Class 6 English Assessment: The Night of Embers

Learning objective: To analyse descriptive language, evaluate historical context, and produce a high-quality piece of creative writing based on the themes of Bonfire Night.

Read the provided passage carefully and answer all questions. Ensure your writing is punctuated correctly and uses sophisticated vocabulary to demonstrate Class 6 proficiency. Total marks: 25.

The sky above the village was no longer a canvas of velvet black; it had been transformed into a theatre of light. Max the monkey clutched his notebook, his eyes wide as a crimson sparkler traced frantic, glowing loops against the darkness. Beside him, Pip the caterpillar watched from a safe, woolly perch on a scarf, mesmerised by the cacophony of whistling rockets and the rhythmic thrum of distant explosions. The air tasted of woodsmoke and crisp autumn leaves, a scent that lingered long after the pyrotechnics had faded. Below, the bonfire roared—a hungry, golden beast consuming dry timber, casting long, dancing silhouettes against the ancient stone walls of the village hall. It was a night of remembrance, a night where the past flickered in the heat of the flames, reminding everyone of the history that shaped the very ground beneath their paws.

Word bank: incandescent · cacophony · treasonous · silhouette · embers · spectacle · vibrant · atmosphere

1. Identify two sensory details used in the passage to describe the atmosphere of Bonfire Night. Explain how these details help the reader imagine the scene. (2 marks)

2. The author describes the bonfire as a 'hungry, golden beast'. Analyse this metaphor: why might the author have chosen to describe fire in this way? (2 marks)

3. Find and copy one word from the passage that suggests the sound of the fireworks was loud and chaotic. (1 mark)

4. In your own words, explain what is meant by the phrase 'the past flickered in the heat of the flames'. (3 marks)

5. Compare and contrast the perspective of Max (who is actively observing) and Pip (who is watching from a perch). How does their positioning affect their engagement with the event? (4 marks)

6. Justify why the author chose to set this scene in autumn rather than another season. Consider the atmospheric requirements of a bonfire. (4 marks)

7. Extended Writing: Write a descriptive paragraph (approx. 100-150 words) from the perspective of a character watching the final firework display of the evening. Use at least two adjectives from the word bank and ensure you include a range of sentence structures, including a complex sentence. (9 marks)

Draw: Draw a detailed scene of the bonfire as described in the passage, focusing on the contrast between the 'velvet black' sky and the 'golden' light of the flames.

Extension challenge: Consider the historical origins of Bonfire Night. If you were writing a letter from the perspective of a person living in 1605, how would your description of the events differ from the one provided in the passage? Explain your answer with reference to the change in tone and purpose. Total: /25