

A Sparkly Night with Nova

Learning objective: To retrieve information from a non-fiction text and make inferences about the significance of Bonfire Night.

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

On the fifth of November, Nova the owl sits high in the oak tree, gazing down at the bright, flickering lights below. It is Bonfire Night, a time when many people in the UK gather to watch colourful fireworks light up the dark autumn sky. The air is crisp and cold, and the smell of toasted marshmallows and jacket potatoes wafts through the garden. Families wrap up in warm scarves and woolly hats to keep out the chill.

Bonfire Night is a long-standing tradition that dates back to 1605. It marks the night when Guy Fawkes was discovered guarding a stockpile of gunpowder beneath the Houses of Parliament. Today, the night is celebrated with spectacular firework displays and large, crackling bonfires. As the embers glow like tiny stars, people enjoy sparklers, carefully drawing loops of light in the air. For Nova, it is the most exciting night of the year. She loves the way the brilliant reds, blues, and greens reflect in the puddles below, turning the dark park into a magical, glowing wonderland.

Word bank: tradition · celebrate · embers · commemorate · spectacular

1. On what date is Bonfire Night celebrated? (1 mark)

2. What does Nova the owl enjoy watching from her tree? (1 mark)

3. Why do you think the families in the passage are wearing scarves and woolly hats? (2 marks)

4. Based on the text, how does the atmosphere change from a dark park to a 'magical, glowing wonderland'? (2 marks)

5. Do you think Bonfire Night is a good way to celebrate history? Explain your answer. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of Nova the owl watching a colourful firework display from her oak tree, including a large bonfire and people holding sparklers.



Extension challenge: Research one safety rule for handling sparklers and write it down. Why is this rule important for keeping people safe?