

# The Soil Profiler

## *The Case of the Missing Horizon*



### **Introduction**

It's three a.m. and the screaming of the telephone jolts you awake. You hastily flip on the light and fumble for the receiver. Never in your wildest dreams are you prepared for what happens next. It's your mom, and you can hear her sobbing as she begins to tell you what happened.

### **Background**

Your family has been farmers for as long as you can remember. They sleep, eat, and dream farming. Tomatoes, potatoes, okra, and beans are the only things your family knows to talk about. But now here's your mom telling you that all that has changed! Things will never be the same!

"Why?" you ask, dreading to hear her reply.

"Because.." she sobs, "one of the *horizons* is missing!"

### **Assignment**

This week in Earth Science we've been studying weathering and soil. We learned that soil is arranged in different layers or **horizons**: horizon O, horizon A, horizon B, and horizon C. The different layers of colored soil are what scientists call the **soil profile**. We've learned that the humus and nutrients in **topsoil** or horizon A is what helps determine which plants will thrive. Each layer or horizon is important to the soil-forming process.

Your writing assignment this week is to step out of the classroom into the exciting world of agriculture. You are no longer a consumer but a *producer*. Your livelihood is dependent upon those fertile acres where you were raised. But something has gone horribly wrong....Horizon A is missing! How could this be? Who could have taken it? And *why*?

So put on your detective hats and get to looking! As Sherlock said, "It's elementary, my dear Watson!"

### **CHECKLIST**

- My finished piece has a minimum of 3 paragraphs.
- I have a "WOW" introduction AND a "pack a punch" conclusion.
- I revised and edited my work.
- I am satisfied with the finished product.

### **REFLECTION**

How could I improve my writing?