

Year 4 English Assessment: The Night of Sparks

Learning objective: To assess comprehension, descriptive writing skills, and vocabulary use within the context of historical traditions.

Read the passage carefully and answer all questions. Use your best handwriting, full sentences, and check your punctuation.

The twilight sky deepened into a velvet indigo as the village gathered on the common. Pip the caterpillar snuggled into a warm woollen scarf, watching as the bonfire was lit. Orange flames licked the night air, sending a flurry of golden sparks dancing towards the stars. Nova the owl swooped overhead, her sharp eyes mapping the spectacular illumination. The smell of woodsmoke and roasted chestnuts filled the air. It was a night to commemorate history, a night where the darkness was pushed away by the joyous, crackling energy of a thousand tiny lights.

Word bank: catherine wheel · illumination · ember · spectacular · vibrant · crackling · commemorate · twilight

1. Identify two sensory words from the passage that describe the fire. Explain how these words help the reader imagine the scene. (2 marks)

2. Why does the author use the word 'velvet' to describe the sky? What does this suggest about the atmosphere? (2 marks)

3. Find and copy an example of a metaphor used in the passage. (1 mark)

4. Compare and contrast how Pip and Nova experience the bonfire night. Use evidence from the text to support your answer. (3 marks)

5. Justify why it is important for communities to have traditions like Bonfire Night. Use your own knowledge and ideas. (3 marks)

6. The tickets for the village display cost £4.50 for adults and £2.25 for children. If Pip buys tickets for two adults and one child, how much does he spend in total? Show your working out. (3 marks)

7. Write a descriptive paragraph (approx. 60 words) describing a firework display. Use at least two words from the word bank and include an adverb of manner. (5 marks)

8. What might happen if the weather turned rainy during the celebration? Describe the effect on the atmosphere and the bonfire. (6 marks)

Draw: Draw an intricate scene of a 'catherine wheel' firework spinning in the sky above the village common, capturing the movement and the colours described in the passage.



Extension challenge: Total: /25. Think about the history behind the celebration: Why do we use fire to mark this date? Write a short poem using the rhythm of a crackling fire to explain the importance of the event.