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Section 4

Best Photo: Monarch Butterfly

This picture of a beautiful and exquisite monarch butterfly was discovered on the National Geographic website, a non-profit scientific and educational institution that has long encouraged people to care more about the world. Despite its magnificence and allure, however, the photo truly displays the concept of deception and deceit, tricking the viewer into a state of awe and seeming contentedness. Because of the poisonous chemicals that the butterfly harvests within its body as a defense mechanism, the way the enticing insect outwardly appears entirely contradicts the organism's inner destructive capabilities, obscuring the way that it should be perceived. Nevertheless, similarly to the poem "One Train May Hide Another" by Kenneth Koch and the essay "Seeing" by Annie Dillard, this photo poetically strives to bring people to a greater awareness and consciousness of their surroundings, urging them to try their best in order to discern reality from the artificial. Unfortunately, though, for most, perception is reality, and the way a person views something immediately becomes the facts and truth to him. Because of this faultiness of human perception, mankind is limited in its acquisition of knowledge and the capacity that it can attain, preventing the entire and complete perfection of the human race. Thus, ultimately, only through the poetic acceptance of their flawed inherent natures will human beings ever come to terms with the rather ambiguous and obscure reality that they live in, and, through experiences similar to the one in this photo, will they sincerely come to contemplate their own insight and awareness. Someone who questions his own perception in this way and vigilantly

seeks for some better understanding of things definitely lives a poetic lifestyle and will derive much more out of life than most others ever will.