

Bonfire Night: Descriptive Writing and Historical Reflection

Learning objective: To use ambitious vocabulary and figurative language to describe a historical event and its commemorative traditions.

Read each question carefully. Use the provided word bank to help enhance your writing. Ensure your answers are written in full sentences with accurate punctuation.

Bonfire Night, held annually on the 5th of November, marks the anniversary of the failed Gunpowder Plot of 1605. Across the United Kingdom, people gather around crackling bonfires and watch dazzling firework displays to celebrate the safety of King James I. Today, we focus on using sensory language to bring this historical event to life through vivid imagery and powerful verbs.

Word bank: cacophony · glistening · commemorate · vibrant · treacherous · silhouette · shimmering · tradition · spectacular · atmosphere

1. Max the monkey is trying to describe the sound of fireworks. Write two sentences using the word 'cacophony' and one other word from the word bank to describe the atmosphere at a display. (2 marks)

2. Explain why we might use the word 'silhouette' when describing people standing near a bonfire. What does this tell the reader about the lighting? (2 marks)

3. Nova the owl is watching the night sky. Write a short paragraph (3-4 sentences) describing the colours and patterns of the fireworks, using at least two adjectives from the word bank. (3 marks)

4. Compare and contrast the mood of a quiet bonfire gathering with a large, public firework display. Use evidence from your own experiences to justify your answer. (3 marks)

5. Justify why it is important for communities to keep historical traditions, such as Bonfire Night, alive through the generations. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene of a bonfire at night. Include a 'silhouette' of a person watching the sky. Use bright colours to show 'shimmering' fireworks above the trees.



Extension challenge: What might happen if we stopped celebrating historical events like Bonfire Night? Write a persuasive argument for or against the importance of preserving these annual traditions, using at least three pieces of complex vocabulary from the word bank.