Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 10/28/16

Extra Credit Assignment

**Before Reading:**

1. When you think of zombies, what kinds of creepy behavior do you imagine?
2. Do you know any ways that plants and animals influence each other’s behavior?

**During Reading:**

1. What is the stalk that emerges from the head of the “zombie ant”?
2. What are four examples of real life “zombies” in nature?
3. What is a parasite?
4. How do some parasites influence the behavior of larger, smarter animals?
5. What is *Toxoplasmosa gondii’s* trick for completing its life cycle inside of a cat?
6. Why does *Orphocordyceps* force its host, an ant, to crawl up a plant, face north, and bite down on a leaf when the sun is at the highest point in the sky?
7. How does *Reclinevellus neilseni* wasp manipulate its spider host?
8. What is the “brain surgery” that a jewel wasp does to a cockroach’s brain?
9. Why do California killifish infected with the brain worm *Euhaplorchis californiensis* dart toward the surface of the water, twist their bodies around, or rub up against rocks?
10. What practical benefit could come from figuring out the secrets of zombie mind control in the natural world?

**After Reading:**

1. Which “zombie” mind control method that you read about seems the creepiest to you? Why?
2. If you were a parasite and wanted to control the behavior of your host in order to survive and reproduce, what would be your major goals? What would be two minor goals?