The Spark of History: Bonfire Night Analysis

Learning objective: To analyse the historical context of 5 November and develop sophisticated vocabulary for descriptive creative writing.

Use your knowledge of history and your creative flair to answer the following questions. Provide detailed, well-reasoned responses that demonstrate your understanding of the period and your ability to craft evocative language.

N/A

Word bank: treason · conspiracy · clandestine · effigy · phosphorescence · tumultuous · hindsight · parliamentary · subterranean · cacophony

1. Max is trying to calculate the mathematical probability of a historical event. Explain why the Gunpowder Plot is considered a 'clandestine' operation and justify why it ultimately failed to achieve its objective. (3 marks)

2. Pip, our word-loving caterpillar, wants to describe the sensory experience of a bonfire. Write two complex sentences using the word 'cacophony' and 'phosphorescence' to describe the sights and sounds of the night. (4 marks)

3. Compare and contrast the historical significance of 5 November 1605 with the way the event is commemorated in modern Britain today. What has changed in the public perception of the day? (4 marks)

4. If the plotters had succeeded in their subterranean mission, what might have happened to the trajectory of the English monarchy? Speculate on the long-term historical consequences. (4 marks)

5. Ellie the elephant has been reading about the 'effigy' tradition. Explain the purpose of this custom and evaluate whether it remains a relevant way to remember history in the 21st century. (3 marks)

Draw: Illustrate a scene from a 17th-century street using only patterns and shapes, inspired by Zara's love for geometry. Incorporate the contrast between the dark, subterranean tunnels and the bright, explosive light of a bonfire.

Extension challenge: Compose a persuasive speech from the perspective of a character living in 1605, arguing either for or against the parliamentary changes occurring at the time. Your speech must be between 150-200 words and employ at least four words from the word bank provided.