*Illuminating Photosynthesis* Poem

*As you read, circle the reactants of photosynthesis and underline the products. When you do the questions, put the number of that question next to the part of the poem where you found the answer.*  
  
This feature reveals the secret of life,  
or at least it reveals a small bit.  
It shows how a plant uses light from the sun  
and from this how we all benefit.  
  
It shows you how plants create glucose.  
It shows you the cycle of gases.  
It asks you some relevant questions  
that aren't asked in life science classes.

Photosynthesis, the trapper of sunlight;  
it's needed for life to subsist.  
All plants use the process to make food;  
without it most life would desist.

The process begins with plain water  
but not from the tap does it flow.  
Some water is made within leaf cells  
and some is sucked up from below.

With energy gained from sunlight,  
the Hs are stripped from each O.  
The oxygen atoms form twosomes,  
and out of the leaf they all go.

Meanwhile CO2 has just entered  
through holes in the leaf called stomata.  
The gas is exhaled by Earth's creatures,  
including all invertebrata.

But the plant has a goal that is bigger in scope;  
it's out to make food it can keep.  
It builds a big structure of Cs, Hs, and Os;  
it's glucose, and boy is it sweet.

Some folks get a kick from equations,  
which explain things by some kind of law.  
If by chance you are one of these people,  
then this explains what you just saw.

**Puzzler 1**  
  
A tree inhales carbon dioxide;  
it needs to if it's to survive.  
But can it release enough O2  
to keep just one person alive?

**Puzzler 2**  
  
A plant needs its own food to function.  
It can't make its own food at night.  
Beyond a few hours of darkness,  
can a plant stay alive without light?

**Puzzler 3**  
  
A plant that receives the nutrition it needs  
will continue to live, we now know.  
But what if we took all its O2 away?  
Do you think that the plant could still grow?

Comprehension Questions (complete sentences)

1. What is the purpose of the first two stanzas? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. What would happen to life on Earth if things didn’t do photosynthesis? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
3. Where do plants get the water they need for photosynthesis? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
4. Where is the energy from that is used to tear apart H20 molecules? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
5. Which atoms pair together and leave the plant? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
6. How does CO2 enter a leaf? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
7. What is the large molecule that a plant wants to make through photosynthesis? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
8. What is the equation for photosynthesis?