

Guilty or Innocent?

A water inspector in Anytown, USA just discovered pollutants in the local stream that runs through town. A short time later she found contaminants in several private wells. Using the clues on your "Things to Think About" page, try to figure out which of these Anytown residents might have contributed to the problem.

1. Juan Ramirez

Juan Ramirez' farm is one of the biggest and most successful in the Anytown area. In the summer people come from all over to buy fruits and vegetables from Joe's produce stand. Everyone knows that Joe has some of the most beautiful produce around - it's almost always free of insect damage. Kids that come to the farmstand always enjoy visting with Joe's cows with their calves in the field next to the stream.

2. Rahela Aziz

Rahela Aziz is a senior at Anytown High School. A year ago she bought a car with money she'd saved and learned to do most of the car's maintenance work herself. She changes her own oil, maintains the wiper fluid, and changes the antifreeze. After Rahela works on her car, she cleans up, pouring her used motor oil down the storm drain and hosing down her parents' driveway.

3. Tanaka Watabe

When he started his lawn-care company five years ago, Tanaka Watabe had no idea it would be so successful. When asked about his success, Tanaka claims it is due to his technique of

applying proper fertilizers and weed killers. Mr. Watabe also said he's proudest of the thick, green grass that grows on the Anytown Golf Course, which his company takes of.

4. Carol Gray

Carol Gray's small gas station near the center of town has become an Anytown landmark. Every day Carol is there selling gas, penny candy, and soda. First time visitors to the station almost always get a tour of it, starting on the sidewalk above the underground storage tank. Here Martha shows people where she carved her initials and the year "1953" in the wet cement the day before the station opened.

5. Sabrina Lesnevich

Sabrina Lesnevish is a full-time homemaker with three children. On weekends, Sabrina watches her 3 active kids play many different sports. Between games, she spends a lot of time washing dirty uniforms. In fact, the clerk at the supermarket often teases Sabrina about the huge boxes of heavy-duty laundry detergent she buys.

Adapted from Ranger Rick's NatureScope—Pollution: Problems and Solutions, National Wildlife Federation.