The following story has a lesson for people of all ages with regard to how we view the world, our conclusions from these perceptions, and the actions that we take. Read the story (skipping page 1 for now and starting instead with page 2. Answer the questions that correspond with the given page number on a separate sheet of paper.

1. Page 3: Do worms really eat dirt? What’s the benefit for them and to the natural world? (If you do not know the answer to this last question wait until you get to page 54 and then come back)

2. Page 11: Why would a tapeworm be “happy” in a meat patty? (you might want to refer to your textbook and the Platyhelminthes poster in the back of the room)

3. Page 13:
   * What does father worm mean when he says that “even the dead need oxygen”?
   * Look at the field guide to humans that the bear is reading. Compare the words nocturnal and diurnal. Provide an example of a creature that would fit each description.

4. Page 15: What is the difference between a “native” species and an “introduced species”? How can an introduced species threaten a native species? Provide an example.

5. Page 24: It appears that Mr. Dung Beetle has found his “field of dreams”. Why is he so pleased?

6. Page 29: Why are crayfish smiling? What do we call a group of organisms that feed on the dead remains of others?

7. Page 32 and 33: * For all of her proclaimed love of nature, Harriet has done a few things that would indicate otherwise. List some things that Harriet has done that are not very “environmentally friendly”.

8. Page 37: Harriet’s observations are good but there are serious flaws in how she is interpreting what she sees. What is the major flaw in her hypothesis regarding why salmon swim upstream? What is the correct explanation?


12. Page 50 -51: Harriet made two vital mistakes as a result of how she perceived the natural world; what were they and what were the effects of her errors?

Final Analysis:

After reading pages 52 – END, go back and read page 1. From this information and the story of father worm, summarize what the point of this story is (all humor aside).

- How many people view nature as Harriet does?
- Do you view nature the same way as Harriet does, or is your view different? Explain.
- What are the flaws in viewing nature the way Harriet does?