

A Night of Sparks: Descriptive Writing for Bonfire Night

Learning objective: To use descriptive language, including expanded noun phrases and fronted adverbials, to recount an evening at a bonfire celebration.

Use the prompts below to build your descriptive recount. Think about how Max the monkey might use his maths skills to measure the height of the flames, or how Zara the zebra would describe the vibrant colours of the fireworks. Focus on using your five senses.

As the crisp November air nipped at my nose, the sky suddenly erupted into a kaleidoscope of brilliant, shimmering colour.

Word bank: catherine wheel · effervescent · sizzling · dazzling · crimson · momentarily · consequently · amidst · shimmering · in the blink of an eye · without warning

1. Setting the Scene: Describe the atmosphere before the bonfire is lit. What can you see and hear? Start with a fronted adverbial, such as 'In the distance...' or 'As the sun set...' (2 marks)

2. The Bonfire: Use expanded noun phrases to describe the fire. Compare the heat and the movement of the flames to something else. How does it feel to stand near it? (2 marks)

3. The Fireworks: Justify why fireworks are often described as 'dancing' in the sky. Describe the different shapes and sounds using powerful verbs and adverbs. (2 marks)

4. Sensory Details: Describe the smell of the smoke and the taste of the traditional treats. How do these smells and tastes contribute to the feeling of the night? (2 marks)

5. The Finale: What might happen if the grand finale was even bigger than the rest of the display? Describe the climax of the show using dramatic vocabulary. (2 marks)

6. Reflection: Compare and contrast how the mood changes from the quiet of the night to the loud, bright explosions of the fireworks. (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Imagine you are a scientist like Bea the honeybee. Write a short paragraph explaining the chemical reactions that might create the colours in the fireworks, or invent a new, safe firework display using only light and patterns that Zara the zebra would admire.