

The Great Chicago Fire

Rising from the Ashes

By Kate Hannigan  Illustrated by Alex Gaudins

Scapegoating

Discussion Questions

3rd & 4th Grades

1. Why are some of the text in bubbles with a white background while other texts are in rectangle/square shapes with a tan background? (A bubble signals the reader that the text is fictional dialogue. The Square/rectangles with tan backgrounds signal the reader that the text is FACTUAL.)
2. Who is your favorite character? Why?
3. How did the artist show the mob was angry? Pg. 23
4. There are four ideas of what started the fire that are mentioned on page 25. What are they?
5. What really happened that started the fire? Pg. 26.
6. How do you think being blamed for the fire made Mrs. O'Leary and her family feel?
7. On page 104, we learn Mrs. O'Leary's house is gone today. What is in its place? How does this honor her memory?

The Great Chicago Fire

Rising from the Ashes

By Kate Hannigan  Illustrated by Alex Graudins

Scapegoating Discussion Questions

5th & 6th Grades

1. Why are some of the text in bubbles with a white background while other texts are in rectangle/square shapes with a tan background? (A bubble signals the reader that the text is fictional dialogue. The Square/rectangles with tan backgrounds signal the reader that the text is FACTUAL.)
2. How is scapegoating similar to and different from bullying?
3. There are four ideas of what started the fire that are mentioned on page 25. What are they?
4. What really happened that started the fire? Pg. 26.
5. How do you think being blamed for the fire made Mrs. O'Leary and her family feel?
6. On page 104, we learn Mrs. O'Leary's house is gone today. What is in its place?
7. If you were sent in a Time Machine on a mission to save Mrs. O'Leary from being scapegoated, what would you do? What obstacles do you think you might face?
8. You have been selected to work on a team to design a memorial to Mrs. O'Leary and her cow. It must include a statue and a plaque. What would the statue be and what would the plaque say?

The Great Chicago Fire

Rising from the Ashes

By Kate Hannigan  Illustrated by Alex Graudins

Scapegoating

Discussion Questions

7th & 8th Grades

1. Why are some of the text in bubbles with a white background while other texts are in rectangle/square shapes with a tan background? (A bubble signals the reader that the text is fictional dialogue. The Square/rectangles with tan backgrounds signal the reader that the text is FACTUAL.)
2. How is scapegoating similar to and different from bullying?
3. Do you think gossip is related to scapegoating? Why or why not?
4. According to the text, how were Irish Catholic immigrants treated during the 1850s?
5. How was Mrs. O'Leary affected by scapegoating?
6. Would you have responded to requests for interviews with way Mrs. O'Leary did (pg. 102) or would you have responded differently?
7. Was it important for the Chicago City Council to declare that Mrs. O'Leary and her cow were innocent of starting the Chicago Fire? Why or why not?
8. Songs, book, and movies portrayed Mrs. O'Leary as guilty. How do the arts/media impact the perceptions people have of others?
9. In 1855, the Chicago Tribune printed derogatory comments about a group of people. (Pg. 23). Do newspapers print remarks like this anymore? Why? Or Why not?
10. Can you think of ANYWHERE that PRINTS comments like this? (Social Media).
11. How should we respond to online scapegoating?
12. Can you think of modern day examples where a group of people were/are blamed for a disaster or economic problems?