

### A Fire Ate the City Acrostic Poem



Thomas Farriner thought the fire was out,  
He didn't hear the crackling sound.  
Every house on Pudding Lane  
Got closer and closer to the flames,  
Red and orange, hot and bright,  
Eating up every house in sight!  
All along the street they went,  
Those hungry flames were not content.  
First thing in the morning as the sun awoke,  
It showed a sky that filled with smoke;  
Reports came in of three hundred homes,  
Every one burned to the bone.  
Over the city, the King was told  
"Flames are filling London; behold!"  
"Lord Mayor!" cried the King, his senses ignited,  
"Organise the best way to fight it!"  
Never had he seen a fire that size;  
Dazed and amazed, he sat rubbing his eyes.  
Over the city the fire now spread,  
"Nothing will stop it!" the poor people said.  
All of London might become part of its feast!  
The fire was fanned by a wind from the east.  
Elsewhere the King's response had failed,  
Up the River Thames he sailed.  
Powerlessness was not something he knew;  
The fire still raged; the wind still blew.  
He stood on the deck with the Duke of York,  
Each of them too stunned to talk.  
Close to a hundred houses an hour  
Ignited when faced with the flames' great power.  
The fire had eaten everything in its way,  
Yet more was to come on the following day.  
The next day the Duke of York would fight,  
He started in the morning, and went into the night.

Every man, woman and child,  
Forced to fight a fire so wild,  
Inside the city walls,  
Round alleyways and market stalls.  
Evening brought no end to their trials;  
Long clouds of smoke travelled fifty miles!  
Explosions filled the city over following days;  
Fireballs, man-made, to clear the way!  
The idea was to stop the fire from carving  
On through the city, by leaving it starving.  
“No buildings stay up in this area! That’s the rule!  
Let’s see if the fire can last with no fuel!”  
Young and old watched as the fires died down,  
Ruins the only things left on hot ground,  
Ugly, glowing embers  
In the first days of September.  
Nearly all of the city was gone in four days,  
Swallowed and scooped by the pitiless blaze.  
Any idea of the size of the cost,  
Now that 13,200 houses were lost?  
Did you know 87 churches became rubble and stone,  
And 80,000 people were left with no home?  
So let’s all learn a lesson while we feel a bit shocked:  
Hungry are fires, and hard to be stopped.



A Fire Ate the City Acrostic Poem – Challenge Activity

**Section A**

Tick the correct answer.

Thomas Farriner's bakery was on...

Pudding Street

Bread Street

Pudding Lane

Bread Lane





The flames were described as...

fast

sleepy

thirsty

hungry





The sky was filled with...

flames

smoke

birds

explosions





The King stood on the deck with the...

Duke of York

Lord Mayor

baker

Fire Chief





How many churches were destroyed?

13,200

80,000

87

150





**Section B**

Use the information in the text to decide whether these statements are true or false.

	True	False
The Great Fire of London began in a bakery on Pudding Lane.		
The flames were red and yellow, hot and dull.		
The fire was fanned by a wind from the south.		
The King sailed up the River Thames.		
Close to one hundred houses an hour ignited.		
100,000 people were left without homes.		

### Section C

Use the information in the text to determine whether the statements are true or false.

Statement	True or False?
“Duke of York!” cried the King, his senses ignited, “Organise the best way to fight it!”	
All of London might become part of its feast! The fire was fanned by a wind from the east.	
Close to a thousand houses an hour Ignited when faced with the flames’ great power.	
Evening brought no end to their trials; Long clouds of smoke travelled fifty miles!	
Ugly, glowing embers In the first days of September.	
Did you know 87 churches became rubble and stone, And 80,000 people were left with no home?	

### Section D

Use the information in the text to decide who might have said the following:

Statement	Person
“I don’t know how to put out this fire, Your Majesty.”	
“I’m so tired, it’s been a long day at the bakery.”	
“I have an idea that will stop this fire.”	
“I must ask the Lord Mayor to organise how to put out this fire!”	

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# Answers

## A Fire Ate the City Acrostic Poem – Challenge Activity

### Section A

Tick the correct answer.

Thomas Farriner's bakery was on...

pudding Street

Bread Street

Pudding Lane

Bread Lane

The flames were described as...

fast

sleepy

thirsty

hungry

The sky was filled with...

flames

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explosions

The King stood on the deck with the...

Duke of York

Lord Mayor

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Fire Chief

How many churches were destroyed?

13,200

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### Section B

Use the information in the text to decide whether these statements are true or false.

	True	False
The Great Fire of London began in a bakery on Pudding Lane.	✓	
The flames were red and yellow, hot and dull.		✓
The fire was fanned by a wind from the south.		✓
The King sailed up the River Thames.	✓	
Close to one hundred houses an hour ignited.	✓	
100,000 people were left without homes.		✓

## A Fire Ate the City Acrostic Poem – Challenge Activity

### Section C

Use the information in the text to determine whether the statements are true or false.

Statement	True or False?
“Duke of York!” cried the King, his senses ignited, “Organise the best way to fight it!”	False
All of London might become part of its feast! The fire was fanned by a wind from the east.	True
Close to a thousand houses an hour Ignited when faced with the flames’ great power.	False
Evening brought no end to their trials; Long clouds of smoke travelled fifty miles!	True
Ugly, glowing embers In the first days of September.	True
Did you know 87 churches became rubble and stone, And 80,000 people were left with no home?	True

### Section D

Use the information in the text to decide who might have said the following:

Statement	Person
“I don’t know how to put out this fire, Your Majesty.”	The Lord Mayor
“I’m so tired, it’s been a long day at the bakery.”	Thomas Farriner
“I have an idea that will stop this fire.”	The Duke of York
“I must ask the Lord Mayor to organise how to put out this fire!”	The King