

The Spark of History: A Bonfire Night Creative Challenge

Learning objective: To use descriptive language, sensory vocabulary, and historical empathy to compose a narrative piece about Bonfire Night.

Leo the Lion is writing a poem about the sights and sounds of Bonfire Night, but he needs help expanding his vocabulary. Choose words from the word bank to fill the gaps in your descriptions and then complete the creative writing challenge below. Ensure you use at least three pieces of figurative language (similes, metaphors, or personification) in your final response.

Word bank: cacophony · glistening · inferno · silhouette · vibrant · flickering · ember · spectacle

1. Leo describes the firework display as a '_____ in the night sky'. Explain why 'spectacle' is a more precise noun choice than 'show' in this context. (2 marks)

2. If you were standing near the bonfire, how would the heat and sound affect your senses? Describe the '_____ of the flames' using your own simile. (2 marks)

3. Compare and contrast the atmosphere of a quiet, starry night with Nova the Owl and the atmosphere of a busy Bonfire Night celebration. Justify your answer using descriptive evidence. (3 marks)

4. Imagine you are watching the fireworks from a distance. Write a sentence describing the '_____ clouds of smoke' as they drift away. What might happen if the smoke were to hide the moon? (2 marks)

5. Explain why it is important for historians to look at both the celebrations of Bonfire Night and the historical events that inspired them. Does one make the other more significant? (3 marks)

6. Create a short, emotive paragraph (4-6 lines) describing the contrast between the cold winter air and the warmth of the bonfire. Use at least two words from the word bank. (4 marks)

Draw: Draw a perspective view of a Bonfire Night scene from the viewpoint of a small animal hidden in the garden. Include a 'flickering' fire and a 'vibrant' firework burst in the sky.



Extension challenge: Leo the Lion wants you to write a 'Poem of Two Halves'. In the first stanza, describe the fireworks using loud, energetic, and onomatopoeic language. In the second stanza, describe the dying embers of the bonfire using soft, gentle, and peaceful language. Justify your change in tone.