

Year 6 English Assessment: The History and Poetry of Bonfire Night

Learning objective: To assess understanding of historical context, poetic devices, and descriptive writing techniques related to the 5th of November.

Read the text carefully and answer all questions using full sentences where appropriate. Ensure your spelling and punctuation are accurate.

On the 5th of November 1605, a group of men attempted to destroy the Houses of Parliament in London. This event became known as the Gunpowder Plot. Guy Fawkes was discovered in the cellars beneath the building, guarding thirty-six barrels of gunpowder. Since that night, people in the UK have celebrated with bonfires and fireworks to commemorate the failure of the plot. Today, Max the monkey uses the science of the explosions to understand the physics of light, while Pip the caterpillar watches the colourful sparks dance like golden fireflies across the night sky, writing poems about the crackling, whistling sounds that echo through the air.

Word bank: Guy Fawkes · Gunpowder Plot · Parliament · metaphor · onomatopoeia · alliteration · infer · tradition

1. Identify the primary historical event described in the passage and the year it occurred. (2 marks) (2 marks)

2. Find and copy an example of a simile from the passage. Explain why the author chose to use this comparison. (3 marks) (3 marks)

3. Based on the text, why do we continue to light bonfires on the 5th of November? (2 marks) (2 marks)

4. Max the monkey is interested in the physics of the fireworks. What two sounds does the passage mention that could be described as onomatopoeia? (2 marks) (2 marks)

5. Why might the author have chosen to include Pip the caterpillar and Max the monkey in this historical explanation? (4 marks) (4 marks)

6. Imagine you are standing in a field watching a spectacular firework display. Write a descriptive paragraph (approx. 80-100 words) using at least two examples of alliteration and one metaphor to describe the sights and sounds of the night. (7 marks) (7 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene of a winter night sky filled with fireworks, including a small group of friends (you may include Pip or Max) watching from a safe distance.



Extension challenge: Research task: If a firework display box costs £24.50 and you have a budget of £100, how many boxes can you buy? Write a short explanation of how you worked this out. Total: /25