

6.5 Reading for pleasure

Seventeenth-century London

- 1 Look at the illustration. Use the words in the box to describe what is happening.

burn catch fire destroy flames
panic put out wooden



- 2 Can you think of any possible positive outcomes of a fire like this?
- 3 Read the extract from *Disaster*.

The story so far

Seventeenth-century London was crowded, dirty and full of a deadly disease, carried by rats, which had killed thousands of people in 1665. On Monday 3 September 1666, the city was changed forever when a fire started in a baker's shop.

It was two o'clock in the morning. Thomas Farynor, who made bread for King Charles the Second, was asleep above his shop, near the River Thames and London Bridge. One of Farynor's men woke up and went to light the kitchen fires. Mr Farynor kept a lot of wood in his kitchen, ready to cook the bread every day. That morning, the man discovered that some wood had caught fire, and the kitchen was beginning to burn.

In a short time the fire spread to other houses and a strong wind blew flames towards the west. The fire moved quickly though the old city. The houses were made of wood, and were built very close together in narrow streets. As the fire spread, it destroyed everything in its way, but it could not cross the River Thames. After some time, it reached the buildings beside the river where rich businessmen kept strange and exciting things from across the seas. Then London began to smell of hot pepper, and burning brandy began to flow like a river through the streets.

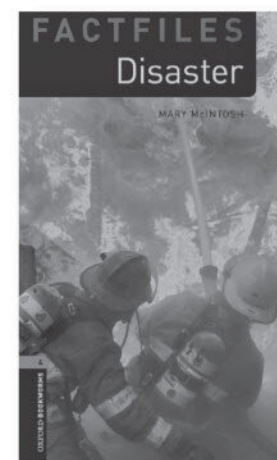
As Lord Mayor of London, Sir Thomas Bludworth was one of the most important and powerful men in the city. He thought that the fire could be put out easily, so he tried to organize the fire-fighting. But he soon realized that the job was more difficult than he expected, and left the city in a panic. It was then that King Charles and his brother James decided to try and help.

The king soon realized that the fire was completely out of control. He called a meeting of the Privy Council – a group of important men who could help and advise him. Together they decided to make several 'fire posts' in the city, where the fire-fighters were given everything they needed to fight the fire. King Charles led the fight, and he gave a special guinea coin to every helper. (One guinea was worth a bit more than one English pound, which was a lot of money in those days.) He worked for thirty hours without sleep, and he was much loved for his bravery.

King Charles and his men decided to clear part of the city by pulling down some houses, so that the fire had nothing to burn there. This stopped the fire, and by Wednesday 5 September 1666, the fire was finally under control.

The Great Fire of London had several important results. It finally stopped the disease which had killed so many people in 1665. It destroyed 87 churches, but it also burnt down about 13,000 wooden houses which were neither safe nor healthy. After the Great Fire, more houses were built of stone, so London became a cleaner, healthier city.

The Great Fire also badly damaged one of London's most important churches, the old Saint Paul's Cathedral, so King Charles asked Sir Christopher Wren to plan a new cathedral. In 1675, Sir Christopher finally began the 'new' Saint Paul's, which still stands in London today.



Review: Units 5 and 6

Grammar

- 1 Choose the correct options to complete the sentences.
- I've only read *little* / *a little* of the book so far, but I love it!
 - I remember *to see* / *seeing* that film years ago.
 - The Lake Windermere* / *Lake Windermere* is the biggest lake in the UK.
 - A large number of* / *A large quantity of* new houses are being built in the area.
 - Although he was tired, he made himself *to continue* / *continue* with the work.
 - I haven't seen any of my old colleagues since *to change* / *changing* my job.
 - I had *a* / *the* really vivid dream last night.
 - It isn't easy *to learn* / *learn* to ski.
- 2 Complete the text with words from the box. There are more words than you need.

a a few a little an few little ~~many~~ much
(no article) of several the the thousands of to

LEGO'S ONLINE COMMUNITY

Nowadays, ¹ many children play games online. Using *Minecraft*, for example, they can build very detailed online worlds, with ² _____ virtual bricks. You might think that ³ _____ traditional toy company like Lego could be left behind. However, Lego is in fact going from strength to strength. This is partly due to the enormous success of *The Lego Movie*, ⁴ _____ highest grossing film of 2014, but it is also due to ⁵ _____ company's online presence. Lego has built up ⁶ _____ online communities where the company can interact with customers – for example, LegoClub, where ⁷ _____ people can upload photos of their Lego creations. For the customers, this is a great way to show off and get new ideas, but for Lego it's ⁸ _____ opportunity ⁹ _____ analyse what people are doing with their product. Another example is the crowd sourcing site, CUUSOO, where fans submit ideas for new products and others vote on them, giving ¹⁰ _____ of them the chance ¹¹ _____ actually being produced by Lego.

Vocabulary

- 3 Complete the sentences by rearranging the letters in brackets to make words.
- I used to work in a factory. The pay was OK but the job was really _____ (vipteretie).
 - I find it hard to focus in class. My mind _____ (dewrans) to what I'm going to have for lunch.
 - I can remember it really clearly, but he says he has no _____ (crootillnec) of what happened.
 - Watching TV may be bad for the kids, but at least it keeps them _____ (pocudice).
 - Over the next few years, the use of this approach will be gradually _____ (pashde) out.
 - The meeting was so dull I literally ran out of the room at the end, _____ (prasdeete) to escape.
 - It was so boring I kept losing _____ (cartnoocien).
- 4 Choose the best words or phrases to complete the text.

¹ Globally / Socially, many people celebrate Mother's Day, and even Father's Day, but not many countries celebrate Friend's Day. It was ² adjusted / established in Argentina in 1970 to celebrate the anniversary of the first moon landings and is now a popular ³ ceremony / festival in several Latin American countries, though on different dates. It is mostly an excuse ⁴ to get people together / to get to know someone, though many people also ⁵ take / put the opportunity to get in touch with friends they haven't seen for a long time. In 2005, the number of people phoning friends ⁶ made / put so much pressure on the mobile phone system in Buenos Aires that it completely stopped working.

Speaking

- 5a Complete the sentences by adding the words in brackets in the correct position.
- So, ^{how} do you know Jonathan? (how)
 - I suppose no harm in doing that. (there's)
 - Have you lived here long? (round)
 - Sorry, but I couldn't overhearing ... (help)
- b 6.5))) Listen and check your answers.