# Contents

	Foreword	xiii
	INTRODUCTION	I
	The Nature of the Problem 1	
CHAPTER I	TOXIN'S HALLOWEEN The Story of Love Canal	7
	Preface: Questions to Keep in Mind 7 Introduction 10 Background 11 The Event: The Site 13 Trouble Materializes 15 The Chemicals, the Illnesses, and the Tests 16 Legislation 18 Liability 20 Resettlement 22 Concluding Reflections 23 Questions for Discussion and Reflection 25	
CHAPTER 2	A CLOUD OF POISON The Disaster at Bhopal Preface: Questions to Keep in Mind 29 Bhopal and the Environment 30 The Story of a Disaster 30 The Incident: Union Carbide in India 31 The Chemistry of Disaster 32 A Factory in a Foreign Land 33 In Search of Safety 34	29

The Victims: Workers and Squatters 35 The Sequel: The Corporation's Response 37 Response and Frustration: Dealing with Indian Authorities 38 The Investigation, Within and Without 41 Accident or Sabotage? 42 Sorting Out the Demands for Compensation 44 The Incident Continues 46 The Poisons: Insects and People 48 Questions for Discussion and Reflection 51

CHAPTER 3

## CHERNOBYL The Blast Heard 'Round the World

Preface: Questions to Keep in Mind 55 Chernobyl: The Event 56 The Experiment 59 The Causes and the Blame 61 Afterward: The Radioactive Aftermath 63 The Continuing Struggle 65 The Political Fallout 66 The Debate Proceeds 67 The Faustian Bargain 68 Hope for the Future 70 Since Chernobyl 71 Questions for Discussion and Reflection 72

CHAPTER 4

# OIL IN TROUBLED WATERS The Wreck of the Exxon Valdez

Preface: Questions to Keep in Mind 77 Introductory Note on Responsibility 78 The Event: Ship Meets Reef 78 Prince William Sound: The End of Innocence 81 The Deadly Invasion of Oil 83 The Response: A Study in Dysfunction 84 Unpreparedness 85 The Phantom Consortium 86 The Awkwardness of Size 88 How Bureaucracy Affected the Animals 90 Systemic Disincentives 92 Appearance and Reality 93 The Effect of the Law 94 The Blame 95 Lessons About Oil 96 So That It Will Never Happen Again 100 Preservation of the Land 101 Energy 101 Questions for Discussion and Reflection 102 Appendix: The Valdez (Ceres) Principles 106

#### CHAPTER 5

# FORESTS OF THE NORTH COAST The Owls, the Trees, and the Conflicts

Preface: Questions to Keep in Mind 107 Background: The Tragedy of Trees 108 The Owl and Its Trees 109 Endangerment and Obligations 111 Acting to Preserve the Species 112 The Tallest Trees on Earth 113 Pacific Lumber and the Logging Business 115 The Hostile Takeover 116 Trees, the Environment, and the Law 118 Government and the National Forests 120 Creative Alternatives 122 Summary 123 The Current State of the Controversy 124 Questions for Discussion and Reflection 126 Appendix and Apology: An Alphabet Soup for Our Time 129

CHAPTER 6

# THE DIVERSITY OF LIFE 135 Chico Mendes and the Amazonian Rainforest

Preface: Questions to Keep in Mind 135 Chico Mendes: The Man and His Heritage 136 Some Background on Brazil 137 Tropical Rainforests 139 The Threat to the Forest 140 The Role of International Agencies 142 A Global Recapitulation 143 Alternatives 144 The People and the Forest 145 A Worldwide Cause 146 Death Sentences 147 Preserving Biodiversity 149 Questions for Discussion and Reflection 150 107

CHAPTER 7	THE HOLE IN THE MIDDLEOF THE AIR15The Depletion of the Ozone Layer	5
	Preface: Questions to Keep in Mind 155 Background 156 Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) 156 History and Discovery of the Hole in the Ozone Layer 157 The Hole in the Ozone Layer 159 The Uncertain Chemistry of Ozone Depletion 161 Ozone Loss Since the First Hole 162	
	The Political Response 163 The Known, the Unknown, and the Meaning of It All 164 The Unknowns 166 Considerations of Justice 167 Questions for Discussion and Reflection 169	
CHAPTER 8	LIFE IN THE GREENHOUSE 17. Scientists Confront a Changing Climate	3
	Preface: Questions to Keep in Mind 173 On Not Really Knowing 173 Jim Hansen Blows the Whistle 174 The Greenhouse Effect 175 A Brief History of Our Climate 176 The Past as a Cracked Mirror 177 The Background of a Whistle-blower 177 Cassandra's Trail 179 The Scientists Call for Action 180 Complicating the Climate 181 Trying to Do Something About Global Warming 183 The Search for Solutions 184 The Politics and Progress of Global Warming 185 Continuing the Story 186 Questions for Discussion and Reflection 187	
CHAPTER 9	NORTH AGAINST SOUTH 19. The UNCED Summit at Rio de Janeiro	r
	Preface: Questions to Keep in Mind 191 Justice 192 Conferences 192	

Goals 194 Warming Up: The "Prep Coms" 195 Sustainability: The Battle Is Joined 196 The Greenhouse Issue 198 The Biodiversity Issue 200 The Confrontation Continues 202 Summary: The Focal Treaties 203 The Bottom Line: The Lessons of Rio 206 Politics and National Interest 208 Questions for Discussion and Reflection 210

### EPILOGUE Summation and Portents

Environmentalism Turns Radical 217 Earth First! 219 The Wise Use Movement 221 The Environment as Military Hostage 224 Concluding Postscript on the Unscientific Method 227

Bibliography

231

215