

A Night of Sparks: Writing About Bonfire Night

Learning objective: To write a descriptive recount of Bonfire Night using sensory language and appropriate paragraph structure.

Use the prompts below to build your own recount of a Bonfire Night celebration. Think about what you can see, hear, and smell. Use the word bank to help make your sentences more interesting.

As the cold November air settled over the garden, the first rocket soared into the velvet night sky.

Word bank: dazzling · crackling · whizzing · shimmering · aroma of bonfire smoke · vibrant · suddenly · meanwhile · as the sky darkened · echoing

1. Setting the Scene: Where were you and who were you with? Start by describing the atmosphere. You could begin with: 'The garden was filled with the smell of...', or 'Wrapped in my thickest coat, I stood beside...' (2 marks)

2. The Sight of the Fireworks: Describe the colors and shapes of the fireworks. Try to use words like: 'Above us, a fountain of gold sparks...', or 'I watched as a giant green explosion...' (2 marks)

3. The Sound and Feeling: How did the bangs and whistles sound? What did it feel like to be there? Use starters like: 'The loud bang made me...', or 'The rhythm of the fizzing sparks sounded like...' (2 marks)

4. The Bonfire: Describe the heat and the light of the fire. You could write: 'The bonfire crackled as the orange flames danced...', or 'We moved closer to the warmth because...' (2 marks)

5. The Conclusion: How did the night end? Use starters such as: 'As the last spark faded, I felt...', or 'It was a night to remember because...' (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Challenge: Add a paragraph explaining why we celebrate Bonfire Night. Use your historical knowledge to describe what happened in 1605 involving Guy Fawkes and the Houses of Parliament.