

Nell Saunders' Diary

by Gabrielle Kent

Vocabulary

Grammar

Punctuation

Composition

This recount is written as a diary, retelling the events of the Great Fire of London from a young girl's point of view. It is written in the first person, and shows Nell's feelings about the events.

The personal pronoun *I* is used, as the recount is in the first person.

Time adverbials are used to sequence events.

The suffix *-er* is added to create an adjective that compares (comparative).

Real Writing – Y2, Unit 7 Nell Saunders' Diary

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Thursday 6th September, 1666

Dear Diary,

It has been five days since my last entry and **I** can hardly believe what has happened in **that** time.

Early on Sunday morning, a fire started in Thomas Farriner's **bakery** on Pudding Lane. Father said we were safe, it would never reach our house half a mile away. I decided to go out to see it. The streets were **busier** than I have ever seen them. People were dragging sacks of belongings out of their doors then loading them onto carts. **Terrified** children cried in their parents' arms as they were carried to safety. Whole rows of streets were burning. **Fiery embers** floated on the **scorching** breeze, spreading the fire. I had never been so frightened in my life.

When I got back home, every house on the other side of our street was gone. The King and Mr Samuel Pepys had ordered them to be pulled down to break the path of the fire. I hoped it would work **because** it seemed the whole of London was burning.

By Tuesday, the fire was so close that all I could see from my window was flaming buildings and **towering columns of smoke**. We **couldn't** stay in our house any longer. I helped Mother and Father hide some **valuables** under the floor then we hurried down to the **Thames**. Thousands of people were huddled on the riverbanks, their faces grey with **ash**. We slept on Father's boat for two nights and washed in cold river water.

By Thursday, the fire had finally burned out. We went to see the remains of our home and were **amazed** to find it still standing! Mr Pepys' plan had stopped the fire. I couldn't believe how lucky we were to have survived the **greatest** fire London has ever seen.

The subordinating conjunctions *when* and *because* are used.

A noun phrase is created by adding information before (*towering*) and after (*of smoke*) the noun (*column*).

An apostrophe is used for contraction.

Nell and her family's feelings are shown in the diary.

The suffix *-est* is added to create an adjective that compares more than one thing (superlative).