

Mentor Sentences Based on The Great Fire (Excerpt)

by Jim Murphy

Chicago in 1871 was a city ready to burn. The city boasted having 59,500 buildings, many of them—such as the Courthouse and the *Tribune* Building—large and ornately decorated. The trouble was that about two-thirds of all these structures were made entirely of wood.

Original sentence:

Chicago in 1871 was a city ready to burn.

_____ in _____ was a _____ ready to _____.

New sentence:

The North Junior High basketball team in 2017 was a force ready to be reckoned with!

Original sentence:

The city boasted having 59,500 buildings, many of them—such as the Courthouse and the *Tribune* Building—large and ornately decorated.

The _____ boasted _____, many of them—such as _____
and _____ and _____.

New sentence:

The team boasted a star-studded cast of players, many of them—such as Tucker and Will—big guys who could also dribble the ball and shoot the three.

Original sentence:

The trouble was that about two-thirds of all these structures were made entirely of wood.

The _____ was that about _____ of _____ were _____.

New sentence:

The challenge was that about half of the team were not as gifted, but they were willing to work hard.

Source: Murphy, J. (1995). *The great fire*. New York, NY: Scholastic.