

Year 5 English Assessment: The Night of Sparks

Learning objective: To demonstrate understanding of non-fiction report structures, descriptive vocabulary, and historical context regarding Bonfire Night.

Read the passage below carefully. Answer all questions using full sentences where appropriate. Ensure your spelling and punctuation are accurate.

On the 5th of November each year, the night sky across the United Kingdom transforms into a vibrant canvas of light. Bonfire Night, also known as Guy Fawkes Night, is a long-standing tradition that dates back to the seventeenth century. It marks the historical event of 1605, when a plot to destroy the Houses of Parliament was discovered. Today, communities gather around large bonfires to stay warm, while spectacular firework displays light up the darkness. The crackle of wood and the whistling sound of rockets create an unforgettable atmosphere. Many people enjoy eating toffee apples or jacket potatoes cooked in the embers of the fire. It is a time for neighbours to come together, wrapped in scarves and hats, to watch the colours dance above.

Word bank: commemoration · spectacular · tradition · atmosphere · vibrant · centuries · symbolise

1. Identify two reasons why people gather for Bonfire Night according to the text. (2 marks)

2. What is the historical origin of the 5th of November celebration? (2 marks)

3. Find and copy one adjective from the text that describes the appearance of the fireworks. (1 mark)

4. Explain in your own words why the author describes the sky as a 'vibrant canvas'. (3 marks)

5. Max the monkey is helping organise a local bonfire event. He needs to buy 5 bags of marshmallows at £2.50 each and 4 bags of charcoal at £3.00 each. Calculate the total cost of these items and write a sentence explaining how the community might raise this money. (4 marks)

6. The passage mentions that Bonfire Night is a 'tradition'. Why do you think it is important for communities to keep traditions like this alive? Discuss the social benefits. (4 marks)

7. Write a descriptive paragraph (approx. 80-100 words) using the word bank provided. Describe the sensory experience of standing outside on a cold November evening watching a firework display. Focus on the sounds, sights, and smells. (5 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene of Nova the owl perched on a branch, looking up at a night sky filled with colourful firework patterns. Include a small bonfire in the background.



Extension challenge: Total: /25. Challenge: Write a short, four-line poem about the 'crackle and pop' of the night sky, ensuring you include one rhyming couplet.