Opener to Chapter 26 for Essential Question

There are living things on this planet that are so bizarre as to defy the imagination.

Organisms that mate without getting near each other…

Whose young can be born miles away from any parent…

And possibly even after the parents are long dead.

They trick other living things into helping them reproduce…

And some even offer their own offspring to predators.

Yet as strange as they are, they are not uncommon…

In fact, they are all around us.

Hiding in plain sight…

They are of course…

Flowers and other plants.

Though they may seem commonplace, they live lives full of surprises.

These quiet conquerors have colonized our entire planet.

Insinuating themselves into nearly every available environmental niche.

And making life possible for animals…

What makes plants so unstoppable?

What’s the secret to their incredible survival?

The clues to this mystery are all around us…waiting to be discovered when we know how to look.

Just look.