

A Sparkly Night with Nova and Leo

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

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions below in full sentences.

On the fifth of November, Nova the owl and Leo the lion gathered in the garden to watch the sky light up. It was Bonfire Night, a traditional celebration in the United Kingdom. Every year, people across the country light large bonfires and set off colourful fireworks to mark the night. The history of Bonfire Night goes back to 1605, when a group of people tried to cause a dangerous event at the Houses of Parliament. The plan was stopped, and people lit bonfires to celebrate the safety of the King. Today, we remember this event with excitement rather than fear. Nova loved watching the bright patterns in the sky, while Leo enjoyed the warmth of the fire. They reminded everyone to stay safe by keeping a good distance from the flames and always wearing gloves when holding sparklers. It is a time for families to share food, like hot jacket potatoes and sticky toffee apples, while listening to the loud bangs and whistles of the fireworks.

Word bank: tradition · commemorate · spectacular · celebration · sparklers

1. According to the text, on which date does Bonfire Night take place every year? (1 mark)

2. Why were bonfires originally lit in 1605? Use evidence from the text to support your answer. (2 marks)

3. List two safety tips mentioned in the passage for people celebrating Bonfire Night. (2 marks)

4. What does the word 'commemorate' mean in the context of this tradition? You may use a dictionary or your own knowledge. (2 marks)

5. If Leo bought a packet of sparklers for £2.50 and a toffee apple for £1.20, how much money did he spend in total? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of what Nova and Leo might see in the night sky, including at least three different types of firework patterns.



Extension challenge: Write a short poem (4-6 lines) describing the sounds and sights of a firework display. Try to use at least two adjectives from the word bank.