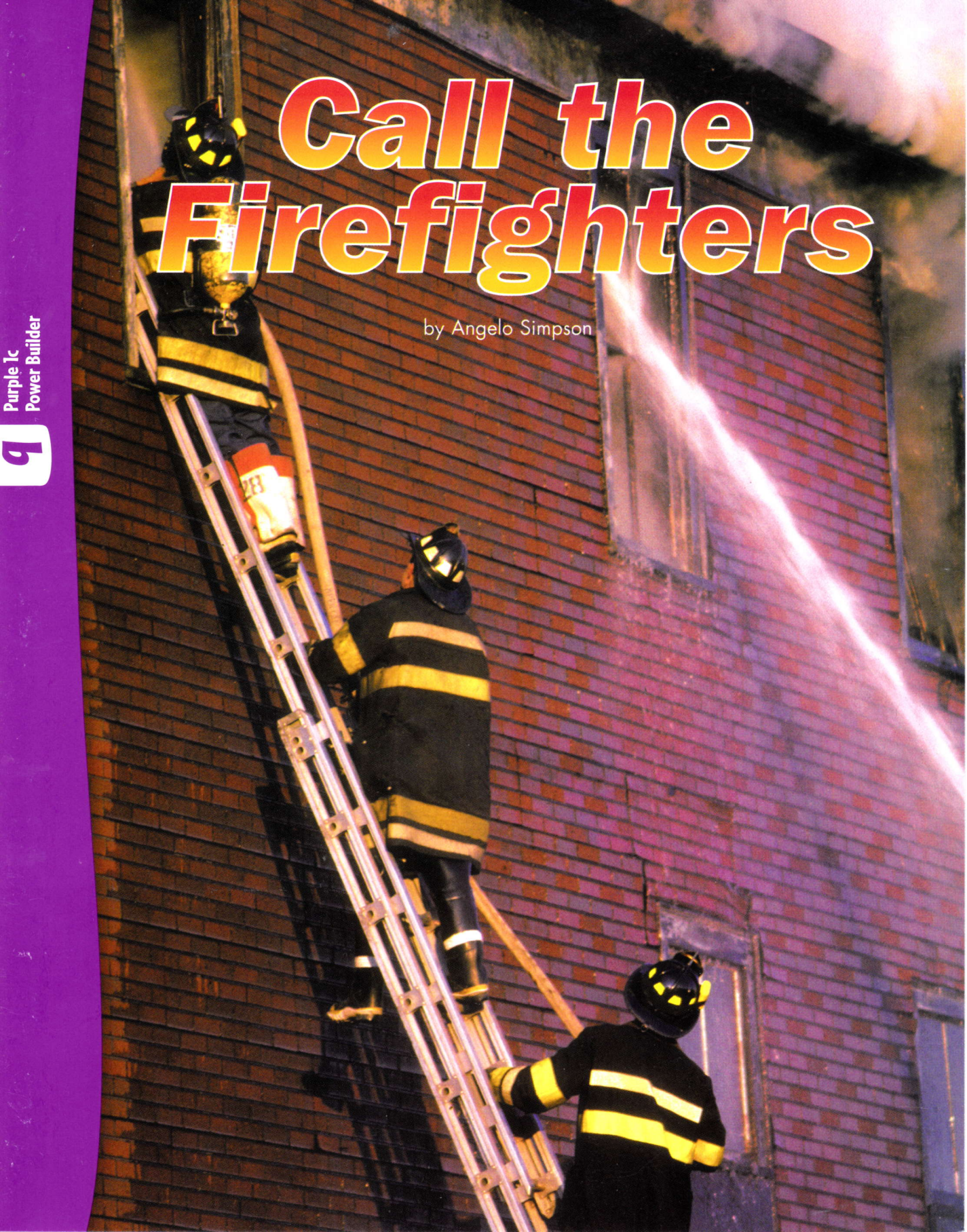


# *Call the Firefighters*

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Purple 1c  
Power Builder

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- 1 Flames leap high into the air. An old warehouse is on fire. Crowds of people gather to watch as the fire spreads up the walls and across the roof.
- 2 A siren blares in the distance. A fire truck and an ambulance turn the corner. They stop near the old warehouse. Firefighters leap from the truck and lay out the hose. They hook the hose to a nearby fire hydrant and start spraying water onto the fire. A paramedic in the ambulance waits anxiously in case someone gets hurt.
- 3 A ladder truck turns the corner and stops at the warehouse. The ladder truck is longer than the fire truck. By now the fire covers the roof. Two firefighters climb into the basket at the end of the ladder. The ladder on a fire truck is more than one hundred feet long. Within seconds the ladder rises high into the air. The two firefighters use a nozzle on the bucket to pump water onto the roof.
- 4 A helicopter buzzes overhead. The pilot uses the radio to talk with the firefighters battling the fire in the warehouse.
- 5 Finally the fire is put out. The fire chief and firefighters go inside to inspect the warehouse. They sweep away the water and clear broken glass from around the windows. The fire chief wants to make sure there is no fire left in the building.
- 6 Firefighters have very important jobs that require teamwork. When fighting a fire, they must work together to connect hoses to hydrants, work a pump to send water through the hose, and put ladders in the best positions to fight the fire.
- 7 Firefighters not only battle fires. They are also trained to help people who are hurt in a fire. The firefighters try to save as much of a building as they can.
- 8 Firefighters are needed everywhere. Some firefighters work at airports. If an airplane catches on fire, firefighters must use foam or chemicals to put it out.
- 9 Other firefighters work in forests and parks. Forest fires are very dangerous because they can spread quickly and can be hard to reach. Sometimes firefighters use helicopters and airplanes to drop water on large forest fires.
- 10 When battling a forest fire, firefighters will sometimes figure out which way the fire is heading. Then they will move ahead of the fire and cut down all the trees and dig up the grass. That way, the fire has nothing to burn and will die out.
- 11 If a fire cannot be reached by ground, some firefighters, called smoke jumpers, will parachute from an airplane and land near a fire. Once they land, they will start to cut down the trees to deprive the fire of fuel. However, this can be very dangerous. If the wind shifts or something else goes wrong, the smoke jumpers could become trapped.
- 12 When they are not fighting fires, firefighters spend most of their time at the fire station. Firefighters have a different work schedule than most people. For example, a firefighter will be on duty for twenty-four hours and then be off duty for the next forty-eight hours. At the station they clean and maintain their equipment, exercise, and practice drills. Some firefighters even visit schools to talk to students about fire safety. They teach students what to do in case of a fire. Maybe a firefighter has visited your school.
- 13 Would you know what to do in case of a fire?

## COMPREHENSION

**A** Choose the best ending for each sentence. Write *a*, *b*, or *c*.

- 1 This story mainly explains
  - a a firefighter's job.
  - b a toy factory fire.
  - c how a ladder truck works.
- 2 The firefighters in this story needed the helicopter
  - a to rescue people from a building.
  - b to find other fires in the city.
  - c to see the whole fire and direct the firefighters below.
- 3 When battling a forest fire, firefighters cut down trees ahead of the fire so
  - a the fire runs out of fuel.

- b the firefighter can drive the fire truck to the fire.
- c they can make a barrier to stop the fire.

- 4 You know smoke jumpers have a dangerous job because
  - a they jump from planes to fight forest fires.
  - b they can become trapped if the wind shifts.
  - c Both **a** and **b**
- 5 To be a good firefighter, you would need
  - a to know about safety.
  - b to be physically fit.
  - c Both **a** and **b**

## LEARN ABOUT WORDS

**B** Often you can find out the meaning of a word by seeing how it is used in a story. The other words in the story give you clues.

Find the word in the story that best fits each meaning. (A paragraph number tells you where to look.) Write the word.

- 1 device that makes a loud, shrill sound (2)
- 2 spout at the end of a hose (3)
- 3 look at closely and carefully (5)
- 4 fight; struggle with (7)
- 5 jump from an airplane (11)
- 6 something burned to provide power (11)
- 7 something done over and over again (12)

**C** **too** = also

**two** = the number after *one*

Words that sound alike but have different spellings and meanings are called homophones. *Too* and *two* are homophones.

Look at each word in **bold type** below. Note the paragraph number. Look at the paragraph and find the homophone. Which of the two words fits in the blank in the sentence? Write the word.

8 **their** (5)

Make sure \_\_\_\_\_ is enough water to fight the fire.

9 **weigh** (10)

A car got in the \_\_\_\_\_ of the fire truck.

10 **dye** (10)

Without fuel, a fire will \_\_\_\_\_ out.

## THINK ABOUT IT

**D** A word was left out of each of the following sentences. Look at the two words in **bold type** below each sentence. Which word best completes the sentence? Write the word.

- 1 Cars, \_\_\_\_\_, and trucks move out of the way in a fire.  
**buses boats**
- 2 The firefighters saved men, women, and \_\_\_\_\_.  
**children grass**
- 3 Firefighters use fog, foam, and \_\_\_\_\_ to put out fires.  
**soap water**
- 4 The firefighters \_\_\_\_\_, sleep, and work in the fire station.  
**eat hunt**
- 5 The fire made holes in the roof, \_\_\_\_\_, and floor.  
**street walls**

**E** Firefighters *direct* traffic.  
Cars followed their *direction*.

Adding the letters *-ion* to a verb like *direct* changes it to a noun—*direction*. If the verb ends in *e*, the *e* is dropped before *ion* is added.

dictate + **ion** = dictation

Add *-ion* to the word in **bold type** to complete the second sentence. (Remember to drop the final *e*.) Write the new word.

- 6 The fire marshal came to **inspect** the fire. His \_\_\_\_\_ took a long time.
- 7 Firefighters must **react** quickly. Their quick \_\_\_\_\_ can save lives.
- 8 After a fire they **collect** their tools. The tool \_\_\_\_\_ is put away.
- 9 They do a **complete** job. They go home after its \_\_\_\_\_.
- 10 Cities **create** new safety rules all the time. The \_\_\_\_\_ of rules helps firefighters.

**F** Read each sentence. If it is only about what firefighters do at a fire, write *fire*. If it is only about what they do at the fire station, write *station*. If it is about what they do at both places, write *both*.

- 11 Firefighters hang up the hoses to dry.
- 12 Firefighters help people climb down ladders.
- 13 Firefighters use electric saws to open doors.
- 14 Firefighters study new ways to fight fires.
- 15 Firefighters are busy people.