YEAR 8 • CLOZE READING

Non-Fiction Text with Gaps

The Great Fire of London

Name _____ **Date** _____

1 **Read the factual account.** Choose words or phrases from the word bank to complete gaps 1–12. Write one choice on each line. **Two words are extra.**

Word bank CHOOSE CAREFULLY

Pudding Lane	brick	Thames	plague
gunpowder	Christopher Wren	buckets	canals
firebreak	wind	Cathedral	timber
Monument	brigade		

A city in flames

COMPLETE THE TEXT

In the early hours of Sunday 2 September 1666, a fire began in a bakery on [1] _____, in the City of London. The city was still largely medieval: many homes were built from [2] _____, and their upper floors often overhung the streets. After a hot, dry summer, these buildings could catch fire easily. A strong [3] _____ helped the flames leap from roof to roof.

Londoners tried to carry water from the River [4] _____, passing it along in leather [5] _____. There was no single city-wide fire [6] _____, so neighbours and local groups used simple equipment to fight the blaze. Narrow streets made it difficult to move quickly, and the flames spread through much of the city.

To halt the fire, officials ordered some buildings to be pulled down. The cleared space, known as a [7] _____, was meant to stop the flames moving further. In some places, teams used [8] _____ to demolish houses quickly. By Wednesday 5 September, the fire was under control. It had destroyed thousands of homes and many landmarks, including old St Paul's [9] _____.

After the disaster, new building rules required many houses to be built of [10] _____ or stone, helping to reduce fire risk. Streets were also planned more carefully. The new St Paul's Cathedral was designed by architect [11] _____. A tall column called the [12] _____, completed in 1677, now stands close to where the fire began and commemorates the disaster and London's rebuilding.

• Before you finish, re-read the whole text and check that each choice makes sense.