**The Great Fire of London**

Once upon a time, in a busy city called London, there were streets with narrow paths, all made of cobblestones. Tall spires of churches and cathedrals reached up into the sky, and the houses were so close together that they almost touched. These houses were made of wood, with roofs covered in thatched straw.

In the evenings, when the sun dipped below the horizon, the streets sparkled with tiny flames. Lights hung from doorways, flickering in the darkness. Inside the houses, families cooked their meals and warmed their homes with real fire.

One day, on the 2nd of September in the year 1666, a spark flew from a baker's oven on Pudding Lane. The baker, named Thomas Farriner, owned the bakery. That tiny spark grew and grew until it became a raging fire.

The wind blew fiercely, fanning the flames. With the houses packed closely together and made of wood, the fire spread quickly. People tried to stop it, carrying water in leather buckets and spraying it with water squirts, but it wasn't enough.

The fire raged on for four days and nights. By the time it was finally extinguished, eight out of every ten houses had burned down. More than 13,200 houses and 87 churches were destroyed, including the grand St. Paul's Cathedral. Six people lost their lives, and 70,000 were left homeless.

But the people of London didn't give up. They rebuilt their city, wider and straighter than before, with houses made of sturdy brick. King Charles II demanded these changes to prevent another disaster.

Architects like Sir Christopher Wren were appointed to redesign the city. Sir Christopher Wren rebuilt St. Paul's Cathedral, which still stands tall today. He also built a monument to remember the Great Fire of London, which was finished in 1677.

During these times, a man named Samuel Pepys wrote about everything that happened in his diary. He wrote about the fire and how he met with the king to help stop it. His diary is like a time machine, taking us back to the events of history.

Samuel Pepys's writings are special because he was there when it all happened. He worked for the king and even became a Member of Parliament later on. His diary is a primary source, which means it comes from someone who lived during that time.

Thanks to people like Samuel Pepys and the changes made by King Charles II and architects like Sir Christopher Wren, London became stronger and safer than ever before. And the story of the Great Fire of London will always be remembered, a reminder of how a city can rise from the ashes.