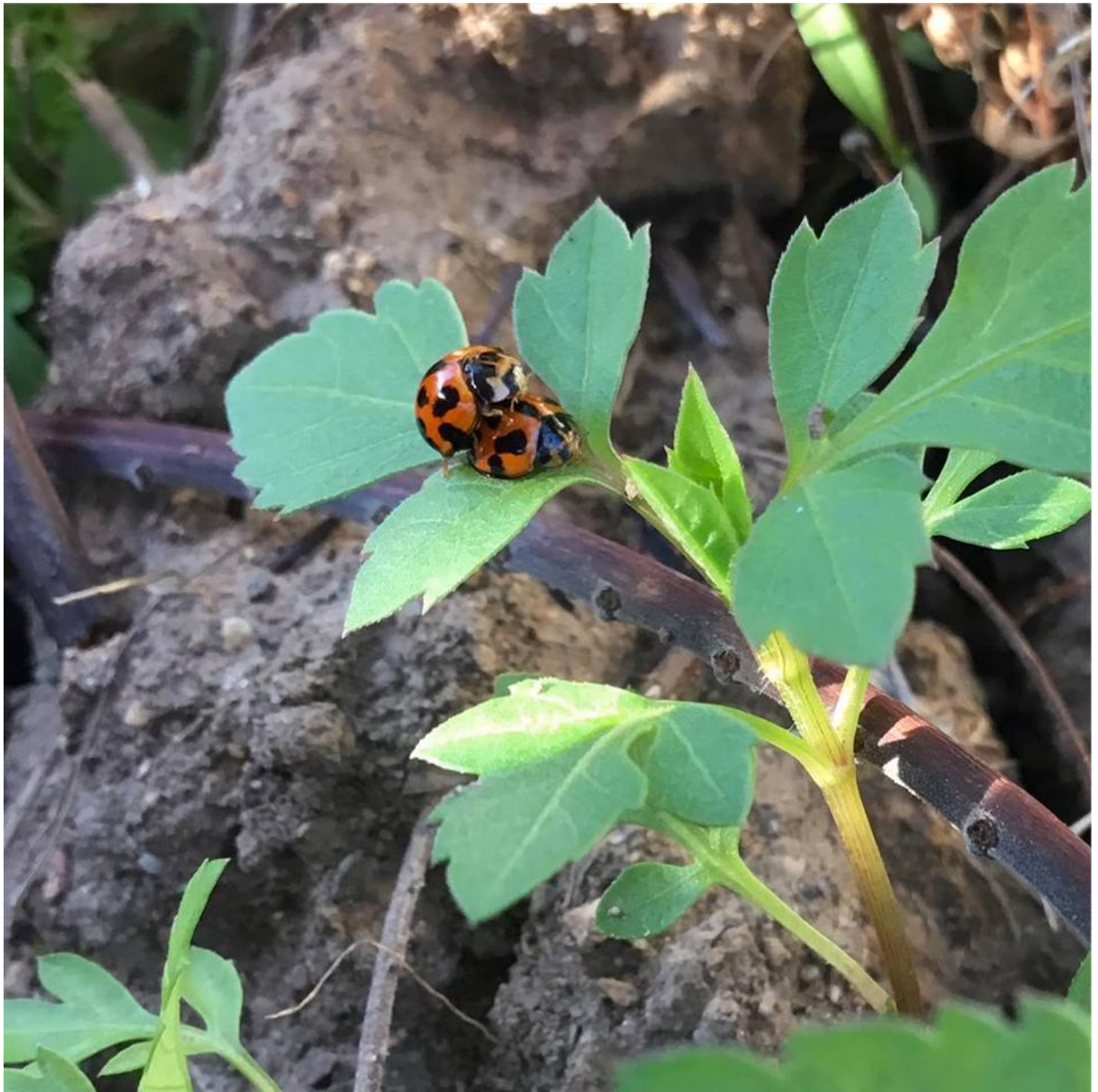




EXPECTING INSECTS,

poem and photo by J.R.Poulter, 2018

Spring has sprung into action,
Ladybirds are getting traction,
Bees are buzzing, flies are flying,
Old men and old dogs are sighing...
Spring, when all is pop and peak,
Makes old bones go creak, creak, squeak ...

EXPECTING INSECTS

Teacher Notes & Activities by J.R.Poulter

Spring brings lots of things! Insects can be expected as they emerge to sample the sap of burgeoning blossoms!

The clement clime encourages proliferation - insects breed as do animals - think Spring Lamb!

This short poem is a 'tongue in cheek' look at Spring and the creatures who emerge/re-emerge at that time of year.

Activity - Analysis: Why do you think the poem could be described as 'tongue in cheek'? Give examples of phrases from the poem that might suggest such a description.

Activity - Observation: Find four things other folk might also see on a Spring day and, alongside them, list four other Spring related things that rhyme with them.

Activity - Biology: The poet took the accompanying photo in the garden. She just happened to spot the two ladybirds on a leaf. Take a walk around the school grounds and find evidence of Spring activity whether it be -

Evidence of plant growth such as buds, shoots, blossoms;

Evidence of insects emerging from winter hibernation, mating, building nests;

Evidence of birds getting ready to nest;

Evidence from the bureau of meteorology reports and your own observations of the changes in the weather.

Activity - Creative: Take a photo or create an art work - drawing, painting, collage or sculpture that reflects something to do with Spring. Write a short poem - a haiku or quatrain - or write a descriptive paragraph or micro-story to accompany your artwork.

Activity - Sociology: Why is Spring not so popular a time for many people?

Think of four things that might make Spring unpopular for someone and also think of four ways these four problematic Spring things might be solved.