

Devastated, Maria wiped back the tears. The memories, her photos, her life – vanished and gone forever.

Charred wood crunched, disintegrating beneath her feet, as she walked through the wreckage of what was once her home – now just a darkened, wooden frame like prison bars around her.

Entering her ‘bedroom’ something caught the sunlight. Maria leant down to pick it up – a necklace - the locket her mother had given her on her 13<sup>th</sup> birthday. She opened it. By some miracle, the photo of them both was still intact: clutching it tight, she smiled and walked away to her new life.



1. Describe how Maria’s emotions change through this opening.
2. What might have happened before this story starter?
3. Why might Maria be smiling at the end of this passage?
4. Why might Maria have returned to her home after it was destroyed?
5. Which words and phrases show that it was dangerous for Maria to return to her home?

A Starter for 10

### Be a detective.



Find out about a ‘Great fire’ that happened near you, e.g. London, New York. Where was it, what happened ?  
Create a fire evacuation plan for your house.  
What do firefighters use to put out fires? How long do they train for?  
What is used to put out forest fires and bush fires?  
Why is ‘Stop, Drop and Roll’ important?