



DIFFICULTY:  

Thursday 6th September, 1666

Dear Diary

I haven't been able to write here for a few days, because the most awful thing has happened. You will not believe it when I tell you...

On Sunday (2nd September), I was woken up really early in the morning. At first, I was annoyed by all the noise, and I couldn't understand why it was so hot, but then I realised something terrible was happening. There was a fire! Father burst into my room and told me that I must get up. I could barely see him because of all the smoke. How terrified I was!

Even though my father told me that I must not bring anything, I grabbed my diary and held my hand out. I was pulled towards the door, but as we opened it, we could see it was too late and the staircase was in flames! I was terrified and didn't know what to do. Luckily, Father had a plan and pushed me towards the tiny window of my bedroom.

I managed to climb through the window. My mother and sister were already outside, and Father quickly joined us.

On the street, we looked around at all the houses that were quickly bursting into flames. The Great Fire of London, as it has been called in the last few days, had begun.

The police quickly transported us away from the city, although even as we sit now, far away, we can still see the blaze. I hope nobody is hurt and everybody made it out safely. At the moment, we are living in a tent in a field – I don't know how long we will be here, but I think it will be until our house is rebuilt.

Speaking of rebuilding, we have just heard that King Charles II has commanded that all new houses should be stone and brick, and not wood. That sounds like a great idea to me!

I will write again when I have more news.

Jonny



Questions

1. What terrible event is this text describing?

2. When did the event take place?

3. What object did Jonny grab before he left the house? Tick the correct answer:

- ☐ his pen
- ☐ his book
- ☐ his sister
- ☐ his diary

4. Why did Jonny have to climb out of the window? Tick the correct answer:

- ☐ He couldn't see the way out.
- ☐ The staircase was in flames.
- ☐ He couldn't open his door.
- ☐ There were too many people on the stairs.

5. Why does Jonny think it is a good idea to build houses from stone and brick?

6. Fill in the table below to indicate whether the statements are true or false.

The first one has been done for you.

| | True | False |
|--|------|-------|
| The family was taken away from the city. | ● | |
| The fire can be seen from far away. | | |
| The family will live in a tent until their house is rebuilt. | | |
| The new houses will be made from wood. | | |



Answers

1. What terrible event is this text describing?

The Great Fire of London

2. When did the event take place?

Sunday 2nd September, 1666

3. What object did Jonny grab before he left the house? Tick the correct answer:

- ☐ his pen
- ☐ his book
- ☐ his sister
- ☒ **his diary**

4. Why did Jonny have to climb out of the window? Tick the correct answer:

- ☐ He couldn't see the way out.
- ☒ **The staircase was in flames.**
- ☐ He couldn't open his door.
- ☐ There were too many people on the stairs.

5. Why does Jonny think it is a good idea to build houses from stone and brick?

Stone and brick are less likely to catch fire.

6. Fill in the table below to indicate whether the statements are true or false.

The first one has been done for you.

| | True | False |
|--|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| The family was taken away from the city. | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| The fire can be seen from far away. | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| The family will live in a tent until their house is rebuilt. | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| The new houses will be made from wood. | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |

