

A Sparkly Evening with Nova and Leo

Learning objective: To develop reading comprehension skills by identifying key information and using inference in a descriptive text about Bonfire Night.

Read the passage below carefully. Then, answer the questions that follow using evidence from the text to support your ideas.

The air was crisp and chilly on the fifth of November. Nova the owl perched high in the old oak tree, her golden eyes scanning the horizon for the first signs of the celebrations. Below, Leo the lion was busy helping the community set up the bonfire in the village square. They had spent the afternoon building a massive pile of wood, carefully stacking logs to ensure it was safe. As the sun dipped below the hills, a hush fell over the crowd. Suddenly, a bright streak of light shot into the sky, followed by a loud 'boom!' The night was transformed into a canvas of colours. Radiant reds, brilliant blues, and dazzling greens illuminated the faces of the villagers. The smell of toasted marshmallows and hot cocoa filled the air. 'It truly is a spectacular tradition,' Leo remarked, writing a quick poem in his notebook about the sparks dancing like fireflies in the dark. Nova let out a hoot of agreement, watching the embers swirl towards the stars.

Word bank: spectacular · atmosphere · radiant · dazzling · tradition · crackling

1. What does the author mean by the phrase 'the night was transformed into a canvas of colours'? (2 marks)

2. Identify two sensory details (sights, sounds, or smells) that the author uses to describe the Bonfire Night atmosphere. (2 marks)

3. Why do you think Leo the lion was writing a poem during the fireworks display? (2 marks)

4. Find and copy one adjective from the text that describes the fireworks. (1 mark)

5. Based on the text, why is the date 'the fifth of November' important? (1 mark)

Draw: Draw your favourite part of the bonfire scene described in the story, focusing on the colours and patterns of the fireworks in the night sky.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are Nova the owl. Write three sentences describing how the village looks from high up in the oak tree while the fireworks are going off.