

A Bright Night with Nova

Learning objective: To develop reading comprehension skills by retrieving information and making simple inferences about a seasonal celebration.

Read the story carefully with your teacher or a partner, then answer the questions below.

It was a chilly evening in November. Nova the owl sat high in her oak tree, looking down at the garden. Below, a large bonfire crackled and popped, sending bright orange sparks dancing up into the dark sky. It was Bonfire Night! Max the monkey was busy helping to build the fire safely. He made sure the logs were stacked neatly. Nearby, Pip the caterpillar watched the glowing embers with wide, curious eyes. The garden was filled with the smell of toasted marshmallows. Suddenly, a streak of light shot across the sky. A firework was whizzing upwards! It burst into a beautiful pattern of red and gold. Zara the zebra clapped her hooves in delight, watching the colours fade into the night. Even though it was cold, everyone felt warm and happy together. They loved watching the sky light up. Max shouted, 'Look at the patterns!' as another firework zoomed high above. It was a wonderful night for friends to share a special celebration under the stars.

Word bank: sparkler · bonfire · celebration · glowing · whizzing · November · crackling

1. What month does this celebration happen in? (1 mark)

2. Name two things that the friends could see or smell in the garden. (2 marks)

3. Why do you think the friends felt warm even though it was a chilly evening? (2 marks)

4. How do you know that Zara enjoyed the fireworks? (2 marks)

5. If you were at this celebration, which part would you like best? Why? (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of the night sky above the garden, showing the bright colours of the fireworks and the glow from the bonfire.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are planning a Bonfire Night party. If you have £5 to spend at the shop, write a list of three small snacks you would buy and how much they might cost using pence.