

A Sparkly Evening with Nova

Learning objective: To retrieve information from a text and understand the history of Bonfire Night.

Read the story about Nova the owl below, then answer the questions to show what you have learned.

Nova the barn owl sat high in the oak tree, watching the village below. It was the 5th of November, a chilly night filled with excitement. Down on the field, the villagers had built a magnificent bonfire. Nova knew that Bonfire Night is a long-standing British tradition. It started over four hundred years ago in 1605, after a famous event called the Gunpowder Plot was discovered. To celebrate the safety of the King, people lit bonfires across the country. Today, families gather to watch colourful fireworks light up the dark sky. Children hold glowing sparklers and draw patterns in the air, while the smell of hot jacket potatoes and sweet treats fills the crisp autumn breeze. Nova hooted happily, enjoying the beautiful lights from her perch.

Word bank: celebration · tradition · sparklers · remember · bonfire · history

- 1. On what date do we celebrate Bonfire Night? (1 mark)**

- 2. Using evidence from the text, why did people first start lighting bonfires in 1605? (2 marks)**

- 3. Find and copy one adjective the author uses to describe the night air. (1 mark)**

- 4. What are two things people do today to celebrate this night according to the passage? (2 marks)**

- 5. Why do you think Nova enjoys sitting in the oak tree on this particular night? (2 marks)**

Draw: Draw a picture of the scene Nova sees from her tree, including the large bonfire and the colourful fireworks in the sky.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are at the bonfire party. Write three sentences describing what you can see, hear, and smell.