**Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Period:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Ms. Randall Regents Chemistry**

**How Does Chemistry Affect Me? Why Do I Have to Take This Class**?!?(adapted from J. Deyns)

**Read the article on the following page and respond to it by answering the questions below.**

The article contains over 30 questions or “I wonder” statements.

1. Underline or highlight as many as you can find.
2. List the 5 questions that you think are the most interesting (the ones that you want to know the answer to the most).
3. Think about what you did to get ready for school today. Brainstorm at least one similar question you have.

Hopefully you see just how many things you do each day that relate to Chemistry. As we progress through the year we will have answered many of these questions, as well as posed many new questions to answer!

**Why Study Chemistry Anyway?**

Man, there’s my alarm. Five-thirty, the morning I’ve dreaded all week- the first day of school. I should get ready and get there. Where’s that toothpaste? I wonder why fluoride is in there. There’s baking soda and peroxide too. Why would they put those in toothpaste? It’s time for a shower. I wonder why soap and water clean so much better than just plain water. How is shampoo different from soap? I wonder why I feel so cold before I dry off. There’s isobutane in this hair stuff. I wonder if that’s anything like the butane in lighters. Why would something like that be in this hair styling stuff?

It’s time for some tunes. The news is on. There’s an air quality advisory for late in the day. I wonder what ozone is. How does it get into the air? Why is it a problem? They keep telling us not to stay out in the sun too long because the ozone layer is disappearing. How can it just disappear, and how is the ozone layer different from the ozone they tell us we shouldn’t breathe? I wonder how sun block works.

I had better turn on the light. I wonder what’s in a light bulb that lets it get so hot and still not melt or catch on fire. It’s time to check the laundry and get dressed. How does a detergent work? Where that is tie-dyed T-shirt? I wonder how they tie-dye clothing. How do dyes stay on the clothes without coming off onto my skin? Boy, these jeans are really faded. I wonder what made them fade so much. My socks came out nice and white. What is bleach, and how does it work? My new sneakers sure are comfortable. I wonder how they made that foam rubber.

I should fuel up with some breakfast. Maybe I’ll fry an egg. How does cooking change the egg? It’s getting late; I’ll just have some orange juice and cereal. Wait, every time I drink orange juice after I brush my teeth, it tastes really strange. I wonder why that is. I think I’ll just try the cereal and skip the juice. I know it has vitamin C, but what does that do for me anyway? This cereal is “fortified with iron”. I wonder what kind of iron they put in there; it couldn’t be those iron filings we used in science class, could it? The milk says it has vitamin D added. I wonder what vitamin D is and why it’s good for me. There’s the calorie count. I wonder if that has anything to do with those energy measurements we read about in biology. Time to leave for school. I hope the car starts this morning. I wonder how a battery works. Oh great, the car needs gas. I’ll pull in to the mini-mart and fill up the tank. The pump says something about an octane rating. I wonder what octane is and what that octane rating really means. This gas has 10% ethanol added. Why would they add ethanol to gasoline anyway? It looks like that tire is a little low. This pressure gauge is reading lower than it did yesterday afternoon. I wonder if it’s because it’s so much cooler this morning.

Before I leave, I think I’ll get a can of soda. Oops, I dropped it; I better not open it until later. I wonder what those bubbles are and how they get them in there. I made it to school on time. It’s supposed to be really hot today. I’ve heard of car windows popping when it gets really hot, so I’d better open them a little bit. I wonder why they sometimes break when the car gets really hot. I’m glad the windows are coated to shade the inside. That should help, too. I wonder what that coating is, and how they get it in the glass. It sure is bright out this morning; I’m glad my glasses darken in the sun. I wonder how they do that. The air conditioning sure will feel good this afternoon. I’m glad I had my air conditioner fixed. What is the refrigerant that the mechanic refilled? I wonder how air conditioning works. Well, here I am in Chemistry class. I hope we learn something today. When will I ever use chemistry in my everyday life? What good is it to me? Why can’t I study something that I can use?

***Reference*** *Barker, G. Kenneth Jr. 2000 Journal of Chemical Education Vol. 77 No. 10*