

A Night of Sparkles and Shadows: Descriptive Writing

Learning objective: To use atmospheric language and sensory detail to recount the experience of Bonfire Night.

Use the prompts below to build your descriptive recount. Focus on using ambitious adjectives and expanded noun phrases to help your reader imagine the sights and sounds of the evening.

As the November air turned crisp and cold, the night sky began to transform into a canvas of brilliant, flickering light.

Word bank: catherine wheel · sizzling · vibrant · crackling · illuminated · shimmering · hissed · momentous · spectacular · nevertheless · consequently · furthermore

1. The Atmosphere: Describe the setting as you arrive at the event. How does the cold air feel on your skin, and what can you hear in the distance? Start with: 'The crisp winter air nipped at my nose while...' (2 marks)

2. The Bonfire: Focus on the sensory details of the fire. What does it look like, smell like, and sound like? Start with: 'In the centre of the field, the bonfire roared like a hungry beast, sending...' (2 marks)

3. The Firework Display: Describe the colours and patterns you see in the sky. Use personification or metaphors. Start with: 'Suddenly, the silence was shattered by a booming whistle, followed by...' (2 marks)

4. The Taste and Warmth: Mention the food or drink you shared with friends (like Nova and Max). Start with: 'To keep the chill away, we huddled together and enjoyed...' (2 marks)

5. The Conclusion: Reflect on how the night ended as the embers faded. Start with: 'As the final sparkle drifted slowly back to earth, I felt...' (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Write a short poem about the night sky using the style of Leo the Lion, incorporating at least one simile and one piece of personification.