

Name: _____

The Disappearing Spoon
Introduction Question Set

1. **Pre-reading:** Before starting the book, write down any adjectives that you would use to describe the periodic table. (ex: boring, intimidating, interesting, intriguing, etc) Explain your choice of adjectives using complete sentences. (*You must include good explanations in your answer!*)

2. (*Read the book jacket on the inside front cover.*) The title of the book is *The Disappearing Spoon*. How does the title of the book relate to the actual disappearance of a spoon?

3. a) What element was the author fascinated with?

b) Why is this element considered a cultish element?

4. a) What element(s) is/are Biliious Pills made up of and what was the purpose and reasoning behind taking them?

b) What were the side effects of taking the pills?

c) How has the pill been beneficial to modern archaeologists?

5. What is the Latin name for the element discussed thus far and what does it stand for?

6. What does the movie, *Alice in Wonderland*, have to do with the element being discussed?

7. What effects do the fumes from this element have on the human body?

8. When was the first recorded case of solid mercury and who was successful in doing it?

9. Activists are currently campaigning against the element mercury. Why?

10. **Post reading:** Has your thoughts about the periodic table changed after reading the Introduction? Explain in complete sentences.

