

The Night of Spark and Shadow: A Bonfire Night Narrative

Learning objective: To compose a descriptive narrative using atmospheric language, varied sentence structures, and sensory detail to convey the excitement of Bonfire Night.

Use the prompts below to build your story. Remember to show, not just tell, using powerful verbs and vivid adjectives. Think about how Max would calculate the trajectory of the fireworks, or how Pip would describe the crackle of the bonfire using rich vocabulary.

The crisp November air bit at my cheeks as the first golden spark hissed and spiralled towards the velvet night sky.

Word bank: crescendo · kaleidoscope · phosphorescent · inadvertently · bellowing · shimmering · consequently · meanwhile · amidst · reverberated

1. The Setting: Describe the atmosphere of the garden before the fireworks begin. Consider the temperature, the sounds, and the anticipation of the crowd. Start with: The garden was transformed into a realm of... (3 marks)

2. The Bonfire: Describe the bonfire using sensory language. What does it smell like? How does the heat feel? Start with: Towering above the lawn, the bonfire roared like a hungry beast, its flames... (3 marks)

3. The Display: Explain the visual spectacle of the fireworks. Use a simile or metaphor to describe the colours. Start with: Suddenly, a phosphorescent streak pierced the darkness, exploding into... (3 marks)

4. The Impact: How did the crowd react to the finale? Justify why this night is so significant to the people watching. Start with: A collective gasp echoed through the garden as the final embers... (3 marks)

5. Compare and Contrast: How does the silence of the night sky contrast with the booming noise of the display? Explain why this contrast makes the event more dramatic. (4 marks)

6. Critical Thinking: What might happen if the weather were different, such as heavy rain or thick fog? Explain how this would alter the atmosphere and the success of the event. (4 marks)

Extension challenge: Write a short poem or a diary entry from the perspective of a local animal watching the display from the shadows. Use at least three words from the word bank and ensure you maintain a consistent tone throughout.