Directions: Read the sentences below from “Out of the Burning Darkness,” then write what you think the term in bold means, based on context. We’ve provided a few hints. Watch the Vocabulary Slideshow at storyworks.scholastic.com to help you!

1. inferno: “As the inferno blazed hotter, people were starting to panic.”
   I think this word means

2. fossil fuel: “Coal is a rock-like substance from the ground. It is a fossil fuel, like oil and gas. When you burn coal, heat and energy are released.” (Hint: Think about what a fossil is. That’s where this fuel comes from!)
   I think this term means

3. Industrial Revolution: “Indeed, Albert was growing up in a period of great technological change known as the Industrial Revolution. And coal was the power behind it. Coal was fueling the trains speeding across America, making it possible to travel faster than ever before. Coal was powering the giant new ships churning across the ocean. And coal was being used in factories to make the iron and steel needed to build America’s bridges and skyscrapers.” (Hint: What do these lines tell you about the kind of change that was happening in America?)
   I think this term means

4. deposits: “During this time, thousands of coal mines were blasted into the ground, especially in Illinois, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia. This is where vast deposits of coal had been discovered.”
   I think this word means

5. toxins: “Using coal creates pollution, poisoning rivers and filling the air with toxins.”
   I think this word means

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6. soot: “By the end of the 19th century, a stomach-churning brew of soot and grime hung over many American cities.” (Hint: What disgusting thing might hang over a city as a result of burning coal?)

I think this word means ________________________________________________________________________

7. toiled: “And it wasn’t just grown men who toiled in the mines. In the early 1900s, thousands of children like Albert did too—some as young as 8 years old.” (Hint: What did men and children do in the mines?)

I think this word means ________________________________________________________________________

8. ventilation: “The door was part of the mine’s ventilation system—which kept fresh air in the places where people were working. This also prevented the buildup of dangerous gases.”

I think this word means ________________________________________________________________________

9. oxygen: “Around 4:00 p.m., mine company leaders made a brutal decision: to seal off the air shaft. This would choke the fire out, they hoped; fires need oxygen to keep burning.”

I think this word means ________________________________________________________________________

10. testified: “A massive investigation was also launched, and Albert himself testified. The mine company was fined for illegally employing underage kids.” (Hint: Think about what Albert might have done to share the truth about the Cherry Mine.)

I think this word means ________________________________________________________________________