

A Night of Spark and Splendour: Descriptive Writing

Learning objective: To use expanded noun phrases and vivid imagery to describe a Bonfire Night celebration.

Use this scaffold to construct a descriptive recount of a bonfire celebration. Focus on using your senses to bring the night to life. Remember to check your spelling and punctuation as you write.

As the velvet darkness of November descended, the crisp night air was suddenly pierced by a chorus of whistles and pops.

Word bank: cacophony · flickering · effervescent · whizzing · silhouette · vibrant · crackling · subsequently · nevertheless · amidst · glowing

1. Setting the Scene: Describe the atmosphere of the evening before the fireworks begin. How does the cold air feel against your skin? Start with: The biting chill of the evening was forgotten as... (2 marks)

2. The Bonfire: Describe the appearance and sound of the fire. Use at least two adjectives to describe the flames. Start with: Towering high, the bonfire roared like a hungry beast, its flames... (2 marks)

3. The Fireworks Display: Explain the colours and patterns you see in the sky. Use a simile to compare a firework to something else. Start with: Suddenly, the inky black sky erupted into a kaleidoscope of colour as... (2 marks)

4. Sensory Details: Justify why this night is so exciting by describing the sounds and smells. Start with: The pungent scent of woodsmoke mingled with the sharp smell of gunpowder, while the air was filled with... (3 marks)

5. Reflective Conclusion: What might happen if we didn't have these annual traditions? Explain why communities gather together on this night. Start with: As the final embers faded into the night, I felt... (3 marks)

Extension challenge: Compare and contrast the experience of watching fireworks from a crowded town square versus watching them from a quiet, lonely garden. Write a short paragraph justifying which setting you would prefer and why.