

Year 8 Drama - Extracts from Samuel Pepys Diary 17th Century

The Great Plague of London

June 10th 1665

In the evening home to supper, and there to my great trouble hear that the plague is come into the City (though it hath these three or four weeks since its beginning been wholly out of the City); but where should it begin but in my good friend and neighbors, Dr Burnett in Fancy-street - which in both points troubles me mightily.

To the office to finish my letters, and then home to bed - being troubled at the sickness, and my head filled also with other business enough, and particularly how to put my things and estate in order, in case it should please God to call me away - which God disposes of to his own glory.

June 15th 1665

The Duke of Yorke has not yet come to town. The town grows very sickly, and people are afraid of it - there dying this last week of the plague 112, from 43 the week before - whereof, one in Fenchurch-street and one in Broadstreet by the Treasurer's office.

The Great Fire of London

1 September 1666

Up and at [the office](#) all the morning, and then dined at [home](#). Got my new closet made mighty clean against to-morrow. [Sir W. Pen](#) and [my wife](#) and [Mercer](#) and I went to "[Polichinelle](#)," but were horribly frightened to see [Young Killigrew](#) come in with a great many more young sparks; but we hid ourselves, so as we thought they did not see us. By and by, they went away, and then we were at rest again; and so, the play being done, we to [Islington](#), and there eat and drank and mighty merry; and so home singing, and, after a letter or two at the office, to bed.

2 September 1666

(Lord's day). Some of our mayds sitting up late last night to get things ready against our feast to-day, [Jane](#) called us up about three in the morning, to tell us of a great [fire](#) they saw in [the City](#). So I rose and slipped on my nightgown, and went to her window, and thought it to be on the backside of [Market-lane](#) at the farthest; but, being unused to such fires as followed, I thought it far enough off; and so went to bed again and to sleep.

About seven rose again to dress myself, and there looked out the window, and saw the fire not so much as it was and further off. So to my closet to set things to rights after yesterday's cleaning. Jane comes and tells me that she hears that the above 300 houses have been burned down to-night by the fire we saw, and that it is now burning down all [Fish-street](#), by [London Bridge](#).

<p>1.</p>  	<p>2.</p> 	<p>3.</p>  
<p>Hears the plague has come to the city. He goes away to his office to finish his letters with his head full of business.</p>	<p>The plague deaths are only growing in the city with over a hundred dead. The town is sickly.</p>	<p>At the office all morning. Went to Polichinelle where they hid from Young Killigrew and his many young sparks.</p>
<p>4.</p>  	<p>5.</p>  	<p>6.</p>  
<p>Went to Islington where they merrily ate and drank out. Went home singing.</p>	<p>Was awoken by the maid to tell him of a fire. He thought it far enough away and returned to sleep.</p>	<p>Got up at 7. The maid told him some 300 houses had been burned down and it was still going.</p>