

London Burns

7 In 1666, more than half a million
12 people called London home. Many
18 houses and other buildings filled the
24 city. Most of these **structures** were
31 made of wood, and many had straw
38 roofs. It sounds **quaint**, but when a
44 fire **broke out** on September 2,
49 those materials made perfect **fuel**.
56 In no time, all of London was
burning out of control.



60 The fire started in a bakery on Pudding Lane. The baker
71 forgot to put out the fire in his oven before going to bed.
84 Sparks from the oven **ignited** a fire. By the time the baker
96 discovered it, the fire was too big for him to **extinguish**. A
108 strong wind caused it to **spread** quickly.

115 London did not have a fire department. At that time, people
126 fought fires by passing buckets of water, but that was not
137 enough for this fire.

141 The fire burned for days! People grabbed what they could
151 and **fled** the city. On the fourth day, the fire was put out, but the
166 city was **demolished**. Thousands of homes were gone. Many
175 churches and businesses were **destroyed** too. Surprisingly,
182 fewer than 20 people died.

187 After the fire, the people of London were **determined** to
197 rebuild. It took many years, but they **restored** London to a
208 beautiful and **thriving** city!

words read

- errors

= score

Quick Quiz

5. What is the main idea of *London Burns*?
- m. In 1666, a great fire destroyed the city of London.
 - n. The Great Fire of London could not be put out quickly.
 - o. Half a million people lived in London in 1666.
6. What ignited the Great Fire of London?
- c. a tipped oil lamp in the bakery
 - d. buildings made of wood and straw
 - e. sparks from a baker's oven
7. What does the word **spread** mean in this story?
- r. to unfold or open as wide as possible
 - s. to go out and affect many people or places
 - t. to cover with a layer of something
8. Which was NOT a reason that the fire was hard to put out?
- a. London's buildings looked very quaint.
 - b. Many of the buildings were made of wood and straw.
 - c. The strong wind helped spread the fire.



Talk about what you learned

Do you think a fire would be as likely to destroy London today? Why or why not?