



# THE GREAT FIRE

## Discussion Guide #2

Encourage critical thinking and support your students' literacy development by asking questions during reading. Here are some questions you can ask your readers to engage them in a discussion.

<b>CHAPTER 3</b> "The Dogs of Hell Were Upon The Housetops"	<b>CHAPTER 4</b> "A Surging Ocean of Flame"	<b>CHAPTER 5</b> "Chicago Is in Flames"
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### Comprehension

- How did the fire cross the river?
- What was Alexander Frear's initial response to the fire, and what changed his mind?
- What happened to Claire during her family's initial escape from the fire?
- Describe the impact of the wind during the fire.
- Why did Horace White think the Tribune Building was fireproof? What was its fatal flaw?
- Why did White refuse to believe that people behaved unkindly or illegally during the fire?
- Name three things that helped Claire survive the fire at the construction site.
- What news did Alexander Frear receive that allowed him to rest?
- The author stated that the Great Fire could have continued destroying the city. What eventually stopped the blaze?

### Analysis

- Contrast Alexander Frear's assumptions about how different social classes would act during an emergency to what he witnessed during the fire. Why do you think Frear made those assumptions?
- What happened to Chicago's Waterworks, and how did it impact the response to the fire?

### Personal Connection

- Alexander Frear demonstrated perseverance while searching for his family members during the fire. What does perseverance mean to you? Describe a time in your life when you've had to use this trait.