The Poet’s Spark: Crafting Atmospheric Imagery

Learning objective: To use figurative language, including personification and sensory imagery, to create a vivid description of a bonfire night scene.

Leo the Lion is composing a poem about the bonfire night festivities. Use the vocabulary from the word bank to complete the creative tasks below. Focus on showing, not telling, by using powerful verbs and evocative adjectives to capture the sights and sounds of the evening.

Word bank: cacophony · ethereal · silhouette · sizzling · amber · cascading · shimmering · crackling · twilight · vibrant

1. Leo wants to describe the firework display. Write two sentences using personification to describe how the fireworks move across the night sky. (2 marks)

2. Describe the sound of the bonfire using at least two words from the word bank. Why might someone find this sound both comforting and overwhelming? (3 marks)

3. Compare the appearance of the sparks to a natural phenomenon. Why is your chosen comparison effective for the reader? (2 marks)

4. Explain why the poet might choose the word 'cacophony' instead of 'noise' when describing the finale of the fireworks display. How does this word change the reader's perception? (2 marks)

5. If the bonfire were a living character, how would you describe its personality through its movements and the way it interacts with the cold autumn air? (3 marks)

6. Justify your answer: Is it more effective to describe a fireworks display by focusing on the colours seen or the sounds heard? Explain your reasoning. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a detailed scene of the bonfire night from the perspective of someone standing in the shadows. Focus on the contrast between the dark silhouettes of trees and the vibrant, shimmering light cast by the bonfire.

Extension challenge: Write a short stanza of poetry (4-8 lines) using an AABB or ABAB rhyme scheme that describes a 'hidden' bonfire. Imagine the fire is a secret creature living in the centre of the garden. Use at least three pieces of figurative language: a metaphor, a simile, and a personification.