A Sparkly Night with Nova

Learning objective: To retrieve information from a text and make inferences about the sensory experiences of Bonfire Night.

Read the passage carefully, then answer the questions below. Remember to use full sentences for your answers.

The crisp November air felt chilly as Nova the owl perched high in the ancient oak tree. Below, the village was preparing for the annual bonfire celebration. A large pile of dry wood stood ready in the center of the field, waiting to be lit. Soon, the night sky was filled with a brilliant display of colors. Nova watched as golden sparks danced upwards like fireflies. Down on the ground, children held glowing sparklers, tracing swirling patterns in the dark. The sound of the fire was a rhythmic crackling, punctuated by the high-pitched whistling of fireworks whizzing high into the clouds. Nova adjusted her feathers, mesmerised by the sight. She loved the way the amber flames illuminated the happy faces of the villagers. It was a night of warmth and light during the coldest time of the year. While the people cheered for the bright patterns in the sky, Nova felt grateful for her warm nest. She carefully noted the date in her memory, knowing this tradition was a special way for the community to gather together under the starlit sky.

Word bank: bonfire · sparklers · crackling · whizzing · celebration · tradition · nocturnal

1. What two sounds does the author describe hearing during the bonfire celebration? (Literal) (2 marks)

2. Where is Nova the owl watching the celebration from? (Literal) (2 marks)

3. How does the author suggest the weather feels on this night? Use evidence from the text to support your answer. (Inferential) (2 marks)

4. Why might Nova enjoy watching the bonfire from her high perch rather than being down in the field? (Inferential) (2 marks)

5. Do you think Bonfire Night is a good way for a community to spend time together? Explain your reasoning. (Evaluative) (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of what Nova sees from her spot in the oak tree. Include the bonfire, the colorful patterns in the sky, and the children holding sparklers.

Extension challenge: Compare and contrast the experience of being a human at the bonfire versus being an owl like Nova. Justify why the atmosphere feels different for each of them. What might happen if the weather was rainy instead of crisp and chilly? Write three sentences explaining how the celebration would change.