

21W.730
Spring 2005

Cynthia Taft

Writing and the Environment

On Tuesday, April 5, we will discuss the first eight chapters of Rachel Carson's book Silent Spring (pp.1-127). Each of you will be responsible for at least one chapter of the text.

You should be prepared to discuss the content and the function of each assigned chapter. By "function," I mean the role of the chapter within Silent Spring (based on your knowledge of pages 1-127). Ask yourselves what this chapter accomplishes for Carson. Be prepared to explain how she presents her material. Much of the information that she wished to communicate was relatively technical. How did she make this information accessible? Remember that this book was aimed toward the general public. It became a bestseller and shaped national environmental policy for many years.

Bring notes to guide your presentations.

After the separate presentations, we will discuss the value of Silent Spring as a model for the research paper that you will hand in late April.