A Spark of History: Bonfire Night with Max and Nova

Learning objective: To use descriptive vocabulary and formal sentence structures to recount the historical context and sensory experience of Bonfire Night.

Read each question carefully. Use your best handwriting, check your spelling, and aim to use ambitious adjectives to describe the sights and sounds of the night.

Max the monkey is busy calculating the cost of a garden bonfire display, while Nova the owl watches the night sky, reflecting on the historical significance of the 5th of November. Together, they are exploring how we remember the events of 1605 through language and poetry.

Word bank: flickering · commemoration · revelry · pyrotechnics · dazzling · treason · tradition · spectacular · billowing · vibrant

1. Max is writing a poem about a sparkler. Write three lines using alliteration to describe how a sparkler looks and sounds as it moves in the dark. (3 marks)

2. Explain why we traditionally light bonfires on the 5th of November. Use the word 'commemoration' in your answer. (2 marks)

3. Nova wants to write a formal letter to her friends. Rewrite this informal sentence to make it sound more professional: 'The fireworks were really cool and bright.' (2 marks)

4. Compare and contrast the sounds of a bonfire crackling with the sounds of a sky-high firework. Use at least two pieces of onomatopoeia. (3 marks)

5. If you were planning a historical display, justify why it is important to include information about the past rather than just having fireworks. What might happen if we forget why we celebrate certain traditions? (4 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene from a 17th-century village preparing for a celebration, including Nova the owl perched on a high branch watching the sparks rise into the starry sky.

Extension challenge: Imagine you are a reporter in 1605. Write a short, formal newspaper report (no more than 100 words) describing the atmosphere in London on the night the plot was foiled. Focus on the sensory details: the cold air, the whispers in the streets, and the flicker of torches.