Stiff – Chapter 3: Life after Death Questions

1. Where is the Body Farm, research facility where they study human decay?
2. What are some studies being done at this facility? What is the purpose of these studies?
3. How fast does corpse lose its temperature?
4. What is rigor mortis?
5. What do investigators turn to for answers if the body has been dead for longer than three days?
6. The hallmark of fresh-stage (first stage) decay is a process called \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, or self digestion.
7. How does autolysis work?
8. What is a hacienda?
9. In the first stage of the human decay, the skin of the entire hand might come off and this process is called \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ by forensic scientists.
10. What are flies attracted to in decomposing bodies?
11. Besides the stomach, what other areas of the body bloat during decomposition?
12. Why doesn’t the gas get forced out of the stomach eventually?
13. What does Arpad Vass compare to the sound of larvae feeding on a corpse?
14. What is the final and longest stage of decomposition?
15. What parts disintegrate first and why?
16. What do the carnivorous beetles eat?
17. Why would a scientist analyze the chemicals in the soil to determine if the body has been moved?
18. How does a buried body decompose?
19. After about \_\_\_\_\_\_ weeks, the body melts and becomes like “ Chicken soup.”
20. How does the author describe the smell of decomposing human?
21. What chemicals are used to train human remains dogs?

Extra Credit: Explain the process of embalming.