

Bonfire Night: A Night of Sparks and Stories

Learning objective: To develop reading comprehension skills by identifying facts and inferring meaning from a descriptive text about Bonfire Night.

Read the passage carefully, then answer the questions below using full sentences. Check your spelling and punctuation.

As the crisp November air settled over the village, Leo the lion gathered his friends around a crackling bonfire. The night sky was soon filled with a spectacular display of colours as fireworks burst overhead, painting the darkness with vibrant streaks of gold, crimson, and electric blue. Bonfire Night, which takes place on the 5th of November, is a long-standing tradition in the UK. It is a time when families wrap up in warm scarves and woolly hats to watch the embers dance in the wind. The tradition commemorates a significant event from 1605, known as the Gunpowder Plot. While the night is filled with excitement and the smell of toasted marshmallows, the most important part of the evening for Leo and his friends is staying safe. They make sure to stand well back from the fire and follow the firework code, ensuring that the history and the fun can be enjoyed safely by everyone.

Word bank: commemoration · spectacular · phosphorus · atmosphere · tradition · vibrant

1. What is the specific date mentioned in the text, and what historical event does it commemorate? (2 marks)

2. Find and copy two adjectives used in the text to describe the fireworks. (2 marks)

3. Why does the author mention that Leo and his friends follow the 'firework code'? (2 marks)

4. Based on the passage, what items of clothing might you need to wear if you were attending a bonfire on a cold November night? (1 mark)

5. How does the author use the senses to help the reader imagine the atmosphere of Bonfire Night? (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene of the night sky above the village, including at least three different types of fireworks and the warm glow of a bonfire at the bottom of the page.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are Leo the lion. Write a short poem (4–8 lines) about the sounds and sights of Bonfire Night.