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

**Silent Spring:**

**Chapter 1: *The Obligation to Endure***

**Vocab Sheet: \_\_\_\_\_/10 points**

On a separate sheet of paper, you need to create a vocabulary list of words that you run into while reading that you are unsure of. Also write the page number and feel free to underline them lightly with a pencil in the book. You need to **write down at least 5 and find their definition.**

**Questions to Answer: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_/56 points**

Page 6

1. What does Carson mean when she says that “the chain of evil it initiates not only in the world that must support life but in living tissues is for the most part irreversible”. How does this make you feel that you may have been affected by these chemicals even without being alive at this time.
2. What are the sinister little partners of chemicals? Why?
3. Look up Strontium 90. What is it?
4. How do chemicals enter into living organisms and how do they get passed around?
5. Why do you think that man can’t recognize “the devils of his own creation”?
6. How does Carson compare radiation coming from rocks and hostile elements in nature to synthetic chemicals? What is the essential ingredient that we don’t have in the modern world? Explain!

Page 7

1. What is now the unnatural creation of man’s tampering with the atom?
2. What is meant by “synthetic creations of man’s inventive mind”?
3. What does it require to adjust to these chemicals?
4. How many chemicals find their way into use in the United States alone? Do you think that number has increased since the book was published in the 60’s? Explain.
5. What does “vernacular” mean?

Page 8

1. Why does Carson say that insecticides should be called biocides instead? What is a biocide?
2. What have insects done to show “a triumphant vindication of Darwin’s principle of the survival of the fittest”?

Page 9

1. Carson explains that the public was told that the use of pesticides is necessary to maintain farm production, and then she retorts that our real problem is one of overproduction. Explain what you think “overproduction” means and does this term apply to today’s economy? Give examples from your own life.
2. Look up the Soil Bank. Explain what it is.
3. List 2 ways that insects have come into conflict with humans.

Page 10

1. Why does single crop farming not take advantage of the principles by which nature works?
2. Why is the limit on the amount of suitable habitat for each species an important check in the system of checks and balances that nature provides?

Page 11

1. Where do our most troublesome insects come from? Why are they so troublesome?

Page 12

1. In the question; “Why should we tolerate a diet of weak poisons, a home in insipid surroundings, a circle of acquaintances who are not quite our enemies, the noise of motors with just enough relief to prevent insanity? What do you think the underlined words symbolize in your life?
2. What’s so bad about a “chemically sterile, insect free world”?
3. How does Carson incorporate the Bill of Rights into this campaign against pesticides?
4. Carson ends this chapter with the quote “the obligation to endure, gives us the right to know”. How do you think that times have changed, for the better or for the worse since Carson wrote this book? List and explain at least 3 examples from your own life that may parallel this quote.

**Total Points Possible: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/66 points**