Reflections on Bonfire Night: A Historical Perspective

Learning objective: To explore the historical significance and symbolism of Bonfire Night within a creative context, whilst considering the themes of loyalty and political history.

Use the drawing space provided to create a detailed scene depicting the historical context of the Gunpowder Plot. Incorporate the elements from the word bank to ensure your scene reflects the historical accuracy and atmospheric nature of the 17th century.

Draw: Create a split-scene drawing. On the left, illustrate a dimly lit, atmospheric 17th-century street with silhouettes of figures whispering in dark cloaks. On the right, illustrate a vibrant, modern-day bonfire display with fireworks bursting in the sky. Use a cross-hatching technique to show the shadows of the past and bold, colourful shading for the fireworks. Ensure you include the silhouette of the old Houses of Parliament in the background of both scenes to maintain continuity.

Label words: Parliament · Guy Fawkes · Gunpowder · Symbolism · Loyalty · Treason · 1605 · Monarchy

Steps:

1. Explain why the events of 1605 led to the tradition of lighting bonfires. Consider the social and political atmosphere of the time.
2. Compare and contrast the meaning of 'treason' in the 17th century with our modern understanding of

political dissent.

3. Justify your answer: Does the celebration of Bonfire Night promote unity or division in modern British society?

4. Label the key historical figures or items in your drawing that help explain the narrative of the Gunpowder Plot.

5. What might happen if the plot had been successful? Describe the potential impact on the British Monarchy.

6. Describe the atmosphere of your drawing using high-level adjectives (e.g., 'sombre', 'tumultuous', 'vibrant').