



# MENTOR'S NOTE



Time to get fired up, Lit Kids' fans! Issue 7: Fire is coming in hot!

As you probably know, Lit Kids Magazine features writing, art, and photography solely by kids ages 5 to 13. We accept submissions from all over the world and help each child to fan their spark of inspiration into a full-fledged flame. Our mentors offer guidance during a month-long mentorship to polish each piece of work, giving kids a chance to witness the inner workings of the publishing industry firsthand. We couldn't be prouder to provide a platform for these talented kids to show the world what they're made of.

As you explore Issue 7: Fire, you'll experience the heat of passion and creativity throughout each page. The work featured in this issue captures the volatility of fire, how it can both create and destroy, much like humans depending on their intention. And though fire has the potential to be destructive, you'll notice many of these creative works put emphasis on the beauty of flames too. It's also clear these kids carry great respect for the individuals who fight against fires for the well-being of others. Let's share a round of applause to firefighters everywhere for their heroic efforts! One thing is for certain: this issue will undoubtedly kindle strong emotions within you, as it did for us!

Congratulations to all the young creatives who contributed to this spectacular issue of Lit Kids! Here's hoping your passion only grows stronger and brighter with each passing day. Keep shining!

Happy Reading,

Rebecca Weber

*Lit Kids Magazine's* Mentor-In-Chief

P.S. Should you enjoy reading Issue 7, look on our website and subscribe to receive updates about future open submissions and published issues! Also, if you know any talented kids between the ages of 5 and 13,

please share our site with them. We open to submissions on a quarterly basis, and we love spotlighting new talent. Thanks as always for your continued support!

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# WRITING



Joseph is 8 years old. He enjoys playing football and eating smoked salmon. He likes Maths challenges and has a cat called Cracker, who bites ankles.

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## There's a Fire in My Belly

by Joseph Little

There's a fire in my belly and I don't know what to do,

I could sneeze it out,

Blow it out?

There's a fire in my belly

Oh what do I do?

Maybe calm down and cuddle

Right next to you.

Advay is 11 years old and in 6th grade at McKamy Middle School, Flower Mound, Texas. He loves playing baseball and is the pitcher for his team. He also enjoys playing percussion drums and has been playing them since he was 5. Plus, Advay is crazy about Legos.

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## **FIRE**

**by Advay Tripathi**

### Introduction

Fire is a fast chemical reaction that creates light and heat. It's a type of process called oxidation, where a substance combines with oxygen.

### What is Fire?

Fires usually result from a combustion reaction. This means that fire occurs when different substances, such as carbon, hydrogen, and oxygen, mix and react rapidly. It's a process, and requires three elements to occur: fuel, oxygen, and heat. These elements are often represented by the 'fire triangle' according to the US National Park Service.



The triangle illustrates that a fire needs these three elements to ignite or burn, and will be prevented or extinguished if one is removed.

1. Without sufficient heat, a fire cannot begin, or continue. Heat can be removed by pouring water over the fire. The water turns to steam, and the steam is further heated, taking the heat with it.
2. Without fuel, a fire will stop. Fuel can be removed naturally, where the fire has consumed all the burnable fuel. It can also be removed from the fire manually, mechanically, or chemically.

3. Without sufficient oxygen, a fire cannot begin, and it cannot continue.

## History

About 1.5 million years ago, humans came to know about fire. But for thousands of years, people still had problems starting a fire. One of the methods they used for starting a fire was rubbing minerals against one another and producing sparks which eventually started a fire. Another method for starting a fire was twirling one piece of wood against another until the wood reached its ignition point. Later, it was also found that fire could be made by focusing the sun's rays with a lens or curved mirror.

When early humans learned how to use fire, they started to live in civilized ways. There were many benefits to using fire, such as lighting caves, keeping themselves warm, and to scare wild animals. They also learned how to use fire to cook their food.

Eventually, people used fire in new ways. They set fires to clear land for farming and also to make pottery from clay. By about 3500 BCE, people were using fire to shape metals. As the centuries passed, people learned to use fire to make things like steam, rubber, and bricks.

## Types of Fire

Fires are classified into different types or classes, mainly based on the fuel source that is burning. The main types and classes of fires are as follows:

- **Wildfires:** These are uncontrolled fires that occur in natural settings like forests, grasslands, and brush.
- **Structure Fires:** These are fires that occur in buildings and other structures.
- **Industrial Fires:** These involve the use of fire in various industrial processes, such as manufacturing and energy production.

In firefighting, fires are identified according to one or more fire classes. Each class designates the fuel involved in the fire, and thus the most appropriate extinguishing agent. Fires have been classified into five groups: A, B, C, D, and K.

1. **Class A fires** are fires involving ordinary combustibles, including wood, paper, cloth, plastic, and rubber.
2. **Class B fires** are fires involving flammable fluids such as gasoline, kerosene, oil, and grease.
3. **Class C fires** are fires involving energized equipment such as faulty wiring, overloaded outlets, machinery, and damaged electrical equipment.
4. **Class D fires** are fires involving combustible metals like magnesium, titanium, sodium, potassium, and lithium.
5. **Class K fires** are fires involving cooking oils and fats.

## Causes of Fire

- **Natural fires:** Lightning strikes are a major natural cause of wildfires.
- **Human-caused fires:** Human activities are the main cause of fires, including cooking, heating, electric malfunctions, faulty equipment, smoking materials, candles, children playing with fire, arson, improper storage of flammable materials, and general carelessness.

## Effects of Fire



- **Destructive:** Fires can cause significant property damage, financial losses, and loss of life. Fire can cause burns, smoke inhalation, and respiratory problems, environmental devastation, ecosystem disruption, air and water pollution, and greenhouse gas emissions.
- **Beneficial:** Fire can be used for cooking, heating, land clearing, and other beneficial purposes.
- **Ecological:** Fire can play a role in ecosystem dynamics, influencing plant growth and nutrient cycling.

## Fire Safety and Prevention

Awareness of understanding fire hazards and taking precautions is crucial for preventing fires and minimizing their impact. Prevention measures including practicing fire safety measures, such as fire safety drills at schools, offices, etc., proper disposal of cigarettes, safe use of cooking equipment, and maintaining fire-safe landscaping, are essential. Emergency response, including having working smoke detectors, fire extinguishers, and knowing how to respond in case of a fire, can save lives. Fire management, including prescribed burns and other fire management practices, can help reduce the risk of large wildfires and restore forest ecosystems.

## Fire Events Around the World

- The largest fire in world history is Australia's New South Wales Bushfires in 1974 and 1975 — equivalent to more than 451,000 square miles, or larger than California and Texas combined
- Fire occurred in 2003, Siberian Taiga Fires in Russia, which burned an estimated 55 million acres.
- The Peshtigo Fire (1871) remains the deadliest wildfire in U.S. history, with a death toll of more than 1,200 in Wisconsin.
- The Palisades Fire (23,707 acres) is the third-most destructive wildfire in California's history
- The Eaton fire in California could potentially exhaust the state's wildfire fund.

There have been so many wildfires recently fueled by warmer-than-average temperatures and drought conditions, with some parts of the country experiencing temperatures up to 10 degrees C (18 degrees F) above normal.

## Spiritual and Symbolic Meanings

Fire has held profound cultural significance across diverse societies throughout history. In Ancient Greece, fire was one of the four classical elements, associated with energy, assertiveness, and passion. Fire also represents creation, destruction, and transformation. Fire is used in purification rituals, as a connection to the divine, and as a symbol of hope and renewal. Examples include the Hindu festival of Diwali, where light from lamps and fireworks signifies the triumph of good over evil.

## Facts and Fun Facts about Fire

- Wildfires can spread rapidly, with rates up to 25 kilometers per hour, consuming everything in their path.
- Fire can double its size in 30 seconds.
- Most wildfires are human caused.

- Wildfires are essential for some plant species.
- California has the largest acreage burned annually in the United States.
- A wildfire is large enough to make its own weather system.
- Fires move faster while going uphill.
- Fire tornadoes can form under the right conditions.
- Wildfires don't always burn on the surface.
- Climate change is increasing the frequency and severity of wildfires.
- Fire flames cast a faint shadow.
- Wildfires can last from a few hours to several months.
- Fire only burns on Earth, while other planets lack sufficient oxygen to sustain fire.
- Fire can make trees explode. If there's enough water deep within a tree, the steam produced by the fire can cause the tree to explode.
- Firefighting was once an Olympic sport. It was part of the 1900 Summer Olympics in Paris.
- Fire color is influenced by oxygen. Low-oxygen fires tend to be yellow, while high-oxygen fires tend to be blue.
- Fire can start with ice by using concentrated solar rays and ice.
- You can start a fire with water through a chemical reaction.
- Human bones can't be fully destroyed by fire.
- Firefighting gear can weigh up to 80-120 pounds.

Altogether, fire is a double-edged sword. It can be destructive and devastating, as seen in wildfires, but it also symbolizes renewal, as it clears old growth and allows new life to flourish.



Samantha is 12 years old and a student at RJO Intermediate School in Kings Park, New York. Some of her favorite hobbies are playing guitar, writing songs and poems, and reading.

### Soul-fire

by Samantha Scaduto

There is something burning in my soul

As hot as a smoldering ember it falls

As blazing as the sun

When I am close to you, I feel it grow

I feel my ember grow

There is something burning in my heart

As hot as a forest of flames

As scalding as the stars

When I am next to you, I feel it rise

I feel my fire rise

There is something burning in my head

As hot as my skin when you brush it

As searing as a thousand suns

When I am touching you, I feel it spread

I feel my light spread

There is something burning in my skin

As hot as the meteor shower we watched together

As blistering as the desert

When I am holding you, I feel it fill me

I feel my everblaze fill me

There is something burning between us

As hot as a warm hearth on the Eve

As cozy as the comfort of children of our own

When I am loving us, I feel you

I feel my love for you

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Anaia loves to read, and hasn't met a genre she disapproves of, though as the piece below will attest, she has a marked love for gore. She also enjoys playing tennis, hanging out with her friends, and trying to drink way more bubble tea than is good for her! She attends City of London School for Girls in London, England, and will be joining Year 8 in September.

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**by Anaia Swarup**

An arrow, trailing smoke behind it, plunges into the heart of the city one night. No one notices it. Not until it's too late – they're all safely tucked up in bed.

A dishevelled stray dog, around twelve years of age, with large, sad eyes and a staggering gait, trips over the arrow, straggly locks of fur immediately turning to ash at the contact. Watery grey eyes shut tightly, head arches back, and a pitiful howl is uttered, a discordant sort of sound, rousing the city out of its twilight stupor.

People fumble for their torches; clumsiness increased hundredfold by the torrentious fear paralysing each and every citizen save for one. A little girl with a sleek black bob. She rushes out barefoot, paying no heed to the clamour of the citizens behind her. No one notices her go. No one notices the little girl slip through the gate and dash off into the streets. They're too busy noticing their own fear.

However, in her haste, she forgets one thing: her glasses. Without those dense ebony frames to squint through, the world is a blur. She can see no further than one yard, and even that is a struggle.

Momentarily paralysed with terror, she pauses, locked in an unwilling stasis, hoping someone will notice her absence and send out a search party to look for her.

The girl waits, and as she waits, she wonders why no one has come for her yet. Why no one has stopped her from slipping through the gates. Then she remembers. Her parents were attending a seminar in a nearby village and would only be back at the break of dawn the next day. But there is still no other option for her, too lost to move, so she waits. Perhaps, she thinks, a family friend might check in on her, or everyone would be counted at the city hall. Maybe someone saw her as she slipped away, and even now is raising the alarm. Perhaps the seminar finished early, and her parents are on their way back.

And then she hears it. The slight crackling of a flame to her left.

Blindly, the girl twists around, arms jerkily suspended in the air in a futile attempt to sense the heat. From a distance, it looks almost as if a voodoo doll is controlling her. The whispering sound draws nearer, a slight gust of wind propelling fatal amounts of smoke to the girl's back

Still locked in place, rendered helpless by the fear creeping over the barriers of her mind, polluting her thoughts with hysteria, the girl takes one last breath before everything overwhelms her. The horror blares

in her mind like a fire alarm, even as her lungs fill with smoke and her hair slowly catches fire. The flames crawl across her body, sparks embedding themselves into her skin like miniature rubies. For a split second, the girl's scream is distinguishable, before it's swallowed by the smoke, and all that is left of her is a pile of ashes.

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Zayn wrote about and drew meeting a fireman. They are heroes and helped with the fires where Zayn lived in Los Angeles. Now he's moving to London and he hopes to meet firemen there too. Zayn just turned 7 years old. When he grows up, he wants to be a hero too and help people.

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### I Met A Hero

by Zayn Mamaji Kapadia

I like firemen. They are helpful. They save people and animals. I met my Local firemen. I talked to them and I looked at their fire truck.



# PHOTOGRAPHY



Adaline is 7-years-old. Adaline is French-American. Adaline likes camping, traveling, dance (hip hop in particular! She does hip hop competitions!), drawing, and sparkles. Her favorite colors are pink, purple, green, red, yellow, aqua, and white.

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**Fire in the Sky**

**by Adaline Turmaud**





Stanley loves spending time with his family (especially his cousin, Ana), 3 dogs, and pet snake, Noodlebob! Some of his favorite things include playing board games, video games, playing toy cars, and playing on playgrounds when the weather is nice.

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Flaming Hot Wheels

by Stanley Doughty.



ART





Charlotte Moretti is 10 years old. She enjoys playing tennis, drawing, and creating things. She really loves imagining new ways to make art in ways that show how she is unique.

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### Creativity Ignited

by Charlotte Moretti



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Sara Guyton is 11 years old and lives in Dripping Springs, Texas. She has two dogs, Pickle and Didymus, and loves to draw cats.

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### Sea of Fire

by Sara Guyton





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Kaitlyn Jex is a 6th grade student from Oklahoma. She enjoys manga, anime, drawing, and spending time in nature.

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Aki

by Kaitlyn Jex





Michael Moretti is 8 years old. He likes to draw, especially mythical creatures like Dragons, and creating things with his art. He also likes building with Lego sets, playing video games, and playing baseball.

### The Big Fire

by Michael Moretti



Adaline is 7-years-old. Adaline is French-American. Adaline likes camping, traveling, dance (hip hop in particular! She does hip hop competitions!), drawing, and sparkles. Her favorite colors are pink, purple, green, red, yellow, aqua, and white.

### Firefighter Rescue

by Adaline Turmaud





Zayn wrote about and drew meeting a fireman. They are heroes and helped with the fires where Zayn lived in Los Angeles. Now he's moving to London and he hopes to meet firemen there too. Zayn just turned 7 years old. When he grows up, he wants to be a hero too and help people.

Zayn's brother, Amir, is 5 years old. He likes firetrucks and this is a fireman he drew. He wears red like Mickey Mouse, but he's not a mouse, he's a hero.

### Fireman

by Zayn Mamaji Kapadia (and Amir Mamaji Kapadia)







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# THE END

(Lit kids always burn bright!)