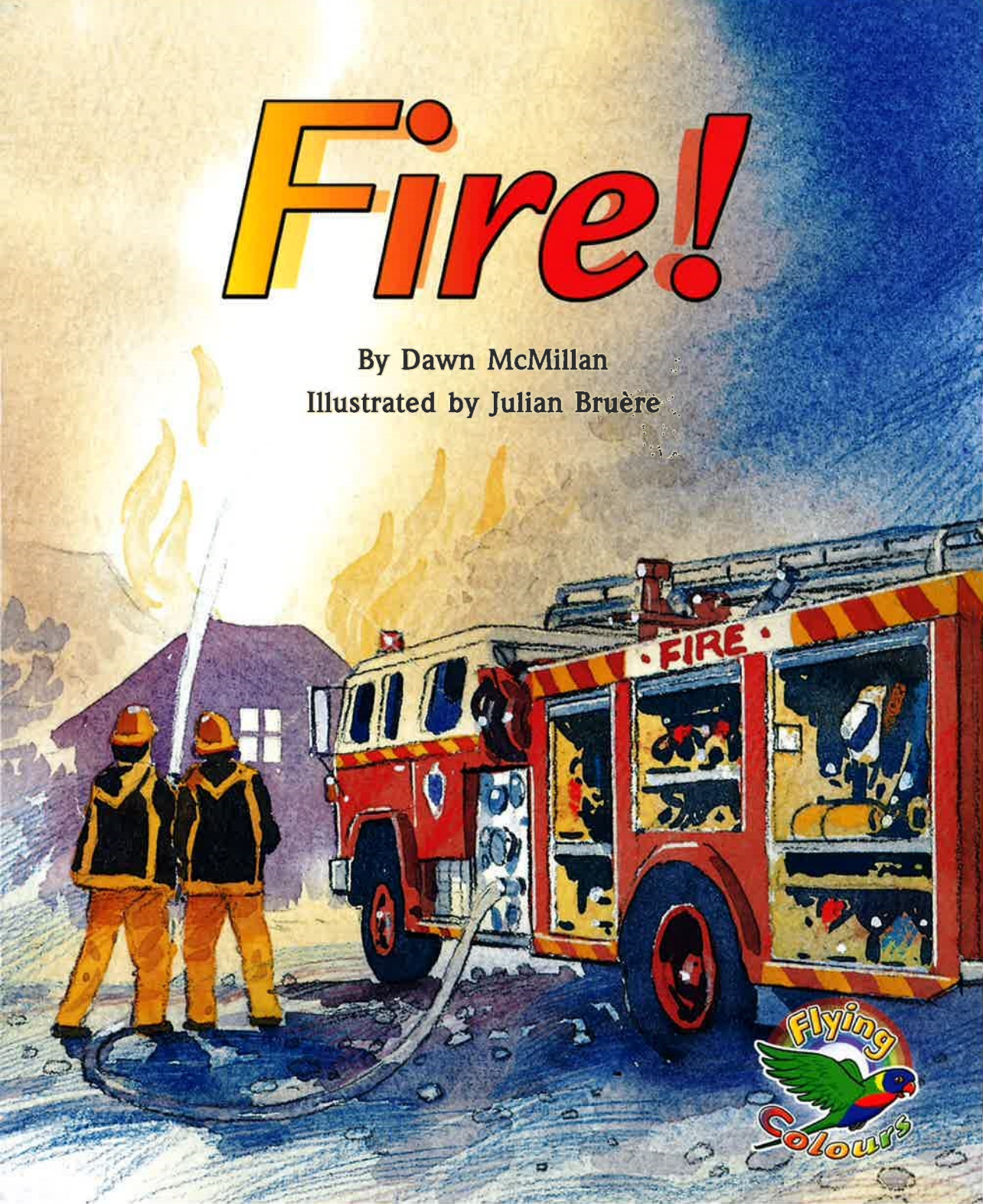
Fire!

By Dawn McMillan

Illustrated by Julian Bruère





Title	*Fire!*
Levels	23–24/25
Running words	1049

Jason is deaf. He wears hearing aids to help him hear most sounds, and he lip-reads. When Jason lip-reads he watches the way that people move their mouths so that he can work out what they are saying.



fire

Jason and Danny and Mum use sign language to talk to each other. Sign language is a special language where people use their arms, hands and face to do the talking, and their eyes to do the listening.



danger



inside



phone



wait

For Review Only

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Chapter 1

In the Night

Jason woke up with a fright. Something was wrong! He turned his light on, slipped out of bed and made his way down the hallway to Danny's room. He opened the door and saw that Danny was asleep, curled up under the bed covers. Quietly, he shut the door again and walked towards Mum's room, noticing that her light was on.

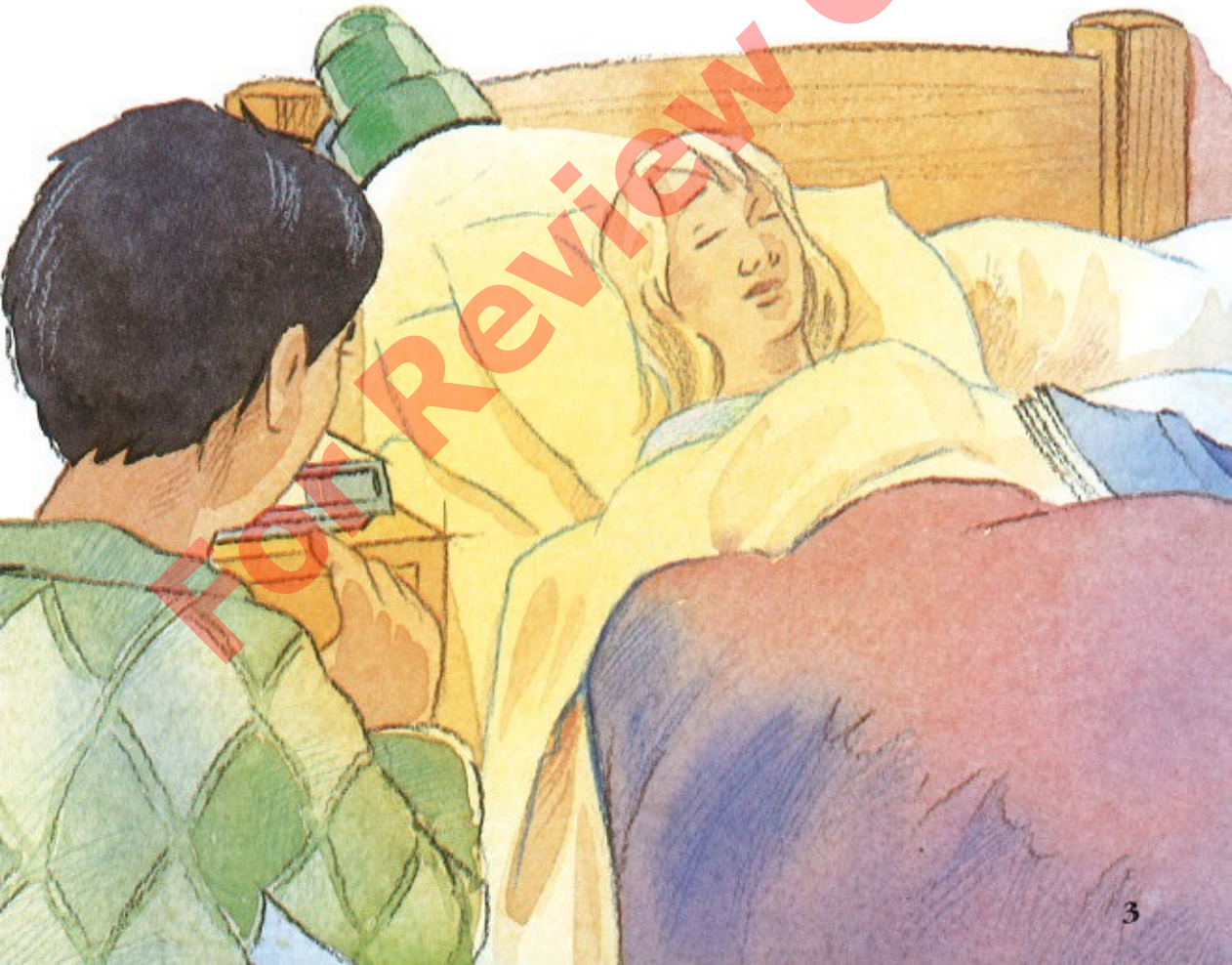


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"Mum's awake! Maybe she's sick!" Jason worried, but when he went into the room he found Mum asleep, her book lying on the bed beside her. Jason turned her light off and returned to his room.

"I must have had a bad dream," he thought.

He switched off the light and pulled his bed cover back over him.



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But, as he lay in the dark, the uneasy feeling came back. Rocky! Perhaps something was wrong with Rocky! Jason jumped out of bed again, ran to the window and pushed the curtains aside. In the moonlight he could see Rocky in his cage, jumping up at the wire netting.

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Quickly, Jason pulled on his jacket and raced back to Mum's room. He put her light on again and tapped her gently on the shoulder. Mum woke up, startled.

"Mum! Quick!" signed Jason. "Come and look at Rocky! Something's upsetting him!"

"You're right, Jason," answered Mum. "He's barking! I must have been in a deep sleep. I didn't hear him."



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Chapter 2

Something's Burning!

Mum put on her bathrobe and picked up the torch from her bedside table.

"Come on, we'll go and settle Rocky down. He's probably seen a stray cat prowling about, but we can't have him barking at this hour of the night. He'll disturb Mrs Brown next door."



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Mum and Jason opened the back door and put the outside light on. As the light filled the yard, Jason could see that Rocky was still upset.

"Rocky! Be quiet!" Mum called, but Rocky kept on barking.

"Let's get him out! We'll take him inside," Jason signed.



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