

# Escape the Fire!

It was a sunny Sunday morning and Molly the scullery maid was busy doing her chores. She had woken up early because she couldn't sleep. It had been a long, hot summer and she wanted to get the jobs done before it got too warm.

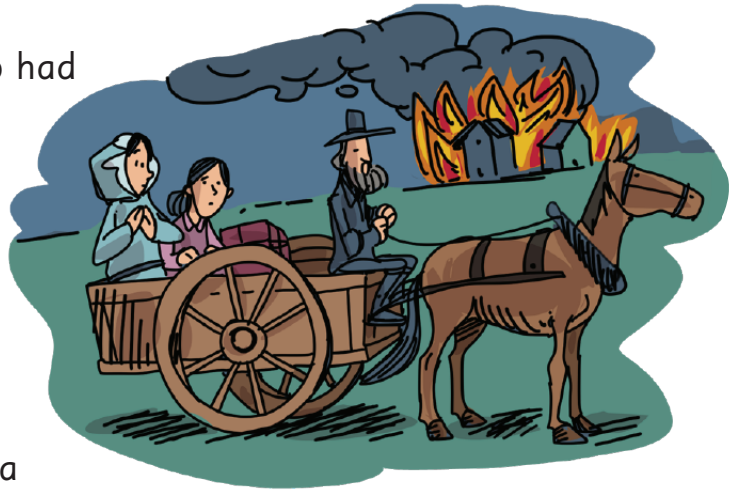
Suddenly, she smelt burning. Had the cook left something in the oven? She rushed to the kitchen to find out what it was. "There's a terrible fire on the other side of town and it's spreading fast," the cook told her. Molly was scared and she quickly



ran upstairs to look out of her bedroom window. She could see thick, grey smoke filling the air and people rushing about and shouting. When she opened the window, she could hear loud bangs and crashes. They needed to make a break in the buildings, so houses were being pulled down. If this didn't stop the fire, then she didn't know what would!

Returning to the kitchen, Molly looked around for her friend who was the kitchen boy, but he was nowhere to be seen. "He's gone to help try and put out the fire," said the cook. "All the servants from the street are out with their leather buckets to fight the fire." She told her that the blaze would never reach them, so Molly carried on with her day and tried to not worry.

The next morning, the inferno had spread. Everybody was beginning to panic. What should they do? Should they stay in the house or try and escape like most of their neighbours had? Molly didn't have a



chance to think because the master was shouting to come straight away. Molly jumped onto the cart and they made their way towards the River Thames.

On their way, Molly saw people hiding their valuables in their cellars to protect them from the great fire. Molly even saw someone digging a hole in their garden and putting a wheel of cheese in there!

Soon, Molly, the other servants and her master reached the busy river. Carefully, Molly clambered onto the small boat and sat next to the cook. The master pushed them away from the river's edge and they sailed across the water.

Looking back, Molly watched with tears rolling down her cheeks as she saw the streets she had grown up in being taken over by bright orange flames. She wondered if she would ever be able to return to her home again.

