

THE SCAR GATHERER

WORKSHEET I

THE PLAGUE

‘ “The plague turned London into a ghost town,” Lucy’s mother said. “Hundreds were dying every week, thousands even, at its height. Many of those who were well fled the city, or stayed indoors, afraid to leave their homes or locked up as we were.”

“You were locked up? How long for?”

“Almost three months in total, until four weeks after Cecily died -” Ellen broke off.

“That’s how it was here,” Lucy said quietly. “Once one member of a family died, they painted a red cross on the door, and the words ‘God have mercy’, so people knew to stay away. They posted a watchman outside too, day and night, to make sure nobody came out.”

“How did you get food?” Joe asked, aghast.

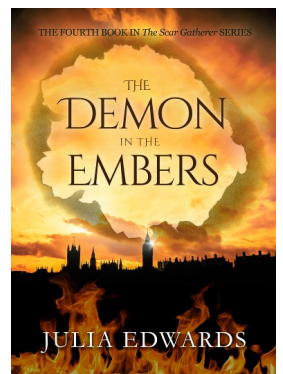
“There were two kind families among the Mercers,” Lucy said. “They gave food to the watchman for us. But then one of those families left town, and the other was locked up like us.”

“Four of my children died of the plague,” Ellen said. “But baby Thomas died of starvation.” She cleared her throat. “My milk dried up, because we had so little to eat and drink.”

There was a long silence in the room. Joe didn’t know what to say.’

Chapter 3

Imagine what it was like to live through the Great Plague of 1665. Can you write the story of one of the Mercer families who helped Lucy’s family while they were locked up? Use books or the internet if you need to find out more information about the Plague.



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WORKSHEET 2

THE SIGNS ON THE BUILDINGS

‘ “But some of these signs must mean something?” Joe gestured up at the sign hanging high up on the wall of the building they were passing.

“Of course. That row of coffins -”

“Don’t tell me,” he interrupted. “It’s a coffin-maker! Yes, I’m not a complete idiot. And the bag of nails on the sign back there was for someone who makes nails.”

“Not just nails. An ironmonger,” Lucy corrected him.

“But I saw one earlier with an elephant on it,” Joe said. “That shop doesn’t sell elephants, does it?”

“No, ivory. So it sells combs and things like that.” From her voice, it was clear that it should have been obvious.

“Alright, then. What about that one over there, with the cupid and torch?”

“That’s a glazier.”

“How would I know that from the sign?” Joe was frustrated.

“Because the coat of arms of the Worshipful Company of Glaziers and Painters of Glass has two cupids holding torches on it.”

“Oh. That’s not very obvious, isn’t it?”

“Maybe not,” she conceded.

“And I saw another one with Adam and Eve,” he said. “Do they sell snakes or apples?”

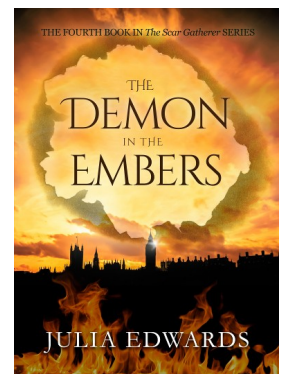
“Apples and other fruit. You’re getting the hang of it.” She smiled encouragingly at him, as though he was a small child.

Joe snorted. “What about the one I saw with a unicorn and a dragon, then? Or was that just a private house?”

“No, that was an apothecary. He makes remedies for illnesses.” ’

Chapter 5

Think about the shops in the place where you live. Can you draw signs to represent what they sell? Remember, shop signs in the time of the Great Fire didn’t have writing on them, so your designs need to tell people what is in each shop without using words.



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WORKSHEET 3

TOBIAS RETURNS HOME IN THE NIGHT

‘ “It seemed that Tobias didn’t want me here, Madam,” Joe said cautiously.

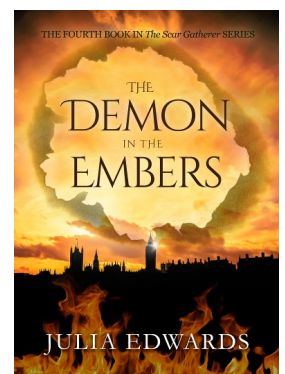
“Lucy said he bundled you out of the house in the night,” Ellen said. “I can’t believe we didn’t hear it! I don’t know why she didn’t wake us. We could have stopped him!”

“It wasn’t quite like that,” Joe said. “He asked me to go with him. I didn’t like to say no. I told her not to wake you. I didn’t want to disturb you. I didn’t think it was anything serious.” He shot another look at Lucy. She nodded.

“Well, she did wake us after you’d gone,” Ellen said. “She was worried, and rightly so. We caught Tobias letting himself back into the house alone. He claimed he’d had no idea you were here! He denied having taken you anywhere. And then he came out with some fantastical story about you having vanished in front of him! But he refused to say what he wanted with you. In fact, he barely spoke another word from that night until he disappeared.” ’

Chapter 12

Look again at the end of chapter 11 and the beginning of chapter 12, then imagine the scene in which Tobias is caught coming back into the house in the night. Write the dialogue between Lucy, her parents and Tobias, in which Tobias tries to explain what he has been doing out of the house, and Lucy’s parents try to find out what has happened to Joe.



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WORKSHEET 4

THE MONKEY'S STORY

‘Joe suddenly realised there hadn’t been the usual welcome from the monkey today.
“Where is Solomon?”

“Gone,” Lucy said. They had stopped again, pressed up against a house while another cart edged through. “It seems as though he sensed the fire somehow. Maybe he heard it or smelled it. Anyway, he waited until Peter let him off the leash yesterday, and then made straight for the kitchen window.”

“Isn’t that just coincidence?”

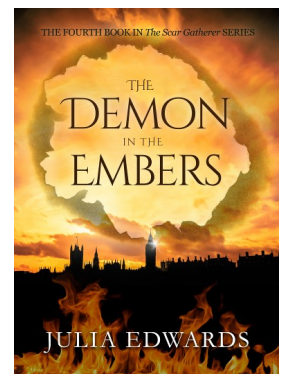
Lucy shook her head. “I don’t think so. He could have done it any number of times – the windows have been open all summer because it’s been so hot.” She shrugged. “My father says it’s an ill wind that blows no good.”

Joe looked at her. “I don’t understand.”

“The fire may be coming, and my father has lost a lot already,” Lucy said. “But on the positive side, he’s not sorry to see the back of either Tobias or Solomon!” She grinned.’

Chapter 12

Look again at the descriptions of the fire in chapters 11, 12 and 13. Can you write an account of the fire from the point of view of the monkey, including its return to Lucy’s house once the fire has died down?

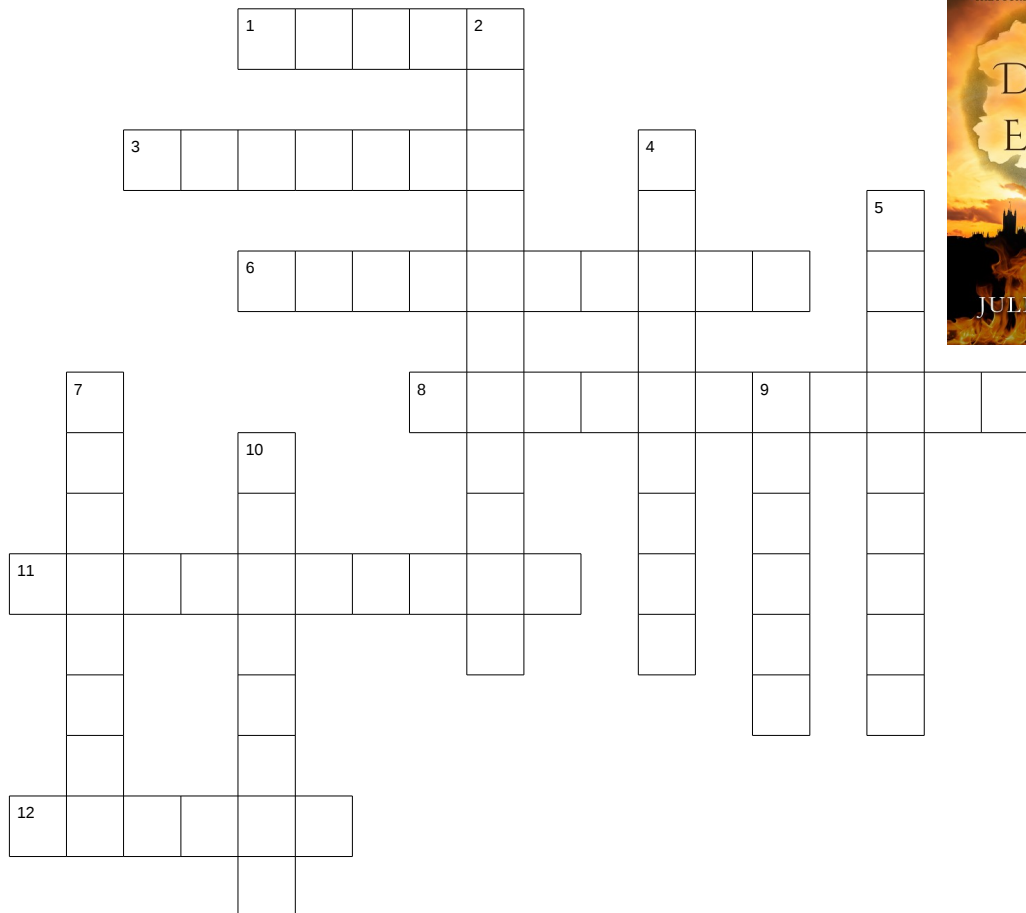
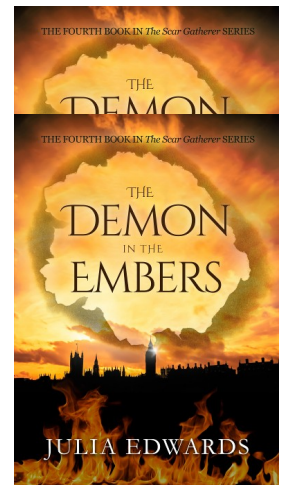


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CROSSWORD

Now that you've read "The Demon in the Embers", can you complete the crossword below with the answers to the clues?



ACROSS

1. What was the trade of the shop where the Great Fire of London started? (5)
3. What was the name of the king who was on the throne in 1666? (6)
6. What was the word for slip-on shoes worn by men? (10)
8. Who wrote a diary including the Great Fire which became famous? (6,5)
11. What was the name for a household toilet (clue – this is one of two possibilities)? (5-5)
12. What was the word for a merchant who traded in silk and other luxury fabrics? (6)

DOWN

2. What is the name of the historical period which includes the Great Fire of London? (11)
4. What was the name of the palace where the king lived? (9)
5. What dangerous substance was stored in the Tower of London? (9)
7. What was the name of a dish made by baking animal heart, lungs, liver and kidneys in pastry? (5,3)
9. What major event happened the year before the Great Fire? (6)
10. What was the word for short, baggy trousers worn in this period? (8)

ANSWERS:

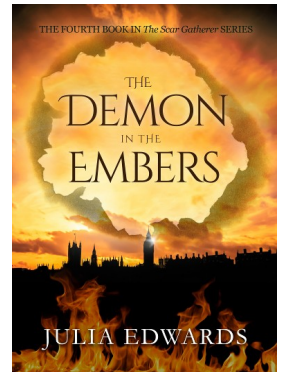
ACROSS: 1. baker 3. Charles 4. Charles 5. gunpowder 6. Restoration 7. Hitchhall 8. Samuel Pepys 9. Plague 10. breeches
DOWN: 2. mercer 3. Charles 4. Hitchhall 5. gunpowder 6. Restoration 7. Hitchhall 8. Samuel Pepys 9. Plague 10. breeches

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QUIZ

Now that you've read "The Demon in the Embers", see how much you can remember from the story.



1. What used to be kept at the Tower of London?
2. What do the two men who capture Joe intend to do with him?
.....
3. What is Lucy's father's trade?
4. What have Lucy's sisters and two of her brothers died from?
5. What kind of animal is Solomon?
6. What religious group does Tobias belong to?
7. Where is Oliver Cromwell's head?
8. What is sold in a shop with an elephant on the sign?
9. What is a footpad?
10. Where has Lucy's family been when Joe meets her the second time?
11. Where does the king live?
12. What is at the Palace of Westminster?
13. What dangerous substance is stored in the Tower of London?
14. What do we call the historical period that includes the Great Fire, and why?
.....
15. What is Joe doing the third time he slips into Lucy's world?
16. Where has Lucy hidden Tobias' plans?
17. What is the name of the weekly list of people who died?
18. What were the black stalks standing in the ashes of the city?
19. Where did Lucy find herself after she escaped from the fire?
20. How did Joe get the scar in this book?

ANSWERS:

1. Royal Menagerie 2. Press-gang him onto a warship 3. Mercer 4. Plague 5. Monkey 6. Puritans 7. On a spike above Westminster Hall
8. Ivory combs 9. Thief or pickpocket 10. Foxhall pleasure gardens 11. Palace of Whitehall 12. Government 13. Gunpowder 14. Restoration,
- after the king returned to the throne when the monarchy was restored. 15. Swimming 16. In a barrel of sand 17. Bill of Mortality 18. Chimney
- stacks 19. Moorfields encampment 20. He burnt his foot trying to put out a fire.

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WORDSEARCH

Can you spot twenty words from "The Demon in the Embers" in the grid below?

T	S	P	U	D	D	I	N	G	L	A	N	E	S	A	M
H	B	Y	L	A	G	N	A	G	S	S	E	R	P	R	U
R	R	S	P	H	G	A	T	S	O	S	A	U	E	O	E
E	E	E	C	E	T	R	A	I	T	S	R	A	T	Y	C
M	E	X	S	S	P	S	E	P	O	I	L	D	D	A	L
P	C	L	O	T	R	L	A	A	T	I	A	L	V	L	M
R	H	A	I	E	O	U	E	A	T	E	R	A	P	E	P
N	E	Y	H	T	L	R	N	U	H	F	L	E	R	X	L
U	S	O	S	S	T	R	A	D	M	I	I	C	O	C	L
M	R	E	O	G	P	N	N	T	E	A	E	R	R	H	A
B	W	I	L	A	L	U	P	R	I	R	S	T	E	A	H
L	M	N	L	O	O	T	S	E	S	O	L	C	W	N	E
E	T	S	A	R	E	U	G	A	L	P	N	R	O	G	T
P	E	R	G	U	M	A	P	R	E	S	T	A	T	E	I
I	S	T	O	C	K	S	M	A	R	K	E	T	I	O	H
E	C	A	V	A	R	E	T	S	N	I	M	T	S	E	W

BREECHES
CAVALIER
CLOSE-STOOL
GALLOSHIOS
GREAT FIRE
MERCER
PLAGUE

PRESS-GANG
PUDDING LANE
PURITAN
RESTORATION
ROUNDHEAD
ROYAL EXCHANGE
SAMUEL PEPYS

ST PAUL'S
STOCKS MARKET
TOWER
UMBLE PIE
WESTMINSTER
WHITEHALL

