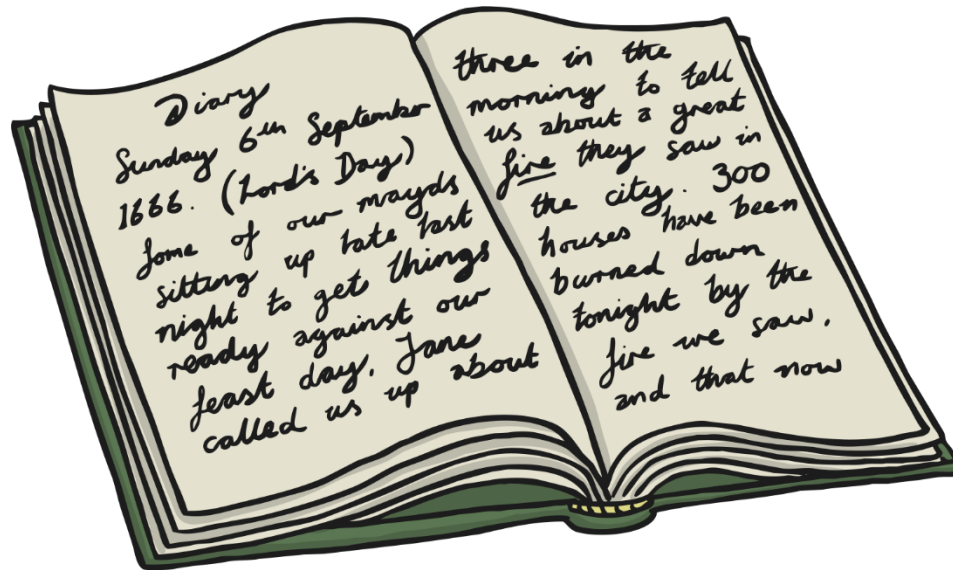


Samuel Pepys



Who was Samuel Pepys?

- Samuel Pepys worked for the British government and navy and lived during the 17th Century.
- He is most famous for writing a diary between 1659 and 1669.
- Today, we use his diary as a historical record of the events of the past.



The Life of Samuel Pepys

- Samuel Pepys was born in London on 23rd February 1633.
- His father was a tailor and his mother was a butcher's daughter.
- He went to St Paul's School in London and later went to Cambridge University.
- After university, he began working for the government and the navy. His cousin, the Earl of Sandwich, helped him to get a good job.
- Samuel Pepys married a young French girl named Elizabeth in 1655.
- Samuel Pepys enjoyed music and played several instruments during his life.
- He also liked going to the theatre, wearing fine clothes and a wig! Many rich men did this.

The Diary

Samuel Pepys began writing his diary on 1st January 1660.

He wrote of everyday things that happened in his life but also about important events in Britain's history.

Pepys wrote with quills and ink – there were no ball point pens in those days!

He wrote using a secret code, a shortened version of words. He did this because he didn't want people he knew, including his wife Elizabeth, to read his diary.

The Great Fire

- Pepys also wrote about the Great Fire of London a year later in 1666.
- On 2nd September 1666, a fire broke out at Thomas Farrinor's bakery on Pudding Lane.
- In those days, houses in London were made out of wood and were built very close together. It was easy for the fire to spread.
- The fire burned for 4 days and more than 13, 000 houses were destroyed. Sadly, around 16 people lost their lives. Luckily, most people were able to escape the fire.



The Great Fire

- Pepys recorded the ways people escaped the fire. He watched them escape in boats on the River Thames because the fire could not spread along the water. When he felt he was in danger, he buried a parmesan cheese from Italy because it was expensive.
- In those days, fire fighters were not as well equipped as they are today. There were no fire engines, instead they used horse-drawn carts and leather buckets. They had no gas masks or protective clothing so they were in danger of catching fire if they entered a burning building.