Safer Story

Instructions: Rewrite the article (below and on the other side of this handout if necessary) and change as many details as needed, to give these brothers and their babysitter a safe escape.

Children playing with matches were to blame for a house fire last night that injured two brothers, ages 8 and 11, and their 14-year-old babysitter, fire department investigators said.

The boys were playing with matches in an upstairs bedroom when they accidentally ignited the curtains. Fearing they would get in trouble, the children fled to another bedroom and hid in a closet.

According to officials, the brothers did try to escape when the room became filled with smoke, but then ran back for their pet goldfish.

The babysitter, who was in the basement, didn’t realize the house was on fire until the second floor was already engulfed in flames. The house had smoke alarms, but the batteries were dead.

The sitter attempted to rescue the children herself, but was overcome by heat and smoke. A neighbor who saw the flames called 911.

Firefighters used ladders to reach the second floor and found the siblings in the closet. The sitter was found at the bottom of the stairs. All three remain hospitalized today in serious condition.