

A Sparkly Evening with Nova and Leo

Learning objective: To develop reading comprehension skills by retrieving information, making inferences, and justifying personal opinions about the traditions of Bonfire Night.

Read the text carefully and answer the questions below. Ensure you use full sentences for your answers.

On the fifth of November, Nova the owl and Leo the lion gathered on the hill to watch the night sky. The air was crisp and cold, smelling of woodsmoke and toasted marshmallows. Below them, the village glowed with the warm light of a bonfire. This annual tradition is a time when many people in the UK gather to watch spectacular firework displays. The bright colours—reds, greens, and golds—burst against the dark clouds, creating patterns that Zara the zebra would certainly admire. People huddled in thick coats, mittens, and scarves, holding glowing sparklers that left shimmering trails in the air. For many, it is a night of excitement and community. While the origins of Bonfire Night date back to the year 1605 and the Gunpowder Plot, today it is mostly a chance for friends and neighbours to enjoy a chilly evening together. As the final rocket whistled into the sky, Nova and Leo felt lucky to witness such a magical display of light and sound.

Word bank: tradition · commemoration · sparklers · atmosphere · celebration · spectacular

1. What are two things that people wear to stay warm during the Bonfire Night celebrations? (2 marks)

2. In what year did the events that led to the tradition of Bonfire Night take place? (1 mark)

3. Why might the author mention that the air smells of 'toasted marshmallows'? (2 marks)

4. Based on the text, how does the community feel about Bonfire Night? (2 marks)

5. Do you think Bonfire Night is a good tradition to keep? Explain your answer using evidence from the text. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of Nova the owl and Leo the lion watching a colourful firework display from the top of a grassy hill. Include a bonfire glowing in the distance.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are planning a bonfire party. You have a budget of £20.00. Write a list of items you would buy for your guests (e.g., sparklers, snacks, hot drinks) and calculate how much your total spend will be.