A Sparkly Night with Nova

Learning objective: To retrieve information from a non-fiction text and make inferences about the historical context and safety of Bonfire Night.

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions below in full sentences.

On the 5th of November each year, the night sky over the United Kingdom lights up with colourful fireworks. This tradition is known as Bonfire Night. Nova the owl watches from her favourite oak tree as families gather around glowing bonfires to stay warm. The celebration marks a famous event from 1605, when Guy Fawkes was discovered trying to hide gunpowder underneath the Houses of Parliament.

Today, Bonfire Night is a time for communities to come together. People enjoy tasty treats like toffee apples and hot soup while watching the sparks fly. It is very important to stay safe during these celebrations. Max the monkey reminds everyone to stand well back from the fire and to always hold sparklers at arm's length while wearing gloves. Many towns hold professional displays where experts launch rockets high into the air, creating beautiful patterns of gold, red, and blue. Whether you are eating a jacket potato or watching the bright lights shimmer in the sky, Bonfire Night is a special way to remember a significant moment in British history.

Word bank: Gunpowder · celebration · tradition · sparklers · safety · history

1. On what date is Bonfire Night celebrated every year? (1 mark)

2. What two safety tips does Max the monkey give for using sparklers? (2 marks)

3. Why do you think families choose to gather around a bonfire on a November night? (2 marks)

4. How does the author feel about the fireworks displays? Use evidence from the text to support your answer. (2 marks)

5. Do you think Bonfire Night is an important tradition to keep? Explain your reasons. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of Nova the owl looking up at the sky filled with colourful fireworks, with a warm bonfire glowing below.

Extension challenge: Imagine you are planning a Bonfire Night party for your friends. Write a list of three snacks you would serve and explain why they would be good for a cold autumn evening.