

The History and Language of Bonfire Night

Learning objective: To analyse the historical context of Bonfire Night and demonstrate mastery of descriptive writing and grammatical precision.

Read each question carefully. Use your knowledge of the 5th of November and apply your English skills to answer in full, grammatically correct sentences.

Bonfire Night, observed annually on the 5th of November, is a significant date in British history. It marks the failure of the Gunpowder Plot of 1605, a failed attempt to blow up the Houses of Parliament. Today, the event is celebrated with fireworks, bonfires, and the burning of an effigy, known as a 'Guy', on the fire. These celebrations are deeply rooted in the history of the early 17th century and continue to be a staple of British tradition.

Word bank: treason · parliament · effigy · spectacular · metaphor · onomatopoeia · commemoration · atmosphere

1. Using the word 'commemoration', explain in one sentence why we celebrate the 5th of November. (2 marks)

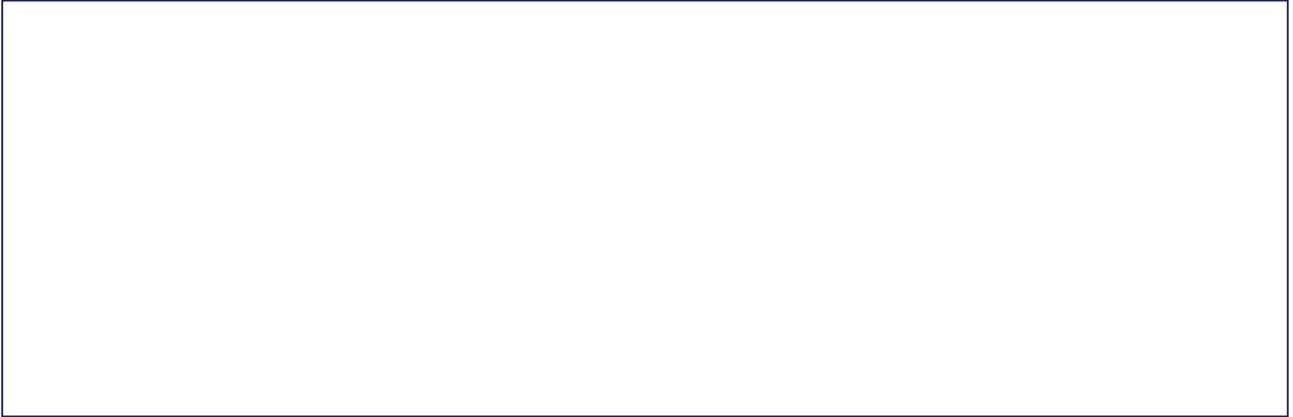
2. Max the monkey wants to describe the sound of fireworks. Write a sentence describing a firework display using at least two examples of onomatopoeia. (2 marks)

3. Identify the relative clause in this sentence: 'The Gunpowder Plot, which was led by Guy Fawkes, aimed to destroy the Houses of Parliament.' (1 mark)

4. Pip the caterpillar is writing a poem about the night sky. Write a metaphor that describes the appearance of a sparkler in the dark. (2 marks)

5. If a box of 12 sparklers costs £4.50 and a family buys 4 boxes, what is the total cost? Show your working out. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene of a night sky filled with fireworks, including a small label for one firework that uses a piece of onomatopoeia (e.g., 'Whizz!', 'Bang!').



Extension challenge: Nova the owl is writing a diary entry from the perspective of someone living in 1605. Write a short paragraph (4-6 sentences) describing the atmosphere of the city on the night the plot was foiled, using at least two fronted adverbials.