The Great Fire of London – guided reading

Name: ........................................................... Date: .............................................................

The Great Fire of London – guided reading text A

Read through the following passage independently and discuss the questions below.

It was a warm late summer evening in 1666. People were fast asleep in their comfortable beds. In the air there was a faint smell of bread which was coming from a little bakery on Pudding Lane. As the night drew out, the smell of freshly baked bread turned into the thick scent of burnt dough.

A servant boy was walking down the dark corridor when suddenly something caught his eye. He walked closer to the window and was shocked to see colours of bright orange, fiery red and yellow dancing in the distance. As he got closer, the servant boy realised what it was. It was fire! The servant boy dashed around the house waking everyone up with his loud screeches, “Fire! Everyone wake up! Fire!”

The owner of the house woke up and wrapped his green dressing gown around him tightly, rubbing his eyes, clearly angry at being woken in the middle of the night. The servant boy grabbed the man’s shoulders, and shouted straight into his face.

“Fire, get out! There is a fire!”

Soon the streets were filled with people staring in bewilderment at the glowing, dancing flames of what would later be called the Great Fire of London.

Write any words you are unsure of in this box:

Find and discuss:

1. How was the evening described?

2. What was the owner of the house wearing?

3. How do you think the people were feeling?
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A servant boy was walking down the dark corridor when suddenly something caught his eye. He walked closer to the window and was amazed to see colours of bright orange, fiery red and yellow dancing in the distance. After a while, the servant boy realised what this magical dance was. It was fire! The servant boy ran around the house waking everyone up with his loud shouts, “Fire! Wake up! Fire!”

The owner of the house woke up and wrapped his emerald green dressing gown around him tightly, rubbing his eyes, clearly angry at being woken in the middle of the night. The servant boy feeling brave grabbed the man’s shoulders, and yelled straight into his face.

“Fire, get out! There is a fire!”

After a moment or two the servant and the rest of the people in the house were scrambling down the stairs towards the front door. They threw it open and stumbled onto the cobble stones of the streets outside. The air seemed warmer than usual. The fire lit up London so it looked like dawn already. The flames were higher now, much higher than the buildings, and spreading fast. Together the boy servant and the rest of the people from the house banged on as many doors as possible to wake people up.

Soon the streets were filled with people staring in astonishment at the glowing, dancing flames of what would later be called the Great Fire of London.

Write any words you are unsure of in this box:

1. How was the evening described?  
2. What was the owner of the house wearing?  
3. What does livid mean?  
4. Can you link this to something else you have read?
Read through the following passage independently and discuss the questions below.

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Write any words you are unsure of in this box:

1. How was the evening described?
2. What was the owner of the house wearing?
3. What does livid mean?
4. What do you think happened next?
5. Can you link this to anything else you have read?