

Name: _____

Video Discussion Questions

Behind the Scenes: "Killer Smog"

1. Lauren Tarshis says she wanted to create a mood of "quiet terror" in the beginning of her article (1:50). Do the lines that appear on the screen at 1:54 successfully create this mood? Explain.
2. A list of sensory words that Tarshis uses to describe the Great Smog appears on-screen at 2:34. Come up with a list of sensory words and phrases that you might use to describe a beach scene on a beautiful summer day.
3. In the video, Tarshis explains that good writers don't just tell you something, they show you (3:09–4:09). Explain what she means. What is the difference between "telling" and "showing"?

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Directions: After reading “Killer Smog,” fill in the chart below with examples of vivid language from the article that create mood, appeals to the five senses, or creates a strong mental image. Then explain how the lines affect the reader.

Example of vivid language	What is the effect?