

A Sparkly Night with Nova and Leo

Learning objective: To develop reading comprehension and inference skills by exploring the history and traditions of Bonfire Night.

Read the story below carefully, then answer the questions that follow using full sentences.

Nova the owl and Leo the lion gathered on the hill to watch the village fireworks. 'Why do we have these bright lights every November?' asked Nova, tilting her head. Leo smiled, his golden mane glowing in the reflection of a Catherine wheel. 'It is to commemorate the Gunpowder Plot of 1605,' Leo explained. 'Guy Fawkes tried to hide gunpowder under the Houses of Parliament to cause trouble, but he was caught. Now, every year on the 5th of November, we light bonfires to remember that history.' The sky exploded with colours as they watched. They sipped warm apple juice and enjoyed the crisp autumn air, feeling lucky to be safe and warm together.

Word bank: commemorate · tradition · sparkler · treason · parliament · celebration

1. Why do people in the UK light bonfires and watch fireworks on the 5th of November? (2 marks)

2. Based on the text, how does Nova feel about the history of Bonfire Night? Use evidence from the passage to support your answer. (2 marks)

3. What was the name of the person who tried to hide gunpowder under the Houses of Parliament? (1 mark)

4. Find and copy one word from the text that means 'to show respect for a person or event'. (1 mark)

5. Imagine you are at the fireworks display with Nova and Leo. Write two sentences describing the sounds and sights you might experience. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene showing Nova and Leo watching the fireworks, including at least three different shapes of fireworks in the sky.



Extension challenge: Research one other festival or celebration that involves fireworks around the world and write a paragraph explaining how it is different from Bonfire Night.