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THE GREAT PHOENIX OF LONDON

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CHAPTER-BY-CHAPTER RESOURCES

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Chapter

Comprehension Questions

Writing Opportunities

Cross-Curricular Opportunities

Prologue

- ‘... the sky a sheet of black ice.’ What impression does this give you of the sky?
- Who was leaving the glassworks?
- What is meant by the saying ‘the pot calling the kettle black’?
- Look at page 5. How did the character’s grandfather influence their knowledge of the night sky?
- Explain how the character knew it was not a normal star.
- What had caused the vibrations and dust?
- How does the author’s comparisons to ‘as deep as the tin bath at home’ and ‘as if a giant’s spoon had scooped a hole out of the street’ help the reader?
- Describe how Aunt Susan and Uncle Martyne felt when they were observing the fallen star. Use evidence from the text to explain why you think this.
- What did Grandmother think had happened?

SCIENCE: Research meteorites and ‘shooting stars’. What are they? Can you create an information text about them?

HISTORY: In the prologue, the character mentions the Dutch War. This is a reference to the Second Dutch War. Research what happened during this time.

HISTORY: The prologue starts in December 1664. What was life like in London before this time?

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- How long has passed between the prologue and the first chapter?
- What impression do you get of the relationship between Gilbert and his Latin tutor, Master Hartwell? Use evidence from the text to explain why you think this.
- Explain why Gilbert was so good at Latin.
- What had happened to Gilbert’s father?

Using your research about the Great Plague, write a chapter that could have taken place between the prologue and chapter 1. You may wish to focus on Gilbert’s experience during the Great Plague.

HISTORY: Gilbert mentions the Great Plague that had killed many of his family members. What caused the Great Plague? What impact did it have?



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why do you think Master Hartwell delivers the joint and stays for dinner each Sunday? • How had Sundays changed since the Great Plague? • Look at the end of page 19. What impression does this give you of Roland and Gilbert's relationship? Use evidence from the text. 		<p>GEOGRAPHY: Look at the map at the beginning of the chapter. Can you find where Gilbert lives and where his grandparents live? Compare this map to one of modern London.</p>
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why had Grandfather looked at Gilbert apologetically? • What was Grandfather working on when Gilbert arrived? • Explain why Gilbert would feel proud about Samuel Pepys buying glassware from his family shop. • Why had Gilbert avoided looking at his grandmother's eyes? What does this suggest about his relationship with his father? • Look at page 24. Find and copy a word that shows the hot weather had been intense. • How did Gilbert know he wasn't at home when he woke up in the night? • Why did Roland often have nightmares? 	<p>Write instructions on how to make the beef and onion pie mentioned in the chapter.</p>	<p>HISTORY: Research Samuel Pepys. What was his role? Why did he need coloured glasses? What impact did he have on society?</p> <p>DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY: Create the beef and onion pie that is mentioned in the chapter.</p>
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How did Roland feel when Gilbert said the heaven-stone couldn't have moved by itself? Use evidence from the text to support your answer. 	<p>Write a continuation - what will Gilbert and Roland do now that they realize there is a fire on the street?</p>	



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gilbert thinks of different ways the heaven-stone could have moved because he does not believe it would move by itself. Give two examples.• Find and copy a word that means to roll slowly and heavily.• How did Gilbert know something was wrong before he saw the fire?• Describe how Gilbert felt when he realized the light was coming from a fire on the street. Use evidence from the text to support your answer.		
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What does the word 'flung' suggest about how Gilbert opened the door?• Describe how Gilbert is feeling when he realizes Farriner's bakery is on fire. Use evidence from the text to explain why you think he feels this way.• Give three reasons why the fire could spread so quickly.• Look at page 31. How did Gilbert know it was a serious situation?• How did the structure of the houses make it easier for the fire to spread?• Look at pages 32 and 33. Find and copy three examples of words the author chooses to show how dangerous and violent the fire was.	Rewrite the chapter from the perspective of one of the other characters. This could include: Grandfather, Grandmother, Roland, someone from Farriner's bakery, a member of the public.	HISTORY: Compare techniques to control and put out fires from 1666 and the modern day.



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5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Look at page 36. Find and copy a word that means 'to save'.• Explain why the men hadn't used the fire hooks to bring down the house next door to Gilbert's grandfather's house.• How do you think the Mayor felt about the situation? Explain why you think this using evidence from the text.• Do you think Mayor Bloodworth is a good mayor? Explain why you think this using evidence from the text.• Based on what you have read so far and the actions in this chapter, what impression do you get of Gilbert's grandfather? Explain why you think this using evidence from the text.		
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What was the name of Gilbert's grandparents' shop?• How did the family feel as they watched the house being destroyed? Use evidence from the text to explain how you know.• <i>'The church bells ... tolled as if marking hundreds of weddings all at once ... or funerals.'</i> Explain why the author would choose to compare the bells to those at funerals.• <i>'The fire raged bigger and brighter, devouring the house next to the remains of ours.'</i> What does the word 'devouring' suggest about how the fire spread through the house?		GEOGRAPHY: Look at the map earlier in the book and at a map of modern London. What route would you take towards the Thames? Would the route be different in 1666 compared to now?



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain why destroying the house didn't stop the fire. • How do you think Gilbert felt when his grandparents said they were going to go towards the river rather than towards his mother's house? Explain why he might feel this way. 		
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Look at page 49. Give two ways the author shows that people were scared and panicking. • What does the word 'scramble' suggest about how Gilbert moved? • Why had Gilbert only crossed the bridge to Southwark a couple of times? • Explain why Gilbert was shocked that St Magnus Church was on fire. • How were people trying to prevent the fire from spreading? • Do you think Gilbert and his family were right not to stop to help with the water? Explain why. 	<p>Gilbert still hasn't reached his mother. Write a letter from Gilbert to his mother telling her he is OK and what has happened so far.</p>	<p>HISTORY: Gilbert mentions the heads of traitors being put on to the spikes of London Bridge gatehouse. Research crime and punishment within this era. What crimes might these people have committed? How does it compare to today?</p>
8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain why the alley was 'eerily quiet'. • Why did Gilbert and his grandfather think they would be safe in the warehouse? • Who is Grandfather waiting for? • What problems could the family face if the fire reaches the 	<p>Create a biography or fact file for Richard the Lionheart.</p>	<p>HISTORY: Roland mentions Richard the Lionheart. Research his life and create a biography or fact file.</p>



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	<p>warehouse? Would they be able to get out?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>'If we hadn't turned when we had ...'</i> What do you think the end of the sentence would have been? • Do you agree with Grandmother when she says Gilbert's father would be proud of him? Why? 		<p>SCIENCE: Gilbert talks about the sand being used for Grandfather's glass. Research the process needed to do this. Is it a reversible or irreversible change?</p>
9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Find and copy a phrase that shows that: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Grandmother was worried b) Grandfather was worried • <i>'I've made a grave mistake.'</i> What does the word 'grave' mean in this context? • Why did Grandfather react the way he did when he realized the warehouse next door had oil in it? • Look at page 61. Find and copy a word that means 'unaware'. • Compare how the family felt when they first saw the boat to when it came into view and they realized it was full. Use evidence from the text to support your answer. 		
10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why was Grandfather unable to find his way underneath the piers? • What do you think Jennet meant when she said Gilbert was 'raw'? • Why was Jennet holding Gilbert under the water? 		<p>ART: Look at images of Medusa and use these to inspire an illustration to accompany page 66.</p>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is your first impression of Jennet? Use evidence from the text to support your answer. • How does Gilbert feel at the end of the chapter? Use evidence from the text to support your answer. 		
11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What do you think happened between the end of the last chapter and the beginning of this chapter? • Look at page 70. How do you know that the heaven-stone is hot? • What is Gilbert's impression of Jennet? Use evidence from the text to support your answer. • How was Gilbert able to pick up the heaven-stone even though it was hot? • What do you think is inside the heaven-stone? Why do you think this? 	Rewrite the end of the last chapter and this chapter from the perspective of Grandfather, Grandmother or Roland on the boat. What would they have seen from their perspective?	
12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Find and copy a piece of evidence that shows Jennet can be impatient. • Name two things that scared Gilbert whilst he was wading through the mud. • Look at page 75. Find and copy a piece of evidence that shows Gilbert does not trust Jennet. • What caused the red flash of light? • How did the liquid inside the rock differ to molten glass? 		



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13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How did Jennet know that something had fallen out of the rock when it split? • What had been inside the heaven-stone? • What did Gilbert think it had been? What did he compare it to? • How did Gilbert feel about shouting at Jennet? Use evidence from the text to support your answer. • Why do you think the man offered Gilbert money? 	<p>Rewrite the end of the last chapter and this chapter from the perspective of Grandfather, Grandmother or Roland on the boat. What would they have seen from their perspective?</p>	<p>SCIENCE: Gilbert talks about his mother’s amber pendant. Find out how amber fossils are created and how they have helped us learn more about ancient animals or plants.</p>
14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What does the word ‘lattice’ suggest about how the timbers are arranged? • Explain why Gilbert may describe the sight of London as ‘hellish’. • Where did Gilbert think his mother would have gone? Why did he think this? • Where did Gilbert live? • Identify similarities and differences between the houses in Paternoster Row and Pudding Lane. 		<p>ART: Using a range of materials, create a piece of artwork to show the London landscape as described at the beginning of the chapter.</p>
15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain why people would be angry with Gilbert for stepping out of the bucket chain. • What has Gilbert realized about the heaven-stone? • What is your impression of the man that speaks to Gilbert? Use evidence from the text to explain why you think this. 	<p>Write a newspaper article detailing the events of the fire so far.</p>	<p>HISTORY: Create a timeline of the events of the Great Fire of London so far. Make sure to check whether events from the book are fact before adding</p>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What had Jennet found for them to use on the river?• <i>'The man was gaining on us.'</i> What is meant by the phrase 'gaining on us'?• How would being coated in tar be dangerous at this moment in time?		<p>them to your timeline.</p> <p>Create another timeline that follows the events of the book and Gilbert's experience.</p>
16	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Why was it important that Gilbert stayed low and still in the barrel?• How did the tar help when Gilbert was in the barrel on the water?• Describe the creature that had been inside the heavenstone.• Look at page 98. How did Gilbert feel about being in the barrel? Use evidence from the text to explain how you know this. Why did he feel this way?• How does Jennet's feelings about being in the barrel compare to Gilbert's? How do you know she feels this way?		<p>GEOGRAPHY: Compare the map at the beginning of this section to the map at the beginning of the first section. What has changed? Compare this to a map on modern London.</p> <p>SCIENCE: Investigate what materials would be best for floating down the river. How can you make sure the barrel-shaped container stays upright? How much weight can it take?</p>
17	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Where had the bird gone when Gilbert couldn't find it in the satchel?• Why did Gilbert think the bird should not be eating tar?• How did Gilbert know that the bird thought he was its mother?	<p>Write a description of the bird based on what we know so far. Include information about its appearance, what it seems to eat and how it arrived.</p>	



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Look at page 103. Find and copy a word that means in a random manner.• What did the King travel on?		<p>them to your timeline.</p> <p>Create another timeline that follows the events of the book and Gilbert's experience.</p>
18	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• How did Gilbert know that the barge belonged to the King?• Who was on the barge with the King? What was their role within society or the King's court?• Where in London had Gilbert and Jennet ended up?• How did this side of the city compare to where they had come from?• How do you think Jennet felt when she saw the bird? Why did she feel this way? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.	<p>Write a biography of King Charles II – make sure to include all key events of his life.</p>	<p>HISTORY: Research King Charles II. What was his early life like? What were significant events within his reign?</p>
19	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Compare how the bird looks now to when it first hatched. How has it changed?• Do you think the bird likes Jennet? Use evidence from the text to explain why you think this.• What is Jennet's perception of Gilbert? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.• Gilbert says he doesn't think he will see Jennet again. Do you agree with him? Why?	<p>Write a continuation – it can be from Gilbert's or Jennet's perspective.</p>	



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- *'The hot gale corkscrewed through the streets ...'* What does the word 'corkscrewed' suggest about how the wind moved?
- Look at page 115. Why had the man been running so quickly through the alley?
- What does Gilbert's reaction to the mob suggest about his character?
- *'With the war going on, foreigners were the obvious culprits for starting a fire.'* What is the meaning of the word 'culprits' in this sentence?
- Why had Maman fled France?

Write a diary entry from the perspective of Maman when she had to flee France.

21

- Look at page 120. Find and copy a word that means 'to steal'.
- How did you think the bird felt when it realized it was going to go in the sack? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.
- Look at page 122. Find and copy a phrase that shows the man in the tall hat was desperate to get the bird.
- *'... it seemed to lose balance in the air and plummeted to the ground.'* What does the word 'plummeted' suggest about how the bird fell?
- What do you think Quinton Cutler is going to do with the bird if he gets it?



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- Find and copy a phrase that shows the soldiers were acting on orders from the King.
- *'... the thought of this mob, Quinton Cutler, or anyone else getting their hands on it made me bristle with an anger that I had only felt once before.'* What does this suggest about how Gilbert feels towards the bird?
- What did Gilbert use to coax the bird into the satchel?
- How did Gilbert know that the fire was close to the alley he was in?
- Do you think Gilbert will be safe now he has gone with the soldiers? Why do you think this?

PSHE: Do you think the Frenchman was treated fairly? Do you think people who are not from England are treated fairly in the book? How should people be treated?

23

- Why had the wind not pushed the fire towards the river?
- Give two reasons why people were being gathered in the churchyard.
- Find and copy two words that mean stealing.
- Explain why Gilbert thought it was a bad idea to lie about the bird and say it belonged to the king.
- What was unusual about the elderly man who helped Gilbert?
- Where might the soldiers take them? Why do you think this?

Write an explanation piece using the information researched about the effect fires can have on weather.

GEOGRAPHY: Gilbert mentions seeing lightning because of the smoke clouds. Research how and why lightning can occur when there has been a big fire.



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24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain why Gilbert would not want to draw anyone's attention to his French maman. • How did Gilbert know they were moving further away from the fire? • Why did Gilbert not believe the soldier when he said the fire was being pushed east? • Where had the soldiers taken them? • <i>'There was a brief to-do outside the huge door ...'</i> What is meant by the word 'to-do'? • What impression do you get of the gaol? Give two impressions, with evidence to support why you think this. • Compare how rich criminals were treated to those that came from poorer households. 		<p>GEOGRAPHY: Using the map from the book or an alternative map of London, map the route that the group travelled.</p>
25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do you think Gilbert is feeling at the beginning of the chapter? Why do you think this? Use evidence from the text. • What impression do you get of the old man? Give evidence. • How did the English people feel when they were made to go to the pit whilst the others stayed in a cell? Use evidence to show how you know this. • Why would Gilbert think that Jennet would have a plan to break out of the gaol? Do you agree with him? Why? 	<p>Write a newspaper article about the incident with the Frenchman and the group being taken to the gaol.</p>	



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26	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Find and copy a word that means ‘shared’.• What was the old man’s name?• Explain how Papouli knew the bird did not find the satchel comfortable.• How did the other prisoners react to the bird? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.• Give two ways that the bird could be dangerous.• What did Papouli give to Gilbert to help him call the bird back?	Write instructions about how to train a phoenix. Use information you know from the book to help you.	GEOGRAPHY: Using the map from the book or an alternative map of London, map the route that the group travelled.
27	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• How long had Gilbert been learning Latin for?• Describe how Gilbert’s attitude towards Master Hartwell has changed since the beginning of the book. Use evidence from the text to support you.• Where is the phoenix thought to originate from?• Why did they choose Zephyr as the name for the phoenix?• What caused Gilbert to wake up from his sleep?	Gilbert mentions Greek myths and some of the characters he remembers. Rewrite one of your choice.	HISTORY: Research some of the Greek myths that Gilbert mentions. GEOGRAPHY: Look at a map of the world. Identify where the story is taking place and compare this to the locations the phoenix is thought to originate from.
28	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Give two pieces of evidence from the text that shows the prisoners were panicked by the fire.• How did Zephyr make the conditions inside the cell worse?• Explain how Papouli managed to help the prisoners get out	Summarize the events of Day 2 – you may wish to write in the style of a diary entry, or a newspaper article.	



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	<p>of the cell.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Look at page 158: '<i>... I fumbled with the tinderbox ...</i>' What does the word 'fumbled' mean in this sentence? What does it suggest about how Gilbert is feeling? Read from the top of page 159 until '<i>... was blacker than the smoke.</i>' What was going to happen to Gilbert? How did Gilbert manage to escape the gaol? 	<p>Write instructions about how to train a phoenix. Use information you know from the book to help you.</p>	
29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> '<i>A lot of realizations arrived at once.</i>' What were the realizations? '<i>The gaol was now blazing, its barred windows like the empty eyeholes of a burning skull.</i>' What impact does this description have on the reader? Why do you think the author chose this particular simile? Look at page 167. How does the author show that Gilbert was surprised to see Jennet? Why were people putting their belongings inside the Guild? When had Gilbert been to the Mercers' Guild before? 	<p>Rewrite the chapter from the perspective of Jennet.</p>	<p>GEOGRAPHY: Compare the map from the start of this section of the book to the previous two. What has changed? Compare to a modern map of London.</p>
30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The phoenix could be described as 'unearthly'. Give two reasons why. Why did Gilbert think Jennet would be upset with him? '<i>The projectiles barely missing my head ...</i>' What are the 		



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	<p>projectiles that Gilbert is referring to?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How many times had Jennet saved Gilbert? • Jennet apologizes to Gilbert but doesn't explain why she is sorry. What could Jennet be sorry for? • Describe how Gilbert felt about the fact Jennet was going to help him get to his mother again. Use evidence from the text to support your answer. 		
31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>'... I prised open the lid of yet another trunk.'</i> What does the word 'prised' suggest about how they are opening them? • What were they hoping to find inside the crates? • How did Gilbert know that Jennet had hurt herself? What had she done? • How did Gilbert feel when he saw the plague doctor mask? Why would he react this way? Use evidence from the text. • Who had Jennet lost due to the plague? 	<p>Write a continuation - what will happen next? Will the disguises work?</p> <p>Write a description of a plague doctor - use as much detail as you can.</p>	<p>HISTORY: Research the role of the plague doctor. What did they wear? What did they do to help people?</p>
32	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How did Jennet and Gilbert manage to disguise the bird? • How had they used the plague doctor mask? • <i>'... will be at Paternoster Row in a blink.'</i> What does the phrase 'in a blink' suggest about the time it will take for them to get there? • Who do you think was calling for Jennet? 		<p>GEOGRAPHY: Using a map, identify where the Guild was and where Paternoster Row is. What route do you think they took?</p>



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- What is the name of Gilbert's mother's shop?
- How had Gilbert's mother become the owner of the business?
- Describe how Master Hartwell felt when he answered the door. Why did he feel this way? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.
- Look at page 183: '*... her dark eyes red-rimmed.*' What does this suggest about Maman?
- How does Maman feel about the phoenix? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.
- What was Master Hartwell going to use to try and find information about the bird?

Write the chapter from the perspective of Mother or Master Hartwell. What might they have been doing prior to answering the door to Gilbert?

34

- '*Around the kitchen table, Jennet and I enjoyed a hearty meal ...*' What does the word 'hearty' mean in this sentence?
- What was Zephyr doing whilst Gilbert and the others were eating?
- How did Jennet's appearance in this chapter compare to how she has looked previously?
- How long has it been since Gilbert saw his mother?
- Look at the end of the chapter. Why were Maman and Master Hartwell initially smiling when Gilbert was talking about the phoenix?

Write the dialogue that may have happened when Gilbert was telling his mother and Hartwell what had happened. Think carefully about how you convey each of the characters - how will the way they speak show the differences between them?



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- Why does Jennet believe that the bird is a phoenix?
- Gilbert calls Hartwell an 'unexpected ally'. What does this suggest about how he thought Hartwell would react?
- Explain why Hartwell had more knowledge of Greek scholars than Gilbert realized.
- How did Jennet feel during the conversation about poems? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.
- In what book were the family going to try and find Papouli?

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- Look at the beginning of the chapter. How can you tell that the family have been researching or working for a long time?
- What was the best source of information they could find? Who was it from and how long ago was it written?
- What made Maman change her mind about the phoenix?
- Look at page 197. How did they all feel once they had collected as much information as they could? Explain how you know this using evidence from the text, and give reasons why they would feel this way.
- Look at the end of the chapter. How would you describe Gilbert's feelings towards the phoenix at this point? Use evidence to explain why you think this.

HISTORY: Compare the Greek and Egyptian myths that mention the phoenix. How are they similar and how are they different?

RE: Research mentions of the phoenix in holy texts and examples of the phoenix being used as symbolism. What is it representing?



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37	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why do you think Gilbert may not want to refer to Hartwell as his stepfather? • How did Gilbert know his mother was tucking Jennet into bed? • Where were they going to take their belongings? • <i>'... with stone on all sides, it is impenetrable.'</i> What does the word 'impenetrable' mean in this sentence? • Why would it be important to move books and paper to somewhere the fire wouldn't reach? 		
38	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Look at page 205. Find and copy a word which is similar in meaning to 'hidden'. • Compare how Mayor Bloodworth, the King and Duke of York reacted to the fire. Use evidence from the text to support your answer. • Explain why Gilbert did not find the crypt frightening. • Give two ways people were trying to reduce the spread of the fire on Paternoster Row. • What do you think has happened to Jennet and Zephyr? 	<p>Write what might have happened to Jennet and Zephyr from Jennet's perspective.</p> <p>Create a missing poster for Jennet and Zephyr.</p>	<p>GEOGRAPHY: Locate on a map where the fire has now spread to. Identify the route that Gilbert and his mother may have taken to the church. You can use the maps within the book or you may wish to use a map of modern London.</p>
39	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How did Gilbert know a burglary had not happened? • What impression do you get of Gilbert's mother based on page 210? Explain why using evidence from the text. • Explain why Gilbert didn't think Zephyr had gone willingly with Jennet. 		<p>PSHE: Do you think Gilbert should have spoken to his mother the way he did? What tips would you give him regarding managing his emotions?</p>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Look at page 211. Find and copy as many synonyms for 'fire' as you can find. • Where had Jennet and Zephyr gone? 		
40	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why didn't people realize that Jennet was climbing towards a phoenix? • How was Gilbert making sure he didn't slip whilst he climbed? • Describe how Gilbert felt whilst he was climbing the scaffolding. Use evidence from the text to support your answer. • Gilbert has a lot of courage. Do you agree or disagree? Use evidence from the text to justify your opinion. • Why had Jennet been telling Gilbert not to climb the scaffolding? 		
41	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why had Zephyr been flapping his wing awkwardly? • Explain how Cutler had managed to find out where Gilbert and Zephyr were. • Describe how Gilbert felt when he realized what Jennet had done. Why did he feel this way? Use evidence from the text to support your answer. • How did Gilbert and Jennet work together to free Zephyr? 	Now you know that Jennet had helped Quinton Cutler to find Zephyr, write what you think happened before Gilbert realized they were missing (refer to Chapter 38 if needed).	



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>'Well, at least the clouds of it would hinder Quinton Cutler ...'</i> Write a definition of the word 'hinder' in this context. • 'Jennet's grip on my leg became a violent squeeze.' What does this suggest about how Jennet is feeling? Why was she feeling that way? 		
42	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>'The fire now raged along Paternoster Row ...'</i> What does the word 'raged' suggest about the fire? • What do you think Cutler is saying to the people that have gathered around him? • How did Cutler's rope make the situation more dangerous? • <i>'Bird should have flown off, he's been a sitting duck.'</i> What does Jennet mean by this? • Look at page 225: <i>'... like Cutler had somehow tamed it to stalk us, like a cat after a mouse.'</i> What impact does this have on the reader? What does it suggest about the fire? • What does the ending suggest might happen to Gilbert? Do you think this will happen? 		
43	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain why Maman would have reacted the way she did at the beginning of the chapter. • How did Zephyr and Jennet save Gilbert? • Gilbert describes the phoenix as 'powerful' and 'clever'. Give examples of evidence that supports the use of each adjective. 		ART: Look at page 229. Create a silhouette painting of Jennet and Zephyr.



Chapter	Comprehension Questions	Writing Opportunities	Cross-Curricular Opportunities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Look at page 229. Find and copy two words that suggest the clouds and smoke were mixing together in the sky. 'How could I have climbed so high?' What does this suggest about Gilbert's opinion of himself? What was the line in the dark dull metal? 		
44	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Find and copy a word that shows the trap door was heavy. Why was Gilbert thankful the bell wasn't ringing when they entered the tower? Do you think the stained-glass windows are more likely to melt or shatter? Explain why you think this. How does Jennet feel about telling Cutler about Gilbert and the bird? Use evidence from the text to support your answer. Suggest how Gilbert and Jennet are going to use the bell rope to escape the fire. 	Imagine you are Jennet - write a letter of apology to Gilbert.	<p>ART: Recreate or create your own stained-glass window design.</p> <p>PSHE: Do you think there should be a consequence for Jennet's actions within the story? Is it ever OK to choose to do something you know is wrong?</p>
45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why had Jennet insisted on going down the rope first? What does this show about her character? Look at the paragraph beginning: '<i>The phoenix fluttered his outstretched wings ...</i>' Find and copy a word that shows the fire was loud. Explain why the clergyman would need to seal the crypt. Give three different types of people that could be found in 	What do you think is going to happen next? Write a continuation - you will need to include dialogue, ensuring it advances the action.	



Chapter	Comprehension Questions	Writing Opportunities	Cross-Curricular Opportunities
	<p>the crypt.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How did people in the crypt feel when they saw Zephyr? 		
46	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On page 242, Gilbert says that he is about to commit a betrayal. Who is he betraying? Why would he think it is a betrayal? Do you agree with him? <i>'Any funny business and you'll be an orphan before you can blink.'</i> What is meant by the phrase 'funny business'? Read the last paragraph of page 244. Why did Jennet grip Gilbert's hand? Why did he squeeze hers back? Look at page 245. Why would Jennet and Maman take Gilbert away from Zephyr's cage? 		<p>SCIENCE: In this chapter, the fire has become so hot that the iron roof melted. Research the melting point of different metals and their other properties e.g. waterproof, malleable, dense. Was iron the best material to use for the roof? Would another metal have been a better choice?</p>
47	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why did what happened to Zephyr remind Gilbert of his father? <i>'An inferno erupted from inside St Paul's ...'</i> What do the words 'inferno erupted' suggest about the fire? How did the molten iron and brass impact Zephyr? What was Cutler now using to try and capture the bird? How was this affecting Zephyr? <i>'He hovered like a dark angel ...'</i> Why do you think the author chose this simile? 	<p>Summarize the events of Day 3 – you may wish to write in the style of a diary entry from the perspective of Gilbert, or a newspaper article.</p>	



Chapter

Comprehension Questions

Writing Opportunities

Cross-Curricular Opportunities

48

- Why would Zephyr's flight pattern become even and balanced when his wings touched the flames of the city's taller buildings?
- Explain why it would be safe for Maman to go to Hartwell's parents' house.
- Describe how Gilbert felt whilst he was in the barrel. Why did he feel this way? Use evidence to support your answer.
- How did this time in the barrel compare to the previous one? Identify similarities and differences.

GEOGRAPHY: Compare the map from the start of this section of the book to the previous versions. What has changed? Compare to a modern map of London.

49

- Compare how the riverfront looks now to how it looked when Gilbert first met Jennet.
- Who else had betrayed Gilbert and helped Quinton Cutler?
- Do you think Gilbert was more upset about this betrayal or Jennet's? Explain why you think this.
- Explain how Gilbert knew that the explosions were not a mistake or an accident.
- '*... I found myself calling out ...*' What do you think Gilbert would have been saying to Zephyr?

50

- Why was Gilbert convinced Zephyr hadn't died in the explosion?
- Where did Jennet think Zephyr had gone?
- Explain why making a firebreak so close to the tower could

Create a recipe for 'King's Drops' using your imagination of what could be used.

HISTORY: Research apothecaries during this time period and medicines that were available and used. How has medicine changed since then?



Chapter**Comprehension Questions****Writing Opportunities****Cross-Curricular Opportunities**

	<p>be dangerous.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What impression do you get of the relationship between Mr Pepys and Quinton Cutler? Use evidence from the text to support your answer. • For what reason did the King want to capture Zephyr? • Based on Papouli's actions at the end of the chapter, has this changed your impression of him? 		
51	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>'... this was not a gathering of refugees in solidarity ...'</i> Find and copy two pieces of evidence that shows how Gilbert would have come to this conclusion. • Apart from a flint and steel, what other items were used to make the screeching sound? • Look at page 274, find and copy a word that means to break apart. • Look at page 275. Find and copy a piece of evidence that suggests the phoenix is incredibly large. 		
52	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Find and copy a piece of evidence that shows people were scared of Zephyr. • Do you think Zephyr likes being touched by Gilbert and Roly? Use evidence to support your answer. • Who do you think has released the soaking nets? 	Write an eyewitness statement from the perspective of one of the people in the crowd summarizing the last two chapters.	



Chapter

Comprehension Questions

Writing Opportunities

Cross-Curricular Opportunities

53

- Read the first sentence. Find and copy a word that shows the soldiers had to use a lot of force to bring Zephyr down.
- Quinton Cutler says that Zephyr is *'the beast that ignited the Great Fire of London'*. Is this true? Why do you think he is saying this?
- Who do you think threw the firebomb? Why do you think this?
- What does Gilbert's actions tell you about his character? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

54

- How did Gilbert survive the firebomb?
- What had happened to Zephyr?
- Name one similarity and one difference between the small birds and Zephyr.
- Look at page 285. Find and copy evidence that shows Cutler was hurt during the firebomb blast.
- *'In unison, they dropped it.'* What does the word 'unison' mean in this sentence?

55

- How did Gilbert know that the small birds were 'his Zephyr'?
- Why would Gilbert especially look forward to introducing Papouli to Hartwell?

Create an information text to share with other children about how to keep safe if there is a fire and what they should do.

HISTORY: Add the rest of the events of the Great Fire of London to the timeline you created after Chapter 15. Make sure to check whether events



Chapter

Comprehension Questions

Writing Opportunities

Cross-Curricular Opportunities

- Why might some of the tiny birds be fighting against returning to the stone?
- In what way is the city of London similar to the phoenix?
- How has the relationship between Jennet and Gilbert changed throughout the book?

Create a book review of *The Great Phoenix of London*. Be sure to include a synopsis and who might enjoy the book.

from the book are fact before adding them to your timeline. Add the events of the book and Gilbert's experience on to your other timeline.

PSHE: How can you keep safe if there is a fire? What should you do?

Author's Note

- What is a comet?
- Explain why we are less likely to experience a plague in modern society.
- In total, how many homes were destroyed in the Great Fire of London?
- Why did Samuel Pepys become an important historical figure?
- Name three ingredients that were found in Goddard's Drops.

