

An Itchy Experience



Pre-reading

Questions:

- What do you think this story is about?

Definitions:

- Survive – to live or continue to live
- Dandruff – small pieces of dry skin that form on the scalp and are shed in flakes
- Fine-toothed comb – a comb with thin teeth set close together

Reading

13 One afternoon Deb noticed her son, Nate, scratching his head – a lot. She
13 looked in his hair, and saw lice. Lice are insects that need human blood to survive.
29 Their bites cause itching.

33 Lice hide in the hair and scalp. Cleaning the hair makes lice easier to find.
48 They tend to stay still when they are wet. Deb shampooed and conditioned Nate's
62 hair. She found tiny tan eggs, called nits, close to his scalp. Good places to look for
79 lice eggs are above the ears and toward the back of the neck.

92 The nits are not like dandruff. They do not brush off. To remove them from
107 the hair, Deb used a fine-toothed comb. Sometimes the nits stuck tightly to the hair.
123 Drugstores sell nit-removal kits that have a hair rinse designed to loosen the glue that
139 holds the nits to the hair.

145 Deb tried the home version of the drugstore rinse. She had good results. The
159 nits loosened by wrapping Nate's head in a towel soaked in white vinegar. It had the
175 same effect as the hair rinse.

181 Deb checked her son's head daily until she was sure the lice were gone. She
196 also washed all of Nate's sheets, pillow cases, and hats in hot water.

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Understanding

1. What are nits? _____

2. How did Deb know to check for lice? _____

3. Why did Deb wash Nate's hair? _____

4. What are two ways of making nits less sticky? _____

5. Where should one look for nits? _____

6. How often did Deb check her son's hair? _____

Writing

Choice A: Retell the story in your own words.

Choice B: Write about an experience you or someone you know has had with lice.
