

Sparkling Skies: A Bonfire Night Literacy Challenge

Learning objective: To use descriptive vocabulary, varied sentence structures, and inference skills to convey the atmosphere and historical context of Bonfire Night.

Read each question carefully. Ensure you use a range of ambitious adjectives and precise verbs to bring your writing to life. Remember to check your spelling and punctuation.

Bonfire Night, celebrated on the 5th of November, is a vibrant tradition in the United Kingdom. It marks the historical event of 1605, when Guy Fawkes was discovered guarding explosives beneath the Houses of Parliament. Today, we mark the occasion with large community bonfires, toffee apples, and spectacular firework displays that illuminate the night sky.

Word bank: cacophony · silhouette · phosphorescent · ember · commemoration · vibrant · sizzling · spectacle · glistening

1. Nova the owl is watching the fireworks from her oak tree. Write two descriptive sentences using at least two words from the word bank to describe the scene she sees. (2 marks)

2. Explain why the 5th of November is commemorated with bonfires and fireworks, according to the historical context provided. (2 marks)

3. Max the monkey is calculating the cost of a display. If a box of sparklers costs £4.50 and a pack of Catherine wheels costs £7.25, how much would three boxes of sparklers and one pack of Catherine wheels cost in total? Show your working. (3 marks)

4. Compare and contrast the atmosphere of a quiet, starry night with the atmosphere of a busy Bonfire Night celebration. Use formal, descriptive language. (3 marks)

5. Justify your answer: Do you think Bonfire Night is more about remembering history or celebrating with light and community? Support your reasoning with evidence from the text. (3 marks)

6. What might happen if we stopped celebrating traditional historical events like Bonfire Night? Discuss the potential impact on our cultural heritage. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a perspective view from the ground looking up at a night sky filled with fireworks, including the silhouette of Zara the zebra watching the show in the foreground.



Extension challenge: Compose a short, four-line poem about the smell and sound of a bonfire. Use personification to describe the flames as if they were a living creature dancing in the darkness.