



# THE GREAT FIRE

## Pre-Reading Activity

*The Great Fire* by Jim Murphy tells the story of the devastating fire that swept through Chicago for thirty-one hours in October 1871. Murphy uses vivid descriptions to narrate the firsthand experiences of real people who survived the fire.

**Examine the images and their captions in chapters 1, 2, and 3. What do you notice about the setting, individuals, and events? Write your observations and respond to each question in the chart below.**

CH.	OBSERVATIONS	INFERENCES
1.		How might the building materials used throughout the city play a role in the fire?
2.		How might the technology of the 1870s make it difficult for firefighters to fight fires?
3.		How might the destruction of wagons impact Chicago's citizens?

Compare the maps at the end of chapters 1, 2, and 3. What is the same? What is different? What do the maps communicate about the fire?

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