

A Night to Remember: Historical Diary Entry

Learning objective: To write a diary entry from the perspective of an observer during the Gunpowder Plot era, using descriptive language and historical context.

Imagine you are living in London in 1605. Use this template to write a diary entry describing the atmosphere, the tension in the city, and your thoughts on the events of the 5th of November. Use the word bank to help enrich your vocabulary.

Word bank: treason · parliament · suspicion · cautious · flickering · shadows · conspiracy · anxious · smouldering · allegiance

1. Setting the Scene: Describe the atmosphere in London on the eve of the 5th of November. What can you see, hear, or smell in the city? (3 marks)

2. The Discovery: Explain how you heard the news about the plot being foiled. Who told you, and what was your initial reaction? (3 marks)

3. Personal Reflection: How do you feel about the safety of the King and Parliament? Are you worried about the future? (3 marks)

4. The Celebration: Describe the mood of the crowds as they start lighting bonfires. Are they cheering or still fearful? (2 marks)

5. Historical Context: Why do you think people are lighting these fires tonight? Connect this to the events that just occurred. (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Research why we still celebrate Bonfire Night today. Write a short paragraph explaining the difference between the historical event in 1605 and the modern-day celebration.