## Comparison of TeachMate AI with ChatGPT

TeachMate AI (<https://teachmateai.com/>) is a subscription service for teachers to generate a large number of resources using AI. It has been built by teachers for teachers, and is designed to ensure outputs are specific to the English National Curriculum (and other countries are also catered for). Data is stored in the UK and not used for training purposes, although they note: *There is no requirement to enter any identifiable personal data into any of our AI tools, and it is the user’s choice and responsibility to ensure that they follow their school’s data protection requirements.*

The tool clearly can save teachers a large amount of time, but can any Large Language Model such as ChatGPT do as good a job for free?

The answer is probably yes, but only with some effective prompt writing: being specific about the output, including examples and documents to refer to (e.g. the English national curriculum). The time taken to craft these prompts might balance out the cost of the subscription.

One member of the AI Work Group tested out the comprehension activity below.

## Generating Y2 comprehension activities

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| **Comprehension Text with questions** | |
| **Teachmate AI** | **Chat GPT** |
| Prompt | Prompt |
| Curriculum: 2014 National Curriculum in England  Year group: 2  Length: 500 words  Topic: Great fire of London  Reading focus: Retrieval  Number of questions: 5 | Write a 500 word text and 5 retrieval questions based on the Great fire of London for Year 2 using the 2014 National curriculum in England |

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| **TeachMate AI** | |
| **Pros** | **Cons** |
| - Easier to put the prompt in as it asks for specific information e.g. year group, length etc…  - Word count is closer to what was asked  - Factually correct  - Provides answers | - Some of the language seemed difficult for year 2’s to read  - One of the questions didn’t really make sense |

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| **Chat GPT** | |
| **Pros** | **Cons** |
| - Much more accessible language for Y2  - Good questions which make sense  - Questions felt easier for a Y2 to understand | - Have to think more about the prompt input  - Not close to the word count asked for |

**Outputs:**

**TeachMate AI version**

**560 words**

A long time ago, in the year 1666, there was a big fire in London. This event is known as the Great Fire of London. It started on a very early morning in September. The fire began in a small bakery on Pudding Lane. A baker named Thomas Farriner forgot to put out his oven. The flames from the oven quickly spread to the wooden beams of the bakery.

The fire grew bigger and bigger. The wind blew strongly, making the flames move faster. Soon, the fire reached other houses nearby. Most of the buildings in London were made of wood, so they caught fire very quickly. People woke up to the sound of cracking wood and the smell of smoke. They were frightened and confused. They did not know how to stop the fire.

As the fire spread, people ran into the streets to escape. They grabbed their loved ones and their belongings. Some people tried to put out the fire with buckets of water, but it was too late. The fire was too big and too strong. It continued to burn for several days. Many homes, shops, and churches were destroyed. By the end of the fire, a lot of London was in ruins.

After the Great Fire, people looked at the destruction and felt sad. They wanted to rebuild their city. The King, Charles II, ordered that London be rebuilt with stronger buildings. This time, they would use stone instead of wood. They also made new rules about how the buildings should be built. They wanted to make sure that if a fire started again, it would not spread as quickly.

One of the most famous buildings that was built after the Great Fire is St. Paul’s Cathedral. Sir Christopher Wren, an architect, designed the cathedral. It is big and beautiful, with a tall dome that can be seen from far away. The construction of St. Paul’s Cathedral took many years, but it became a symbol of London.

Many people lost their homes in the fire. The city had to help them. They set up places where people could stay. They also gave people food and clothes. The fire changed life in London, but the people came together to support each other.

The Great Fire of London is an important event in history. It teaches us how quickly things can change. It also shows us the strength of the people in London. They worked hard to rebuild their city. Today, there are reminders of the Great Fire around London. There are monuments and plaques that tell the story of that terrible time.

Children today can learn about the Great Fire of London in school. Teachers tell stories about the brave people who faced the fire and the clever ideas that came after it. We can think about how important it is to stay safe and to help each other in times of trouble.

In conclusion, the Great Fire of London was a huge disaster, but it led to many changes. The people of London showed bravery and resilience. They rebuilt their city stronger and safer than before. By remembering this event, we can learn about the past and understand how it shapes our lives today. The story of the Great Fire is a reminder of the importance of community, helping one another, and learning from our experiences.

**Retrieval Questions**

1. What year did the Great Fire of London occur?
2. Where did the fire first start?
3. Who was the baker involved in the start of the fire?
4. What type of buildings made in London caught fire easily? *– Does this question make sense?*
5. What did King Charles II order after the fire?

**Retrieval Answers**

1. **The Great Fire of London occurred in the year 1666.**  
   This event is significant in history as it changed the way buildings were constructed in London due to the disaster.
2. **The fire first started in a small bakery on Pudding Lane.**  
   This specific location is crucial because it marks the beginning of a devastating event that affected the entire city.
3. **The baker involved in the start of the fire was Thomas Farriner.**  
   His forgetfulness in not putting out the oven led to the catastrophic fire that spread throughout London.
4. **The type of buildings made in London that caught fire easily were mostly made of wood.**  
   This detail is important as it explains why the fire spread so rapidly and caused extensive damage.
5. **King Charles II ordered that London be rebuilt with stronger buildings, using stone instead of wood.**  
   This decision ultimately shaped the future construction practices and safety measures in the city, trying to prevent similar disasters in the future.

**ChatGPT version**

**376 words**

The Great Fire of London was a huge fire that happened in the city of London, England, in 1666. It started on Sunday, September 2, in a small bakery on Pudding Lane. The baker, Thomas Farriner, forgot to properly put out the fire in his oven, and the flames spread quickly.

In those days, most houses were made of wood and had thatched roofs, which are made from dry straw. This made it very easy for the fire to spread from one house to the next. The streets were narrow, and the buildings were very close together, so the fire jumped from roof to roof.

The fire burned for four days and four nights, from Sunday to Wednesday. The people of London were very scared and had to run away to escape the flames. They used buckets of water to try to put out the fire, but it wasn’t enough. Eventually, they decided to pull down some houses to stop the fire from spreading even further. They also used gunpowder to blow up buildings to create firebreaks.

At that time, London did not have a fire brigade like we do today. People had to fight the fire themselves. It was very hard work, and many buildings were destroyed. Over 13,000 houses, 87 churches, and other important buildings, including St. Paul's Cathedral, were burned down. Fortunately, very few people were killed, but many people lost their homes and everything they owned.

The fire finally stopped when the wind changed direction, and soldiers and people from the city helped create more firebreaks. After the fire, London was rebuilt with stronger materials. The new buildings were made of brick and stone instead of wood, and the streets were made wider to stop future fires from spreading so easily.

The Great Fire of London was a very important event in history because it changed how houses and buildings were built. It also led to improvements in how fires were handled, including the creation of a proper fire service many years later.

The fire is remembered every year on its anniversary, and there is even a monument in London to remember what happened. The Monument to the Great Fire of London was built near where the fire started on Pudding Lane.

### **5 Retrieval Questions:**

1. Where did the Great Fire of London start?
2. What were most houses made of at the time of the fire?
3. How long did the Great Fire of London burn?
4. How did people try to stop the fire from spreading?
5. What changes were made to London after the fire?

This text and questions are designed to meet the **Year 2 History** objectives from the **2014 National Curriculum in England**, encouraging children to learn about a significant historical event beyond living memory. It also helps develop their understanding of how the past has shaped the present, including the use of key vocabulary like "bakery," "firebreaks," and "cathedral."

*Tested by the Computing Lead at a Primary School*