

## London's Burning! A Fictional Story

It was dark in the early hours of Sunday morning. Sally woke with a start. Her ears filled with unfamiliar sounds; she could smell smoke. She coughed. The room looked hazy; she rubbed her eyes, but still couldn't focus properly. What was happening?

Suddenly, her bedroom door was flung open and her mother ran in, her face as white as a sheet.

"Get up Sally, we have to go! Get dressed now!" and with that, her mother disappeared back into the house, calling Sally's younger sister, Molly.

Sally jumped from her bed and pushed open the casement window. Screams and cries came from the filthy streets below. Sally watched people throwing their belongings into carts, frantic horses treading the ground, eager to get away. Parents grabbed their children and pushed them in amongst their possessions on the carts.



"Hey, what's happening?" Sally yelled.

"Fire!" her neighbour shouted back. "Seems to be coming from Pudding Lane! Get out now Sally! No one is safe!"

Sally closed her window with a bang, and hurriedly changed out of her nightdress. Once she was downstairs, her father, mother and Molly crammed their things into a handcart. They watched in horror as ordinary people tried to put out the raging fire with leather buckets full of water and the occasional water squirt.



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Nothing seemed to make any difference, as the fire leapt from one building to the next, burning everything in its path.

"The houses are so close together and made of wood!" Sally realised, as she scrambled over candlesticks, burnt pans and odd bits of furniture that people had dropped in their hurry to leave!

The grocer's boy, Tom Winter, saw Sally and said, "Some people are going to St Paul's Cathedral to stay safe. Made of stone. Won't burn like wood, eh?" Sally nodded but followed her parents down the dark, stinking streets. The roads were hot and they had to walk in the puddles to keep their feet cool.

They walked and walked. Finally, they arrived at Moorfields. It was a wide-open space with no buildings to burn. They were safe.



# London's Burning!

## Questions

1. When did the Great Fire of London start? Tick one.

- in the day time
- during the night
- in the afternoon

2. Match the sentences.

Sally heard
Sally saw
Sally could smell

smoke.
people screaming.
people put things in carts.

3. What word is used that means Sally quickly got dressed?

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4. Why did the fire travel so quickly? Tick two answers.

- The buildings were made of stone.
- The buildings were close together.
- The buildings were made of wood.
- There was nothing around to put the fire out.

5. Why were some people going to St Paul's Cathedral?

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6. What changes would have been made to the new buildings after the Great Fire of London?

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## Answers

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- The buildings were made of wood.
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5. Why were some people going to St Paul's Cathedral?

**Some people were going to St Paul's Cathedral because it was made of stone and they thought they would be safer there.**

6. What changes would have been made to the new buildings after the Great Fire of London?

**After the Great Fire of London, buildings would have not been made of wood and they would not have been built so close together.**