## Killer Vocabulary

**Before Reading:** As you come across words in bold in “The Killer Smog,” ask yourself if you know them or if you can figure them out from context. Then check their meanings here.

<table>
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<th>Vocabulary</th>
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| **smog:** | “In 1905, this dark and dirty fog got an official name: smog.” (p. 5)  
Meaning: fog that has become mixed with smoke or other pollution and hangs in the air |
| **hazy:** | “The hazy morning had turned midnight black.” (p. 6)  
Meaning: partly clouded by dust, smoke, or mist |
| **smothering:** | “But even a dog’s powerful sniffing power was no match for the smothering smog.” (p. 6)  
Meaning: covering something thickly or completely; preventing someone from breathing properly |
| **microscopic:** | “Fog is simply microscopic drops of water trapped in the air.” (p. 6)  
Meaning: extremely small; able to be seen only through a microscope |
| **sooty:** | “Much of this pollution came from burning coal, which produced an especially sooty and oily smoke.” (p. 7)  
Meaning: covered or filled with soot, a black powder produced when something is burned |
| **particulates:** | “It contained toxic chemicals and particulates—specks of unburned coal.” (p. 8)  
Meaning: extremely small pieces of a substance, especially one that causes air pollution |
| **wheezing:** | “On pea-soup smog days in London, schoolkids would be hunched over their desks, wheezing and hacking as they tried to work.” (p. 8)  
Meaning: breathing loudly and with difficulty |
| **pneumonia:** | “Emergency rooms routinely filled with patients showing signs of smog-related lung problems, like asthma and pneumonia.” (p. 8)  
Meaning: a serious disease that affects the lungs and makes it difficult to breathe |
| **shrouded:** | “Beijing, China, and New Delhi, India, are just two of dozens of cities frequently shrouded in pea-soup smogs caused by burning coal, factories, and car exhaust.” (p. 9)  
Meaning: covered or hidden by something |
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After Reading: Complete each sentence we’ve started for you, checking to be sure it makes sense.

1. The **hazy** air made it difficult for John to _______________________________________________________.

2. Only **microscopic** crumbs of cake remained after _________________________________________________.

3. A powerful filter removes **particulates** from lake water so that _________________________________________.

4. The doctor realized Ko had **pneumonia** when ___________________________________________________________.

5. Because the sun was **shrouded** by clouds, __________________________________________________________. 

6. Riding her bike through the thick **smog**, Liza was worried that _________________________________________.

7. Evan wrapped his puppy in a **smothering** hug when it ______________________________________________. 

8. After my dad cleaned the **sooty** chimney, his clothes were _____________________________________________.

9. Jasper was **wheezing** because he _________________________________________________________________.

Name: ___________________________ Date: ________________