

Sid the Swan and the Great Fire of London

A Fictional Story

Sid was a swan who was really good at smelling things. He liked to swim along the river looking for food. When he smelt a tasty plant, he swam underwater to eat it.

Every evening, Sid went to sleep by the side of the river with his friends.

One morning, Sid woke up. It was still dark but he could smell something strange.

“Wake up!” he said.

“What’s the matter?” Gary Goose said.

“There’s a strange smell,” Sid said.

“That’s smoke!” the duck twins said.

“There must be a fire!”

Sid flew into the air.

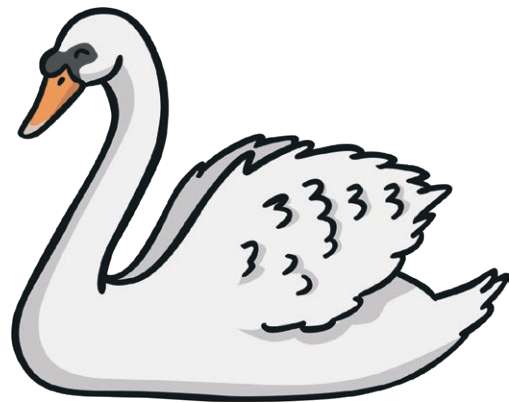
“What are you doing?” the duck twins shouted.

“I have to do something,” Sid said.

“But it’s dark,” Gary Goose shouted. “You won’t be able to see!”

“I can smell which way to go!” Sid said, taking in a great big sniff. He flew towards where the smell was coming from.

Sid was soon above the London houses. He could see a bakery. It was on fire.



Sid flew down. “Honk! Honk!” he cried as loudly as he could.

A man came running out of his house. “Fire!” the man shouted.

The man looked for others to help him and Sid flew back to his friends.

“Come on,” he said when he got back to the river, “it’s not safe to stay here!”

All his friends jumped into the air to follow Sid.

“Thank goodness for my nose!” Sid said, as he led his friends to safety.



Questions

1. What is Sid? Tick **one**.

- a duck
- a goose
- a swan

2. What could Sid smell when he woke up? Tick **one**.

- something strange
- chips
- bread

3. Who said, “**What’s the matter?**” Tick **one**.

- the duck twins
- gary Goose
- the man

4. What was wrong with the bakery? Tick **one**.

- It made bad bread.
- It was on fire.
- It was closed on Monday.

5. What did Sid do at the end? Tick **one**.

- honk loudly
- run out of the house
- lead his friends to safety

Answers

1. What is Sid? Tick **one**.

- a duck
- a goose
- a swan**

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- honk loudly
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- lead his friends to safety**

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A Fictional Story

Sid was a large swan with a really good sense of smell. All day, he would sniff out water plants to snack on. When he found them, he would dip underwater to grab their tasty roots and stems.

Every evening, Sid went to sleep near London Bridge with his friends.

One morning, Sid woke really early. It was still dark but he could smell something strange.

“Wake up!” he said.

“Whatever is the matter?” Father Goose said with a sleepy honk.

“There’s a strange smell,” Sid replied.

“That’s smoke you can smell,” the duck twins quacked. “There must be a fire!”



Sid flew into the air.

“What are you doing?” the duck twins said.

“I have to do something,” Sid said.

“But it’s dark,” Mother Goose shouted. “You won’t be able to see!”

“I’ve got my nose to guide me!” Sid called down, taking in a great big sniff. He twisted his body and flew towards where the smoky smell was coming from.

Sid was soon above the London houses. Below was a bakery where humans would sometimes throw him crumbs of bread to eat. Sid could see flames coming from the bakery.

Sid flew between the houses. "Honk! Hiss! Honk!" he cried as loudly as he could.

A man came running out of his house. "Fire!" he shouted.

Sid had warned the humans. Now it was time to save his friends. "Come on," he said when he returned to the river, "it's not safe to stay here!"

All the geese and ducks jumped into the air to follow the big swan.

"Thank goodness for my nose!" Sid sighed, as he led his friends to safety.



Questions

1. What did Sid do all day?

- fly around London
- sniff out water plants to snack on
- sleep

2. **It was still dark but he could smell something strange.**

What could Sid smell?

3. Match the characters to what they say in the story:

Father Goose	"There must be a fire!"
the duck twins	"Fire!"
the man	"Whatever is the matter?"

4. How did Sid warn the humans?

5. Number the events below to show the order in which they happen in the story. The first one has been done for you.

	Sid could see flames coming from the bakery.
	One morning, Sid woke really early.
	"Thank goodness for my nose!" Sid sighed.
	"But it's dark," Mother Goose shouted.
1	Sid was a large swan with a really good sense of smell.

Answers

1. What did Sid do all day?

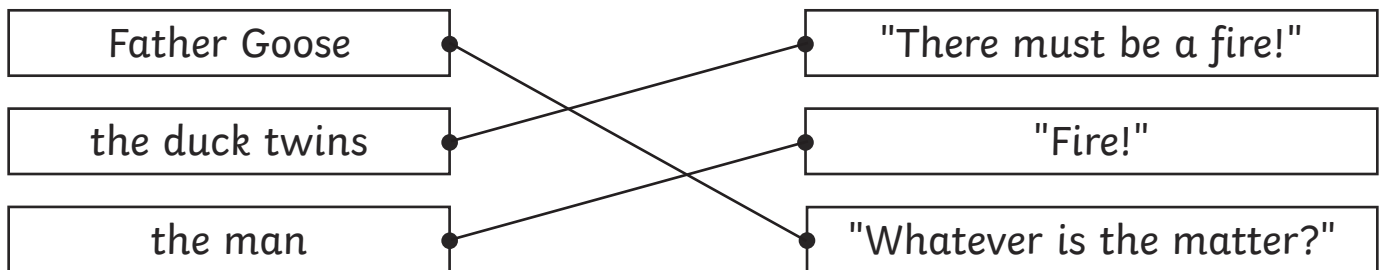
- fly around London
- sniff out water plants to snack on**
- sleep

2. **It was still dark but he could smell something strange.**

What could Sid smell?

Sid could smell smoke.

3. Match the characters to what they say in the story:



4. How did Sid warn the humans?

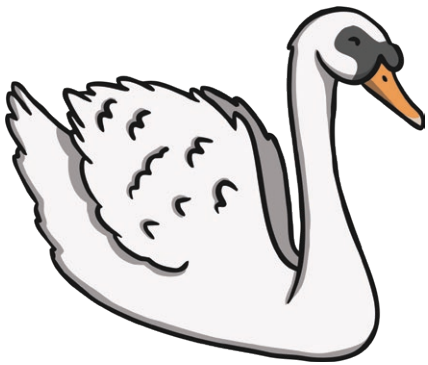
Sid hissed and honked as loudly as he could to warn the humans.

5. Number the events below to show the order in which they happen in the story. The first one has been done for you.

4	Sid could see flames coming from the bakery.
2	One morning, Sid woke really early.
5	"Thank goodness for my nose!" Sid sighed.
3	"But it's dark," Mother Goose shouted.
1	Sid was a large swan with a really good sense of smell.

Sid the Swan and the Great Fire of London

A Fictional Story



Sid was a large swan with a really good sense of smell. All day, he would paddle along the river Thames sniffing out water plants to snack on. When he found them, he would close his eyes and dip underwater to grab their tasty roots and stems.

Every evening, Sid went to sleep on a quiet bank near London Bridge with his friends.

One morning, Sid woke especially early. It was still dark but he could smell something strange in the air.

“Wake up!” he hissed.

“Whatever is the matter, old chap?” Father Goose said with a sleepy honk.

“There’s a strange smell,” Sid replied.

The duck twins paddled up beside him. “That’s smoke you can smell,” they both quacked at once. “There must be a fire!”

Sid opened up his wings.

“What are you doing?” the duck twins questioned.

“I have to do something,” Sid said, as he pulled himself into the air.

“But it’s dark,” Mother Goose shouted. “You won’t be able to see!”

“I’ve got my nose to guide me!” Sid called down, taking in a great big sniff. He twisted his body and sped towards where the smoky smell was coming from.

Sid was soon above the London houses. Below was a bakery where humans would sometimes throw old loaves out for him to eat. Sid could see flames coming from the bakery.

“Honk! Hiss! Honk!” he cried as loudly as he could, flying between the houses.

A man came running out of his house. “Fire!” he yelled.

Having warned the humans, Sid flew back to his friends. “Come on,” he said, “it’s not safe to stay here!”

With the sound of people shouting in the background, Sid guided his friends to safety. “Thank goodness for my nose!” he sighed, as he glided through the dark London sky.



Questions

1. What did Sid do with the water plants? Tick **one**.

- grab their tasty roots and stems
- eat them by London Bridge
- paddle along with them

2. Why did Sid wake especially early?

3. Why was Mother Goose worried when Sid flew off?

4. What do you think Sid's friends thought about him at the end of the story?

5. Number the events below to show the order in which they happen in the story. The first one has been done for you.

	Sid guided his friends to safety.
1	Sid swam underwater.
	Sid sped towards the bakery.
	Sid was asleep.
	Sid smelt something strange.

6. Explain what the man may have thought when Sid woke him up. Give two ideas in your answer.

Answers

1. What did Sid do with the water plants? Tick **one**.

- grab their tasty roots and stems**
- eat them by London Bridge
- paddle along with them

2. Why did Sid wake especially early?

Sid woke up especially early because he smelt something strange.

3. Why was Mother Goose worried when Sid flew off?

Mother Goose was worried because she thought Sid wouldn't be able to see when flying in the dark.

4. What do you think Sid's friends thought about him at the end of the story?

Pupils' own responses, such as: Sid's friends would have been feeling grateful and proud of Sid for saving them.

5. Number the events below to show the order in which they happen in the story. The first one has been done for you.

5	Sid guided his friends to safety.
1	Sid swam underwater.
4	Sid sped towards the bakery.
2	Sid was asleep.
3	Sid smelt something strange.

6. Explain what the man may have thought when Sid woke him up. Give two ideas in your answer.

Pupils' own responses, such as: The man would have been alarmed by Sid's honks and then shocked and scared that the bakery was on fire.