

A Night of Sparks: Descriptive Recount

Learning objective: To write a descriptive recount of a Bonfire Night celebration using sensory language, historical context, and expanded noun phrases.

Use the following prompts to build a vivid recount of a Bonfire Night celebration. Think about what you see, hear, smell, and feel. Use the word bank to help improve your sentence structure and flow.

As the crisp November air nipped at my nose, the sky above the village began to transform into a canvas of dancing light.

Word bank: catherine wheel · phosphorescent · cacophony · sizzling · amber embers · subsequently · meanwhile · in the distance · vibrant · crackling · illuminated · anticipation

1. Setting the Scene: Describe the atmosphere before the fireworks began. Start with: The chilly evening air was filled with a sense of... (2 marks)

2. The Bonfire: Use sensory language to describe the sight, sound, and heat of the fire. Start with: Towering high, the bonfire crackled and popped, sending... (3 marks)

3. The Display: Explain the visual spectacle of the fireworks using metaphors or similes. Start with: Suddenly, the darkness was shattered by brilliant streaks of colour that... (3 marks)

4. Historical Context: Ellie the elephant remembers that Bonfire Night marks the Gunpowder Plot of 1605. Explain why we remember this night. Start with: We celebrate this tradition to commemorate the failure of... (3 marks)

5. Justify Your Answer: Why do you think Bonfire Night remains such a popular tradition in the UK today? Use evidence to support your opinion. (4 marks)

6. What might happen if we stopped celebrating historical events like the 5th of November? Consider the impact on our cultural heritage. (4 marks)

Extension challenge: Imagine you are an eyewitness to the events of 1605. Write a short diary entry from the perspective of someone living in London, expressing your confusion and shock at the discovery beneath the Houses of Parliament. Use formal, archaic-style language.