London's Burning! A Fictional Story



Sally woke up and found that her bedroom was full of smoke. Her mother ran in.

"Get up! We have to go!" Her mother went back into the house. Sally opened the window. People were screaming in the streets and throwing their things into carts.

"Hey! What's happening?" Sally shouted.

"Fire!" someone shouted back. "Coming from Pudding Lane! Get out now!" Sally got changed as quickly as she could and went downstairs.

She saw her parents and sister putting things into a handcart. People were trying to put out the fire with leather buckets full of water. The fire jumped from one building to the next.

"The houses are so close together and made of wood!" Sally said. People had dropped candlesticks and burnt pots and pans in the streets.

The greengrocer's boy saw Sally and said, "Some people are going to St Paul's Cathedral to stay safe. It won't burn because it is made of stone."

Sally and her family carried on walking. They arrived at Moorfields. There were no buildings to burn. They were safe.



Questions

1. What was in Sally's room when she woke up? Tick one.

   - ◯ food
   - ◯ smoke
   - ◯ fire

2. Where was the fire coming from? Tick one.

   - ◯ Bread Lane
   - ◯ Pudding Street
   - ◯ Pudding Lane

3. What were people using to put out the fire? Tick one.

   - ◯ leather buckets
   - ◯ handcarts
   - ◯ candlesticks

4. Why was the fire burning the buildings so quickly? Tick one.

   - ◯ The buildings were made of brick.
   - ◯ The buildings were made of wood.
   - ◯ The buildings were made of stone.

5. Where did Sally and her family go to be safe? Tick one.

   - ◯ St Paul's Cathedral
   - ◯ Moorfields
   - ◯ London

Answers

1. What was in Sally's room when she woke up? Tick one.

- ◯ food
- ✓ **smoke**
- ◯ fire

2. Where was the fire coming from? Tick one.

- ◯ Bread Lane
- ◯ Pudding Street
- ✓ **Pudding Lane**

3. What were people using to put out the fire? Tick one.

- ✓ **leather buckets**
- ◯ handcarts
- ◯ candlesticks

4. Why was the fire burning the buildings so quickly? Tick one.

- ◯ The buildings were made of brick.
- ✓ **The buildings were made of wood.**
- ◯ The buildings were made of stone.

5. Where did Sally and her family go to be safe? Tick one.

- ◯ St Paul's Cathedral
- ✓ **Moorfields**
- ◯ London

London's Burning! A Fictional Story

Sally woke with a start. She heard strange sounds. She could smell smoke. The room was full of smoke. She coughed. What was happening? Her bedroom door opened with a bang and her mother ran in. Her face white.

"Get up Sally. We have to go! Get dressed now!" Her mother disappeared back into the house.

Sally jumped from her bed and opened the window. Screams and cries came from the filthy streets below. Sally watched people throw their things into carts. The horses were keen to leave and they were treading the ground.

"Hey! What's happening?" Sally yelled.

"Fire!" her neighbour shouted back. "Coming from Pudding Lane! Get out now Sally! No one is safe!"

Sally slammed her window shut and got changed as quickly as she could. Downstairs, she found her father, mother and sister cramming their things into a handcart. They watched people trying to put out the raging fire with leather buckets full of water. It didn't seem to make any difference as the fire leapt from one building to the next.



"The houses are so close together and made of wood!" Sally noticed as she tripped over candlesticks, burnt pans and odd bits of furniture that people had dropped in the streets.

The greengrocer's boy saw Sally and said, "Some people are going to St Paul's Cathedral to stay safe. Made of stone. Won't burn like wood." Sally nodded but followed her parents down the dark streets.

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



Questions

1. Why did Sally cough when she woke up? Tick one.

   ◯ She was ill.
   ◯ There was smoke in the room.
   ◯ Her room was on fire.

2. Why do you think Sally's mother's face was white? Tick one.

   ◯ She had rolled in flour.
   ◯ She was shocked and frightened.
   ◯ She had been painting.

3. Find and copy one word which means 'dirty'.

   _____

4. How were people trying to put the fire out? Tick one.

   ◯ with water in metal buckets
   ◯ with water in leather buckets
   ◯ with water in plastic buckets

5. Fill in the missing word in the sentence.

   People thought St Paul's Cathedral was a safe place to be because it was made of _____.

Answers

1. Why did Sally cough when she woke up? Tick one.

   ◯ She was ill.
   ✓ **There was smoke in the room.**
   ◯ Her room was on fire.

2. Why do you think Sally's mother's face was white? Tick one.

   ◯ She had rolled in flour.
   ✓ **She was shocked and frightened.**
   ◯ She had been painting.

3. Find and copy one word which means 'dirty'.

   filthy

4. How were people trying to put the fire out? Tick one.

   ◯ with water in metal buckets
   ✓ **with water in leather buckets**
   ◯ with water in plastic buckets

5. Fill in the missing word in the sentence.

   People thought St Paul's Cathedral was a safe place to be because it was made of **stone**.

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 she 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!" ordered her mother as she disappeared back into the house. Then, she called for Molly who was Sally's younger sister.

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 were treading the ground and eager to get away. Parents grabbed their children and pushed them in among their possessions on the carts.

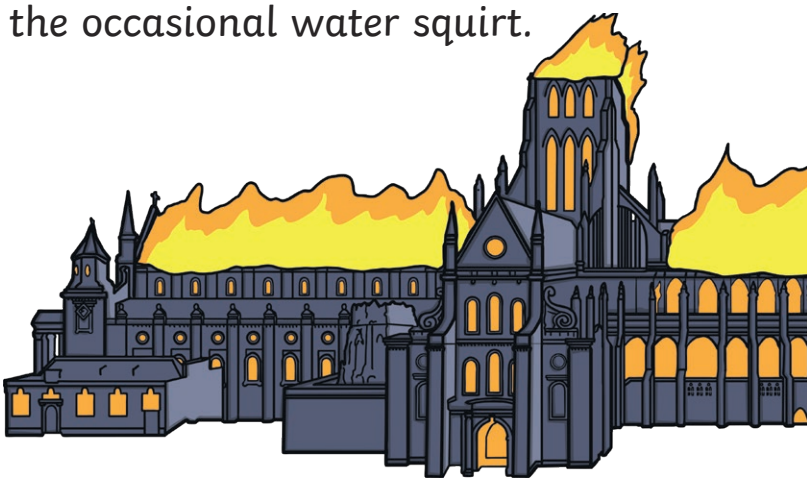
"Hey, what's happening?" Sally yelled.

"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.



Nothing seemed to make any difference as the fire leapt from one building to the next. It was 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 greengrocer'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.



Questions

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

   ◯ in the day time
   ◯ during the night
   ◯ early Sunday morning

2. Draw **three** lines and complete each sentence.

Sally heard ...	smoke.
Sally saw ...	people screaming.
Sally could smell ...	people put things in carts.

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

   _____

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.

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

   _____

   _____

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

   _____

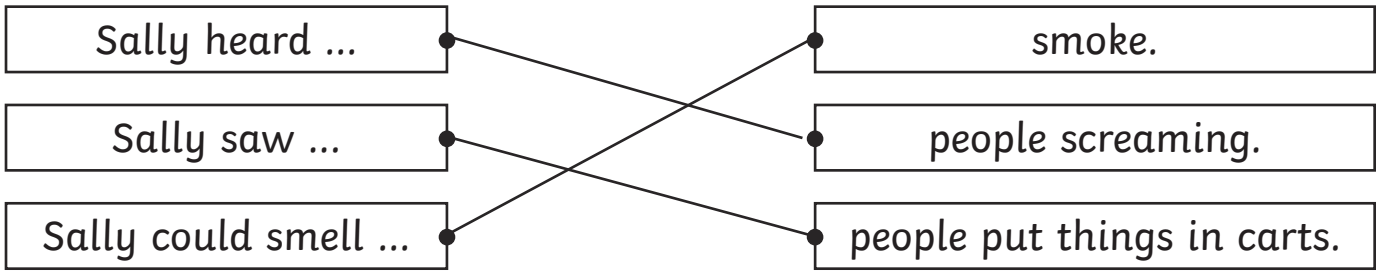
   _____

Answers

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

   ◯ in the day time
   ◯ during the night
   ✓ **early Sunday morning**

2. Draw **three** lines and complete each sentence.



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

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

   ◯ The buildings were made of stone.
   ✓ **The buildings were close together.**
   ✓ **The buildings were made of wood.**

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?
   Pupils' own responses, such as: After the Great Fire of London, buildings would have not been made of wood and they would not have been built so close together.