

A Spark in the Night Sky

Learning objective: To develop reading comprehension skills by retrieving information, making inferences, and evaluating themes in a non-fiction text about Bonfire Night.

Read the text carefully and answer the questions below. Ensure you use full sentences for your answers.

Every year on the 5th of November, the night sky across the United Kingdom glows with vibrant colours. Families gather around roaring bonfires to celebrate Bonfire Night, a tradition that dates back to 1605. It marks the night when Guy Fawkes was discovered beneath the Houses of Parliament, preventing a historical plot known as the Gunpowder Plot. Today, the event is a time for communities to come together. Pip the caterpillar loves watching the displays from his favourite leaf, marvelling at how the sparks dance like golden stars against the velvet darkness. While the fireworks are spectacular, safety remains the most important part of the evening. People are encouraged to stand well back, wear gloves when holding sparklers, and keep pets indoors. The chilly November air is often filled with the delicious scent of toffee apples and hot jacket potatoes. Whether enjoying a local display or watching from a garden, the atmosphere is always filled with excitement and warmth. It is a time to appreciate history while creating new, glowing memories with friends and family under the stars.

Word bank: commemorate · spectacular · tradition · atmosphere · treason · parliament · precautions

1. According to the text, what specific historical event does Bonfire Night commemorate? (2 marks)

2. List two safety precautions mentioned in the text that people should follow during Bonfire Night. (2 marks)

3. Why might the author describe the night sky as 'velvet darkness'? (2 marks)

4. How does the author suggest people feel about Bonfire Night, based on the description of the event? (2 marks)

5. Do you think Bonfire Night is an important tradition for children to participate in? Give a reason for your answer. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene of a community bonfire gathering, including Nova the owl watching the fireworks from a tree branch and a table nearby with toffee apples.



Extension challenge: Research the Gunpowder Plot further and write a short diary entry from the perspective of someone living in London in 1605, describing what they saw and heard on that night.