Abby’s Story

Instructions: Read Abby’s story below, then write a speech for her to educate other teens about STDs. The speech should be about 400 to 600 words and include:

- Three or more facts about STDs that all teens need to know
- Three or more possible symptoms of STDs
- Why it’s important to talk about STD prevention with any potential sexual partner
- Why it’s important to talk with a doctor about sexual activity
- Three or more resources (trusted adults, medical professionals, clinics, or hotlines) where teens can go for reliable information and testing

Abby’s story: After noticing some vaginal discharge and pain in her lower stomach, Abby was diagnosed with chlamydia. At first, she was shocked, embarrassed, and angry. She thought STDs didn’t happen to girls like her. She’d only had sex with one guy, a boyfriend whom she loved and who’d sworn she was his first. It hadn’t even crossed her mind to talk with him about getting tested. Besides, they’d been pretty safe, using condoms all but a few times. Now she realizes that the choices she made could affect her life for years to come: The doctor said that even though she was being treated now, a chlamydia infection as advanced as hers could cause fertility problems (trouble getting pregnant) later in life. Abby wishes she knew then what she knows now.