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Opening extract from

A Walk in London

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There has been a cathedral on this site for over 1,400 years.

We go past the dragon – and find a huge stone church.
"This is **ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL."**
Mum tells me.

"There's a whispering gallery inside."
We climb up lots of steps into the dome.

There are 259 steps up to the Whispering Gallery.

The Cathedral dome probably weighs about 64,000 tons.

Mum makes us stand in different places, then,
"Hello?" she whispers and I jump!
It sounds as if she's right beside me.

In St Paul's 'Whispering Gallery', a whisper against the wall on one side of the dome can be heard 32 metres away on the other.

Three St Pauls Cathedrals have burned to the ground. This one was designed by Christopher Wren after the Great Fire of London in 1666.


Hello! This is me, and here's my mum! We've just got off the bus in Westminster, in the heart of central London.
A tall clock's striking. "That's Big Ben," Mum tells me. "Eleven o'clock. Good, we'll be in time." "In time for what?" I want to know.
Most people call the clocktower of the Palace of Westminster 'Big Ben', but in fact 'Big Ben' is the name of the bell inside the clock.
The clock has been ticking since 1859. It keeps very good time.
London is the capital city of the United Kingdom. It has around 7.5 million citizens.
Double-decker buses have been riding the streets of London since the 1950s.
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