

The Great Fire of London Drama Ideas

Hot Seating

Invite the children to hot seat different adults pretending to be a character associated with the fire. For example, Samuel Pepys, King Charles II, Thomas Farynor, an ordinary person who had to leave their home. Encourage the group to jot down answers to their pre-planned questions.

What Would You Save?

Some people buried important things in the garden to keep them safe. Discuss what you would bury and all act it out together. Some may need help digging from others, depending on what they are burying!

A Windy Night

Ask the children to imagine they are the strong wind helping the fire to burn. Think about the sounds wind makes as it whooshes along. Invite them to be the wind, moving their whole body in one direction as they 'push' the flames along from building to building.

Different People

Organise the class into small groups and ask each group to mime doing different things which people did during the fire e.g. pulling down houses, throwing buckets of water on the fire, packing their belongings into carts, burying valuables in the garden. Then, mix the groups up, ensuring there is one person from each group to act out the action they have been practising. Retell the story and discuss the effect of everyone doing something different in their group and the feelings people might have had that night.



Fire

Move your body in the way you think fire would move across the roofs of the buildings. What noises do you think the fire would make as it moves?

Fetch the Water!

Water was needed to put the fire out, as everything was so dry due to the hot summer. Ask the children to mime collecting the water from a nearby well or water butt, then try carrying their heavy bucket down the road to the nearest fire and sloshing their water on the fire, then repeating the process.

