A Bright Night with Nova

Learning objective: To retrieve information, make inferences and express an opinion about the history and traditions of Bonfire Night.

Read the text carefully. Use the word bank to help you understand tricky words. Write your answers in the boxes provided.

On the 5th of November, many people in the UK celebrate Bonfire Night. Nova the owl watches from the trees as the night sky fills with bright colours. This tradition started a long time ago in 1605. A man named Guy Fawkes tried to hide gunpowder under the Houses of Parliament. He wanted to cause a big explosion, but his secret plot was found out. The King was kept safe. To celebrate the King's safety, people lit large bonfires across the country. Today, we remember this night with fireworks and big fires. Many families eat toffee apples or jacket potatoes while they watch the display. Some children hold a sparkler in their hand and watch it glow. It is important to stay back from the fire and follow safety rules. Nova loves the beautiful lights, but she always stays high up in her tree to keep safe. It is a very exciting night, but we must always remember that fire is dangerous and needs to be handled with care.

Word bank: Tradition: something people do every year · Plot: a secret plan to do something · Parliament: the place where laws are made · Celebration: a happy event with food or activities · Sparkler: a handheld firework

1. What date is Bonfire Night celebrated on each year? (1 mark) (1 mark)

2. Name two types of food mentioned in the text that people eat on Bonfire Night. (2 marks) (2 marks)

3. Why do you think people light bonfires on this night? (2 marks) (2 marks)

4. Why does Nova the owl stay high up in her tree during the celebrations? (2 marks) (2 marks)

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

Draw: Draw a picture of a night sky filled with colourful fireworks and a bright bonfire below.

Extension challenge: Imagine you are Nova the owl. Write one sentence about what you see when you look down at the people enjoying the fireworks.