

A Sparkle in the Sky: A Bonfire Night Narrative

Learning objective: To analyse descriptive language and infer meaning within a historical narrative.

Read the passage below carefully. Use your knowledge of descriptive writing to answer the questions. For the final questions, explain your reasoning clearly.

As twilight descended, Leo the lion and his friends gathered on the hillside. The crisp November air nipped at their noses, but the atmosphere was filled with warmth and anticipation. In the centre of the field, a towering bonfire stood ready, its wooden base waiting for the first touch of flame. When the match finally met the logs, the fire roared to life, sending golden sparks swirling into the dark, velvet sky like tiny, captured stars. Billowing plumes of smoke danced upwards, vanishing into the night. Beside the fire, the friends watched in awe as vibrant Catherine wheels spun with a rhythmic whirring, casting long, shifting shadows across the grass. Every crackle and pop was a reminder of the historical traditions that had been celebrated for centuries. Leo smiled, clutching his notebook, ready to capture the magic of the evening in a new poem.

Word bank: dazzling · flicker · billowing · anticipation · ember · vibrant · crackling · twilight

1. Identify two adjectives the author uses to describe the sparks or the fire. Explain why these words help the reader visualise the scene. (2 marks)

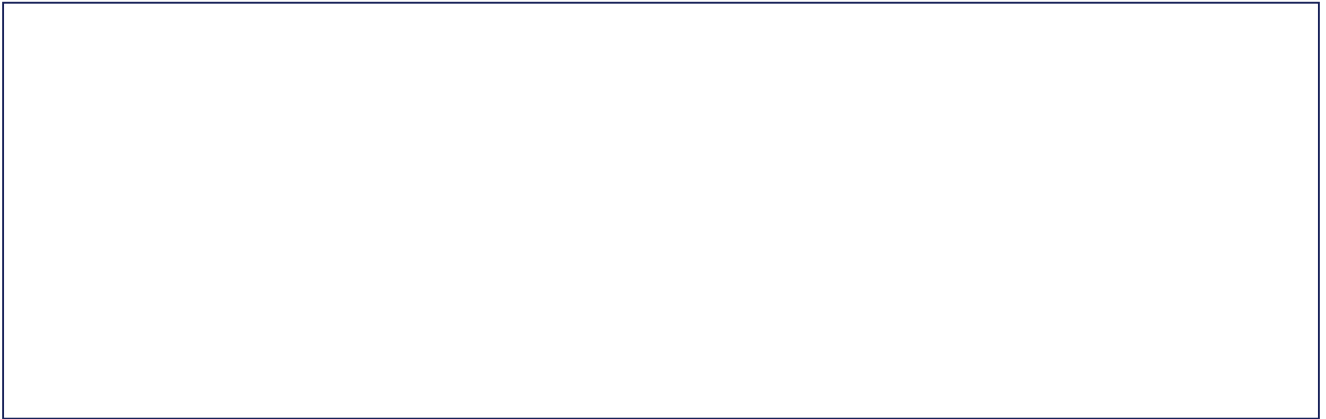
2. What does the phrase 'the crisp November air nipped at their noses' tell us about the weather that evening? (2 marks)

3. Compare and contrast how the fire might sound and how it might look. Use evidence from the text to support your answer. (3 marks)

4. Why do you think Leo the lion is described as clutching his notebook during the celebration? (2 marks)

5. Justify your answer: Does the author present the bonfire as a chaotic event or a peaceful one? Use a quote from the passage to justify your reasoning. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw the scene described in the passage, focusing on the contrast between the dark, velvet sky and the golden, swirling sparks of the bonfire.



Extension challenge: What might happen if the weather turned windy during the bonfire celebration? Write a short paragraph explaining how this would change the appearance of the fire and the behaviour of the people watching it. Use at least three words from the word bank.