**SOURCE A:**

***taken from Samuel Pepys’ diary, September 1666. In this extract, Samuel Pepys is describing the Great Fire of London.***

Jane, a housemaid, 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 Marke-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 I rose again to dress myself, and there looked out of the window, and saw the fire not so much as it was and further off. By and by Jane comes and tells me that she hears that above 300 houses have been burned down to-night by the fire we saw, and that it is now burning down Fish-street, by London Bridge.

So I made myself ready presently, and walked to the Tower, and there got up upon one of the high places, Sir J. Robinson's little son going up with me; and there I did see the houses at that end of the bridge all on fire, and an infinite great fire on this and the other side the end of the bridge. The Lieutenant of the Tower told me that it begun this morning in the King's baker's' house in Pudding Lane, and that it hath burned St. Magnus' Church and most part of Fish-street already.

So I down to the water-side, and there got a boat and through bridge, and there saw a lamentable fire. Everybody endeavouring to remove their goods, and flinging into the river or bringing them into lighters that layoff; poor people staying in their houses as long as till the very fire touched them, and then running into boats, or clambering from one pair of stairs by the water-side to another. And among other things, the poor pigeons, I perceive, were loathe to leave their nests, but hovered about the windows and balconies till they were some of them burned and fell down.

**SOURCE B:**

Taken from *The Guardian* newspaper, November 19th, 1987

**FIRE SWEEPS KING’S CROSS TUBE TUNNELS**

Twenty-seven people died last night and dozens were taken to hospital after breathing in smoke after fire broke out under an escalator inside King's Cross underground station in central London.

Police and firemen were searching the tunnels. More than 150 firefighters and 30 engines were involved in what the fire brigade described as the most serious incident in recent years. Eight of those taken to hospital were understood to be seriously ill.

Rescuers used lighting equipment borrowed from television camera crews, but almost two hours after the blaze started they were unable to get more than a few yards into the station. Transport police and firemen moved towards the station along Underground tunnels but the smoke prevented them getting through.

A Transport Police spokesman said: 'There are dozens of tunnels under there.' Underground trains were kept running through the station to increase ventilation. The escalator that caught fire served the Piccadilly line. Five Underground lines intersect at the station, one of the biggest junctions on the system. The injured were taken to University College Hospital and the Middlesex Hospital, both half a mile away, and to St Bartholomew’s in the City.

The fire was discovered at about 7.30 pm, and smoke poured through into the mainline station concourse above. Passengers waiting for trains north were asked by loudspeaker to evacuate the station as scores of firemen moved in. Local residents also reported seeing the smoke billowing above ground into the main road.

The body of one victim, a young man whose skin was completely blackened, was brought above ground shortly after 8.30 pm. He was found near the exit on the steps of the underground entrance beside St Pancras mainline railway station, across the road from King's Cross.

Above ground on Euston Road there was traffic chaos as fire engines and ambulances made their way to the station through the tail end of the rush-hour traffic. The whole of the area around King's Cross and St Pancras was sealed off by the police.

**Q1. Read Source A.**

**Choose four statements below which are TRUE.**

* The maid tells Pepys over 400 houses have been burned down
* Pepys was initially unconcerned by the fire burning in the city
* Pepys slept for four more hours after his maid told him of the fire
* To get a closer look, Pepys took a boat across the river Thames
* The maid’s name is Janet
* Animals such as birds also lost their lives in the Great Fire
* The Lieutenant tells Pepys the fire started in St Magnus’ church

**Q2. Now refer to Source A and Source B.**

**Write a summary, explaining the differences in the ways these**

**two writers describe fires in London.** *Aim to write 100 – 150 words.*

**Q3. Now refer to the extract below, taken from Source B.**

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**How does the writer use language to make this event sound so dramatic?**