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| **Key Vocabulary** |
| amulet | A piece of jewellery thought to protect against evil or danger. |
| billboard | A large outdoor board for displaying adverts. |
| boulevard | A large road. |
| grating | A harsh sound |
| gunpowder | A type of powdered explosive used in fireworks. |
| idleness | Being lazy |
| incandescent | Something that gives off light as a result of being heated. |
| jeer | To make rude or mocking remarks |
| lotus | A type of flower |
| pyrotechnics | Another word for a firework display. |
| rickshaw | This is a two wheeled passenger vehicle that is pulled by a person. Similar to a cart that people can sit in the back of. |
| roosting | A place where birds settle down for the night. |
| Rupee | The official currency of India |
| sarong | Long piece of cloth wrapped round the body and tucked at the waist. |
| steamed | A group of people moving in the same direction, continuously.  |
| sulphur | A yellow non-metal material with explosive qualities |
| toiled | To have worked hard. |
| trundled | To walk heavily or slowly. |



**Context**

Pullman originally wrote the story as a school play. However, it became a best-selling book first and was then adapted into a play. Called a ‘fairy tale’ by Pullman, the story is both a children’s adventure story where the main character undertakes a quest to prove herself, and a metaphor for making beautiful art. In 2015, Pullman said, “I think there is a place for magic in the world – and it’s in stories. We’d be a lot poorer, imaginatively, and possibly emotionally, it we cut out all the magic.”

**Key Characters**

Lila – Protagonist – The daughter of Lalchland who learned to make her own fireworks and dreams of becoming a firework-maker herself.

Lalchland – Lila’s father who taught her how to make fireworks but now wants her to find a husband instead. His wife, and Lila’s mother, died when Lila was young.

Razvani – Antagonist - The Fire Fiend on Mount Merapi.

Hamlet – A talking white elephant owned by the king.

Chulak – Hamlet’s servant who is also friends with Lila.

Jembavati – Lalchland’s sister who would have brought Lila up as a dancer.

**Themes**

The main themes are humour, good versus evil, traditions, teamwork, greed, poverty.

**Key Quotes**

‘So Lila said no more about being a Firework Maker and Lachland said no more about husbands.’

 ‘You had to put love into your fireworks.’

**Plot summary**

Lila doesn’t just want to be a Firework-Maker’s daughter; she wants to be a Firework Maker herself. But although she’s learned a lot she still must get through the most difficult and dangerous part of her apprenticeship – and her father won’t tell her what it is.

In search of this final Firework-Making secret, Lila heads off alone on a journey. It is a journey filled with dangers beyond anything she could have imagined, a journey on which she will learn so much more than the one secret she set out to find . . .

D – Decode

E – Explain

R – Retrieval

I – Inference

C – Word Choice

The Firework Maker’s Daughter

By Philip Pullman