A Bright Night with Nova

Learning objective: To develop reading comprehension skills by retrieving and inferring information from a non-fiction text about Bonfire Night.

Read the story about Nova the owl carefully. Then, answer the questions below using information from the text.

On a chilly evening in November, Nova the owl perched high in her oak tree, looking down at the village. Below, the people were gathering for their annual Bonfire Night celebration. Nova watched as they built a large pile of wood to make a bonfire. It crackled and popped, sending bright orange sparks dancing into the dark sky. This event is a long-standing British tradition that happens every year to mark a special time in history.

Nova flapped her wings with excitement as the sky suddenly lit up. Whizzing fireworks painted the night with vibrant colours, like streaks of gold, crimson, and emerald. Children wrapped up in thick scarves and woolly hats held shimmering sparklers, drawing loops and zig-zags in the air. The smell of woodsmoke filled the cool autumn breeze. Some families enjoyed warm toffee apples, which cost £1 each at the village stall. Nova loved watching the neighbourhood come together to share stories and enjoy the dazzling display. It was a perfect night for an owl who loves to watch the stars and the bright lights of the world below.

Word bank: celebration · tradition · sparklers · bonfire · fireworks · history · autumn

1. What do the people build to make the fire for the celebration? (2 marks)

2. How much does a toffee apple cost at the village stall? (1 mark)

3. How can you tell that the weather is cold on Bonfire Night? (2 marks)

4. Why might Nova enjoy watching the fireworks from her tree? (2 marks)

5. Do you think Bonfire Night is a fun event? Give one reason for your answer. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of the village at night with a large bonfire, colourful fireworks in the sky, and children holding sparklers.

Extension challenge: Imagine you are at the Bonfire Night celebration. Write three sentences describing the sounds and smells you might experience.