



Year Group: Year 1 and 2

Length: 25 mins

Starting Positions: Sit in your own space on the floor

Learning Intentions:

To know about...

- Causes of the fire
- Methods of extinguishing the fire
- The effects of the fire
- Historical context (Pepys, King Charles II, 1666)

Synopsis:

- Your mother sends you and your cat, Max, to buy bread from the baker in Pudding Lane.
- You return with bread (and cake for Max) and go to sleep.
- You're woken by a fire in the bakery. You wake up the Farriners and ring the church bells.
- You board a cart to escape with your mother but you go back for Max.
- Spotting Max in the river, you jump in. The current takes you so you climb into Pepys' boat.
- Pepys writes his diary so you row to London Bridge. You try to find Max on the bridge.
- Pepys follows you and tries to dissuade you from saving Max or putting out the fire.
- After saving Pepys' life, he agrees to help you. You try buckets and fire squirts.
- The Lord Mayor arrives. He doesn't let you pull down houses to prevent the fire spreading.
- You take his horse to Whitehall where King Charles II gives you permission to pull down houses.
- Back in London you realise that dynamiting the houses will be the most effective way.
- The fire slows down. You go to the fields outside London to find your Mum, trailing cake for Max.
- You find your Mum but are sad not to have Max.... at which point Max arrives!
- The King arrives and congratulates you. Only six people died!

Characters:

- **Max** – your cat
- **Mum**
- **Thomas Farriner** – the King's baker who supposedly didn't extinguish all his oven's coals
- **Samuel Pepys** – not only recorded events but was the first person to inform the King
- **Lord Mayor of London** – Thomas Bloodsworth's indecision led to greater tragedy than necessary
- **King Charles II** – the 'restoration' King (after Cromwell); he was foppish and unpopular with the public

Locations:

- **Pudding Lane** – near Pudding Lane you can now find The Monument, dedicated to the Great Fire
- **London Bridge** – London Bridge was totally destroyed in the fire. It used to have houses & shops on it
- **City of London** – today there are almost no medieval buildings in London thanks to the fire
- **Whitehall** – this was the royal palace in London until the 18th Century
- **Fields outside London** – most residents took refuge in fields outside the City, creating refugee camps

Glossary:

- **Leather buckets** – fire buckets were made of leather
- **Fire squirt** – metal tubes with syringe-like ‘plunger’ to squirt out water
- **Fire hook** – long hooks that would pull down houses to prevent fire spreading

Discussion:

Story & Factual

- How do you think the fire started in the bakery?
- How did you wake the local residents of Pudding Lane?
- What was happening on London Bridge?
- Why did the fire spread so quickly? (heat, wind, proximity of buildings)
- What was the man called who was writing things down?
- What did you think of the Lord Mayor? Was he good at his job?
- What did the King give you permission to do?

PSHE & Philosophical

- You wanted to save Max. Is a human’s life more important than an animal’s?
- Why did the Lord Mayor not want to pull down houses?
- How did you feel when everyone around you was screaming and panicking?
- If a fire was happening, would you run away or would you stay and help?
- What qualities does a leader – like the Lord Mayor – need?
- After the Great Fire, people had different plans for re-building London. Would you build it exactly as it was before or make changes?
- Are you surprised that six people died? Why?
- Why is it important that people keep diaries?
- Have you every kept a diary? What sort of thing do you write in it?

Resources:

You’ll find these follow up resources on your shared drive:

- **Literacy Resources** – Reading Comprehension/Text Analysis, 3x SPAG exercises, Poem/Short writing exercise, Formal Prose, Creative Writing, Spelling Test
- **Photo Storyboard** – order the images from the story (or use them for other things – e.g. writing)
- **Quick Quiz** – re-cap key facts
- **Or try some recount, report or creative writing ideas of your own!**