

# Goodbye to Lice

**National program is launched to erase head lice from schools.**

Spiders and bats may spook you, but nothing will make your skin crawl more than head lice. The tiny **parasites** can infest your hair, lay eggs, and suck your blood like a mosquito. A parasite is an organism that lives in or on another animal.

Each year, 6 million to 12 million Americans become infested with lice, and many of those affected are kids. Head lice outbreaks are the number-one reason that kids miss school. Now the National Parent Teacher Association is fighting back against lice. The group is launching a national head lice check program called Keeping Our Kids Lice Free.

Lice are not dangerous, but they are highly **contagious**. They easily spread from one person to another. Although the tiny bugs (each no larger than a sesame seed) can't fly, they can crawl very quickly.

The most common way of getting lice is through head-to-head contact. However, lice can also be spread through the sharing of personal items such as hats, scarves, headphones, barrettes, and combs.

To prevent lice from making your head their home, experts say to follow these tips.

- Avoid head-to-head contact.
- Don't share personal clothing or hair items.
- Use your own sleeping bag and pillow on sleepovers.

Question Sheet

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**“Goodbye to Lice” Questions**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. The author wrote this article to
  - a. give the reader information about lice.
  - b. compare lice to spiders and bats.
  - c. find out why children miss school.
  - d. tell a story.
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. The National Parent Teacher Association is interested in stopping the spread of lice, probably because
  - a. lice might cause blood loss.
  - b. lice outbreaks cause kids to miss school.
  - c. lice might spread from person to person via headphones.
  - d. kids can't think very well if lice are bothering them.
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. The author includes expert advice in the article to
  - a. prove that the author knows about the subject.
  - b. convince kids that lice are harmful.
  - c. tell kids how to avoid lice.
  - d. tell the reader that lice can be treated.
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Another example of a parasite is
  - a. ringworm.
  - b. a dog flea.
  - c. a deer tick.
  - d. all of the above.
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Which statements does the author include in the passage to motivate kids to avoid head lice?

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