

A Sparkly Night with Nova and Leo

Learning objective: To develop reading comprehension skills by retrieving information, making inferences, and justifying personal opinions regarding a non-fiction text about Bonfire Night.

Read the passage carefully, then answer the questions below. Ensure you use full sentences and refer back to the text to support your answers.

On the fifth of November, the night sky transforms into a dazzling canvas of colour. Nova the owl watches from her high branch as families gather around a crackling bonfire, their faces glowing in the flickering light. Leo the lion, who loves history, explains to his friends that this tradition commemorates the Gunpowder Plot of 1605. Long ago, a group of people tried to cause trouble at the Houses of Parliament, but their plan was discovered. Today, people celebrate the failure of that plot by lighting bonfires and setting off fireworks.

As the night progresses, the air fills with the smell of woodsmoke and the loud whistle of rockets soaring high above. Children enjoy treats like warm toffee apples, which cost £1.50 each, and glowing sparklers that leave trails of light in the dark. While the spectacle is exciting, it is vital to stay a safe distance from the flames. Nova enjoys the quiet moments when the embers glow like tiny stars, reminding her that even after the noise of the fireworks fades, the beauty of the night remains.

Word bank: commemorate · spectacle · tradition · embers · bonfire · dazzling · history

1. According to the text, what specific historical event does Bonfire Night commemorate? (2 marks) (2 marks)

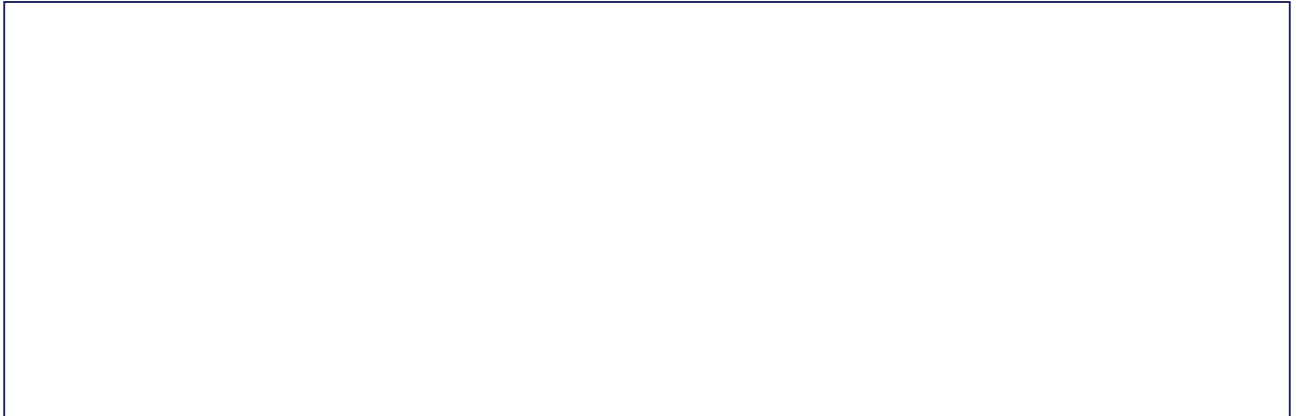
2. How much does a toffee apple cost at the celebration? (2 marks) (2 marks)

3. Why might Nova the owl prefer the quiet moments of the evening? Use evidence from the text to support your inference. (3 marks) (3 marks)

4. What does the phrase 'dazzling canvas of colour' suggest about how the night sky looks? (3 marks) (3 marks)

5. Do you think Bonfire Night is an important tradition to keep? Justify your answer using your own ideas and the information provided. (4 marks) (4 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene featuring Nova the owl watching the night sky. Include a crackling bonfire, colourful fireworks, and a child holding a sparkler safely.



Extension challenge: Greater Depth Challenge: 1. Explain why safety is so important during bonfire celebrations. 2. Compare and contrast how the fire looks at the start of the night versus the end. 3. Justify why the author chose to include the smell of woodsmoke in the description. 4. What might happen if people did not follow safety rules near a bonfire? 5. Invent a new, safe tradition that Leo the lion might start for his friends. 6. Write a short poem about the sound of fireworks.