

# A Night of Sparks: Understanding Bonfire Night

*Learning objective: To develop reading comprehension and descriptive writing skills by exploring the history and traditions of 5th November.*

Read the passage below carefully. Then, answer the questions to show your understanding of the history and sensory details of Bonfire Night. Finally, use the drawing prompt to illustrate your own scene.

On the 5th of November each year, the night sky across the United Kingdom comes alive with colour. Families gather to celebrate Bonfire Night, also known as Guy Fawkes Night. This tradition dates back to 1605, following the failed Gunpowder Plot, where a group of people tried to blow up the Houses of Parliament. Today, we mark the event by lighting large bonfires and setting off spectacular fireworks. As Pip the bookworm caterpillar says, it is a night for stories and history! Many people enjoy eating warm toffee apples, which usually cost around £1.50 at local stalls, and baked potatoes while watching the bright sparks dance in the sky. The loud 'whizz', 'pop', and 'bang' of the fireworks create an exciting atmosphere that lights up the dark autumn air.

*Word bank: tradition · commemorate · catherine wheel · spectacular · atmosphere · effigy · parliament*

**1. Why do we celebrate Bonfire Night on the 5th of November? Use evidence from the text. (2 marks)**

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**2. List two traditional foods or activities mentioned in the passage. (2 marks)**

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**3. If a toffee apple costs £1.50, how much would it cost to buy three toffee apples for your friends? (2 marks)**

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**4. Find and copy one onomatopoeia word from the text that describes the sound of fireworks. (1 mark)**

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**5. Why do you think the author mentions that the night sky 'comes alive with colour'? (2 marks)**

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**Draw:** Draw a scene of a peaceful Bonfire Night with a large, safe bonfire in the centre and bright, colourful fireworks exploding in the night sky above. Include a small detail of a toffee apple nearby.



*Extension challenge: Write a short poem (4–6 lines) describing the sights and sounds of a firework display. Try to use at least two adjectives and one verb that shows action.*