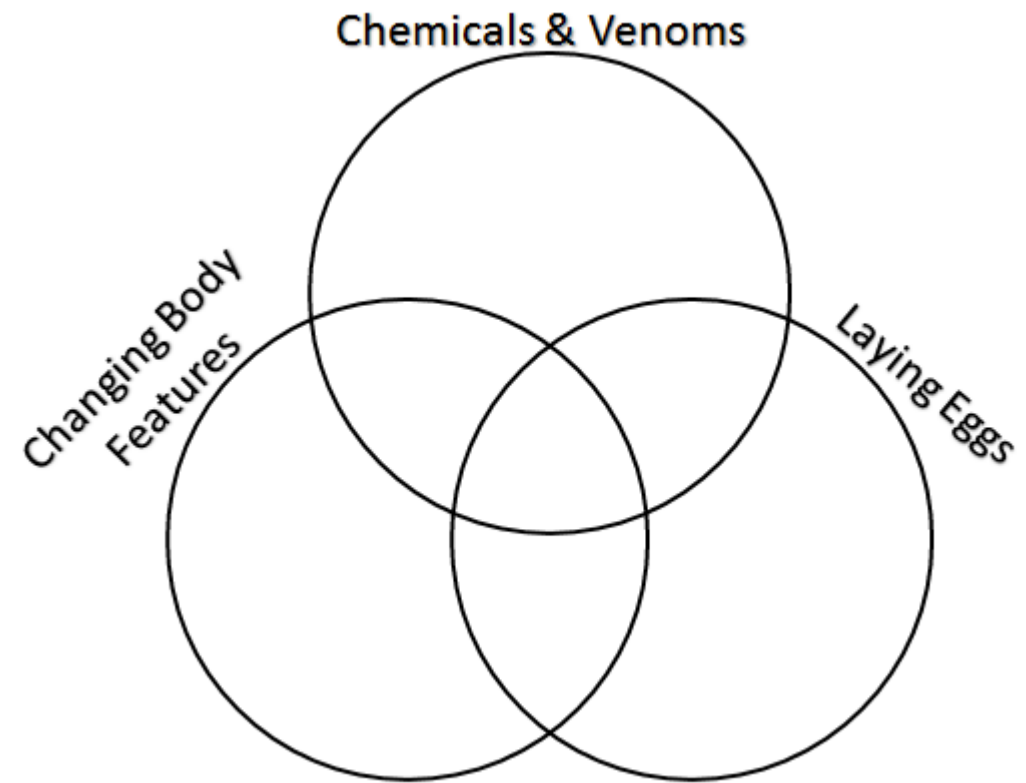












## Top 10 Real-Life Body Snatchers

***Dinocampus coccinellae*** A female parasitic wasp of the species *Dinocampus coccinellae* surreptitiously lays one egg in the abdomen of the ladybug.



Surreptitiously: in a way that attempts to avoid notice or attention; secretly.

## Top 10 Real-Life Body Snatchers

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### **Notes:**

- **A female wasp secretly lays one egg in a ladybug.**
- **When it's ready, the larva emerges from the ladybug.**

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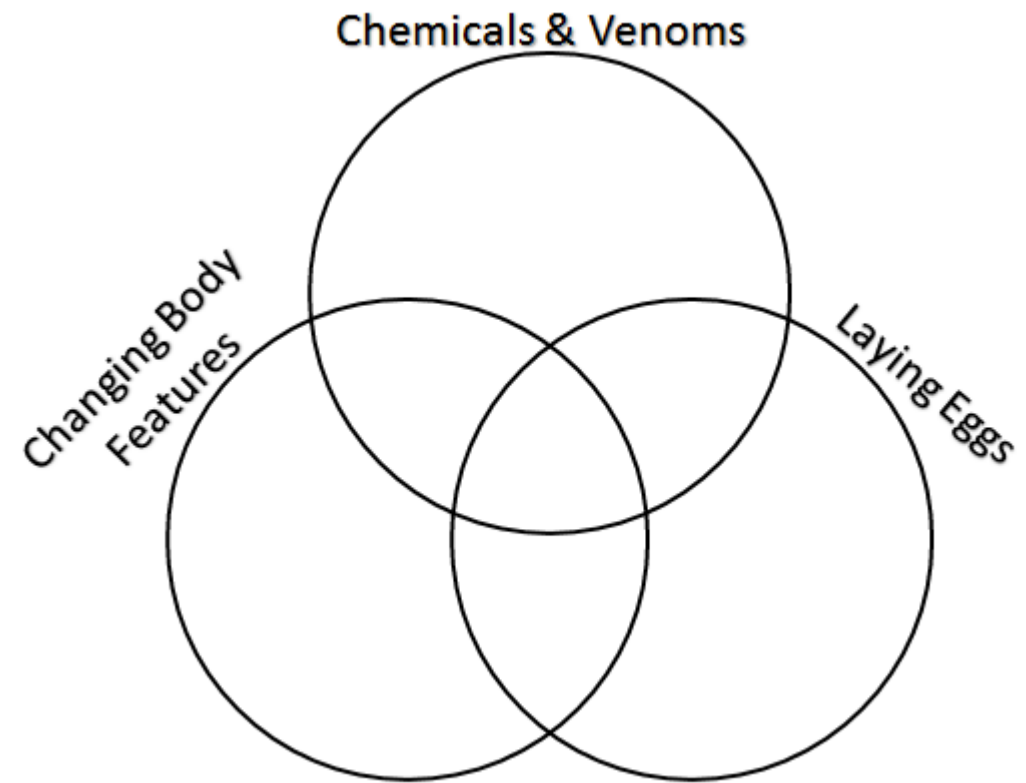


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## **Notes:**

- **The larva uses a venom to stun the ladybug.**
- **The larva spins a cocoon for itself, protected between the ladybug's legs.**
- **An adult wasp comes out of the cocoon.**



***Dicrocoelium dendriticum*** One of the most active hitchhikers has to be a lancet fluke, or flatworm, called *Dicrocoelium dendriticum*. During its life cycle, the parasite lives in three hosts. First, a snail eats cow dung rife with the worm's eggs. The eggs hatch inside the snail, and in defense, the snail produces a slime that entraps the larvae. Eventually, the snail hocks a slimy, larvae-filled loogie.

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## **Notes:**

- **A flatworm's eggs are in cow dung (poop).**
- **A snail eats the dung (poop) and the flatworm's eggs.**
- **The eggs hatch inside the snail.**
- **The snail wraps the larvae in slime and spits it out.**

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- The snail wraps the larvae in slime and spits it out.
- **An ant eats the larva filled slime.**
- **The parasites hang out in the ant's head and in the nerves that control its mandibles. Mandibles are the ant's jaws.**

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- **The parasite makes the ant crawl to the top of blades of grass until a cow eats it.**

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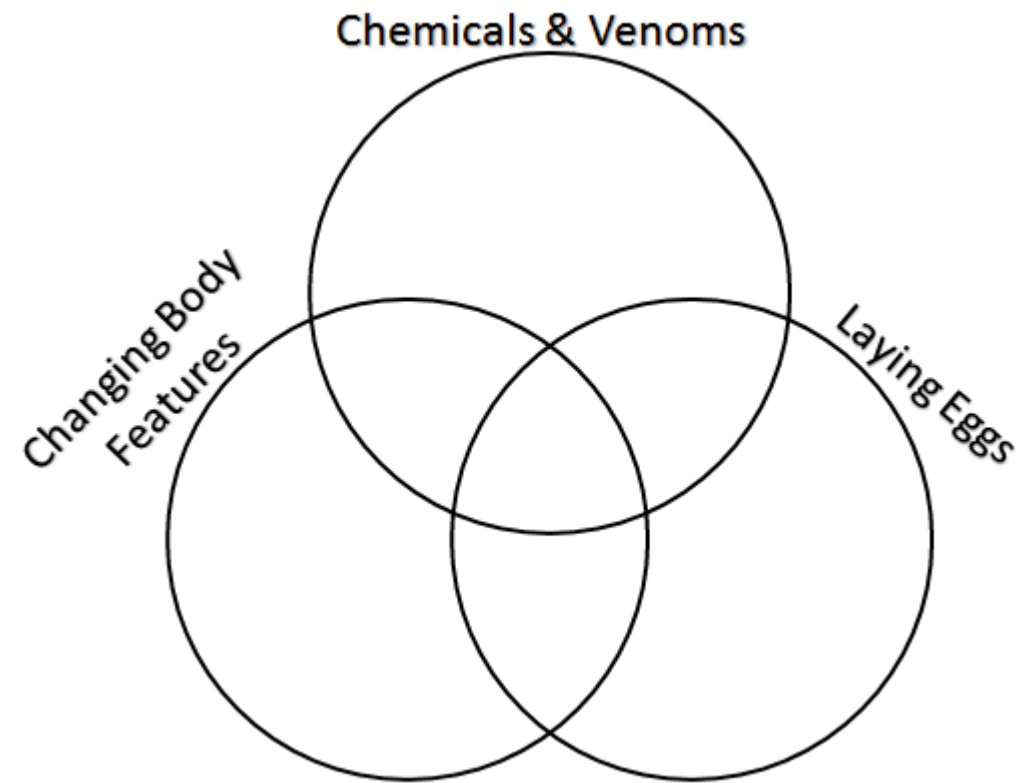




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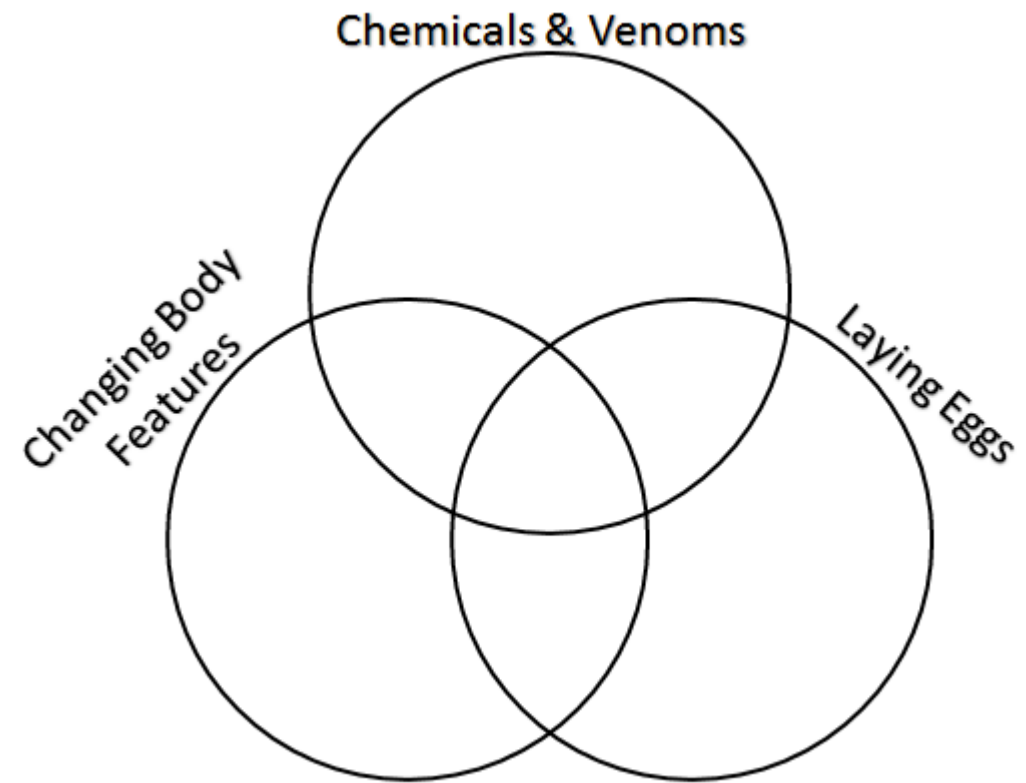
- **How does the flatworm use the snail, the ant, and the cow?**
- **How are the parasites' actions manipulative?**
- **What are the effects of the parasites' actions on the hosts?**



***Leucochloridium paradoxes*** Another parasitic flatworm, ***Leucochloridium paradoxum***, infects a snail and then somehow has to get from a snail to a bird, its next and final host. One problem: Birds do not normally snack on snails. Undeterred, the parasite packs itself into the snail's translucent eyestalks. The green and brown-striped worms make the eyestalks, at least to a bird, look like juicy, quivering caterpillars. Infected snails also make themselves more visible to birds because they do not shy away from light as healthy ones do.

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- **How does the parasite use the host animal?**
- **How are the parasites' actions manipulative?**
- **What are the effects of the parasites' actions on the hosts?**

# Independent practice

**Using everything you've learned from the past few lessons on "Top 10 Real-Life Body Snatchers," write a response in which you cite evidence from the text to support the central idea that parasites "manipulate" other animals. As you give examples on how parasites manipulate their hosts, explain, why each parasite uses that particular host, and the effect of the parasites' manipulation on the hosts.**