

### 2.1.5. Half-life and Biomagnification

#### Assignment 2:

In the 1960's, global problems with DDT and other pesticides were becoming so widespread that they began to attract much attention. Much of the credit for sounding the warning about DDT and biomagnification usually goes to the scientist Rachel Carson, who wrote the influential book *Silent Spring* (1962). The silent spring referred to in the title describes a world in which all the songbirds have been poisoned ie silent. Her book of course was vigorously attacked by many with vested interests and almost did not get published.

1. Read the introduction and Chapter 1 of *Silent Spring* and answer the following questions. Be prepared to discuss these with your class.

a. Why should we be concerned when humans make chemicals and begin spreading them through the ecosystem?

---

---

---

b. How can we accurately assess the effect of these chemicals before they are used?

---

---

---

c. Who should be doing the assessment?

---

---

---