

LEVELED BOOK • V

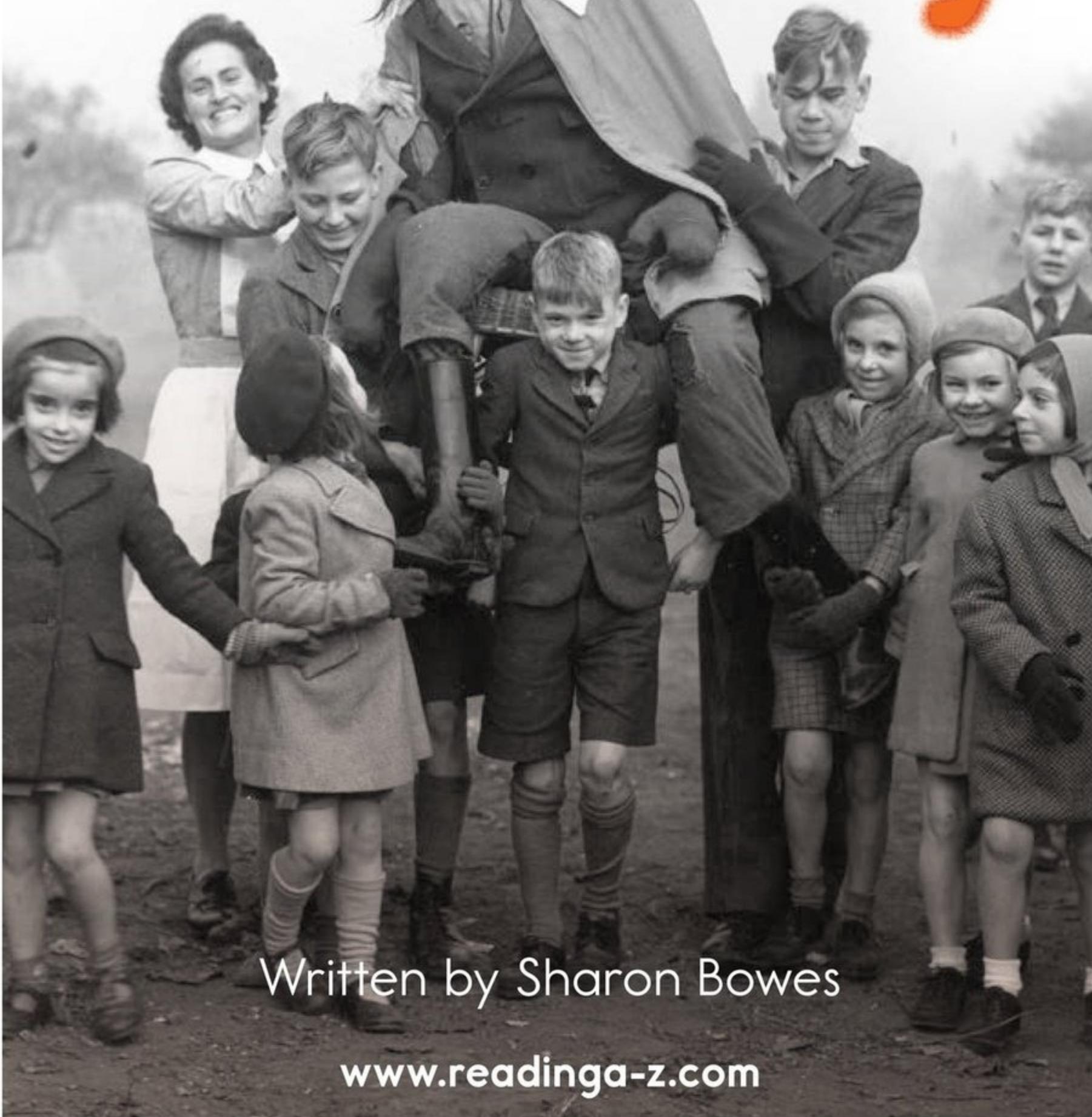
Guy Fawkes Day

MULTI
LEVEL
S•V•Y

Written by Sharon Bowes

www.readinga-z.com

Guy Fawkes Day



Written by Sharon Bowes

www.readinga-z.com

Focus Question

Who was Guy Fawkes? Why is Guy Fawkes Day celebrated in the United Kingdom?

Words to Know

bonfires
dummy
executed
festival
loyal
Parliament

plot
rebellion
revolt
spectacular
tolerant
treason

Front cover: Bonfire Night in Lewes, England

Title page: Children carry the Guy Fawkes dummy to the bonfire.

Page 3: Guy Fawkes masks

Photo Credits:

Front cover, back cover: Homer Sykes/Alamy Stock Photo; title page:
© Ron Burton/Keystone/Hulton Archive/Getty Images; page 3: © Jaromir Urbanek/123RF; page 4: Peter Cripps/Alamy Stock Photo; page 5: Paul Fearn/Alamy Stock Photo; page 6: © Culture Club/Hulton Archive/Getty Images; page 8: © Popperfoto/Getty Images; page 9: © Historia/REX/Shutterstock; page 10: © iStock/400tmax; page 11: Guy Fawkes brought before King James and his Council, Upton, Clive (1911–2006)/Private Collection/© Look and Learn/Bridgeman Images; page 12: © Universal History Archive/UIG/Getty Images; page 14: Slawek Staszczuk/Alamy Stock Photo; page 15: © Murray Sanders/WPA Pool/Getty Images

Guy Fawkes Day
Level V Leveled Book
© Learning A-Z
Written by Sharon Bowes

All rights reserved.

www.readinga-z.com

Correlation

LEVEL V	
Fountas & Pinnell	R
Reading Recovery	40
DRA	40



Table of Contents

What Is Bonfire Night?	4
Who Was Guy Fawkes?	5
The Gunpowder Plot	6
Caught!	9
Another Conspiracy?	12
The Legacy of the Plot	13
Conclusion	15
Glossary	16

What Is Bonfire Night?

“Remember, remember the fifth of November.
Gunpowder, Treason, and Plot,
We know no reason why Gunpowder Treason
Should ever be forgot.”

—*Traditional nursery rhyme*

On November 5 every year, adults and children in the United Kingdom gather together for fireworks and **bonfires**. Friends and families cheer as a **dummy**, called a “Guy,” on top of the fire bursts into flames. This traditional **festival** is known as Guy Fawkes Day, or Bonfire Night.

Guy Fawkes Day celebrates a day in 1605. On this date, King James I and his staff stopped a plot that would have blown up **Parliament**.



Who Was Guy Fawkes?

Guy Fawkes was born in 1570 in York, England, during the rule of Queen Elizabeth I.

At that time in Europe, many Catholic and Protestant countries were at war. The Catholic religion was illegal in England in those days.

Catholics who were caught practicing their religion were punished severely.



Guy Fawkes went by the nickname Guido.

Guy's parents were Protestant. His grandparents, however, were Catholic, and when Guy's father died, his mother remarried a Catholic man. When he was a teenager, Guy decided to become a Catholic. He was angry about the terrible treatment that Catholics received in England.

Guy left England in his early twenties. He traveled to the Netherlands to join the Catholic Spanish army in their fight against the Protestant Dutch army. Guy was a soldier in the Spanish army for twelve years. There he learned how to make explosives using gunpowder.



The Gunpowder Plotters, led by Robert Catesby, second from right

The Gunpowder Plot

In 1603, Queen Elizabeth I died and King James I took her place. Catholics hoped he would be more **tolerant** of the Catholic religion. Instead, he passed even harsher laws against them.

Many English Catholics were still **loyal** to the king. However, Fawkes met other Englishmen in the Spanish army who were angry about the treatment of Catholics in England.

In April 1604, a man named Robert Catesby invited Guy to join in a **revolt** against the king. They needed his expertise with gunpowder. Guy immediately agreed. He was excited to be able to contribute to their cause.

Back in London, in May 1604, Fawkes met with other plotters at a local inn. They took an oath of secrecy.

The plotters planned to blow up Parliament the day it was officially supposed to open. The king and his entire staff would all be there. Afterward, the plotters would start a **rebellion** of Catholic supporters against the king. The plan was to kidnap King James's daughter, Princess Elizabeth, and then make her queen. At the time, Elizabeth was only nine years old. They believed that Catholic rulers could easily help to control her decisions.

Thirteen plotters in total were sworn into the plan. Robert Catesby had a house just across the river from Parliament. The plotters purchased thirty-six barrels of gunpowder and stored them in Catesby's house.

One of the plotters, Thomas Percy, got a job as a royal bodyguard. He moved into a house near Parliament. He was also able to rent a cellar beneath the buildings of Parliament. The plotters moved the gunpowder by rowboat at night, crossing the river from Catesby's house to the cellar beneath Parliament.

Guy Fawkes took a fake name. He called himself John Johnson. He pretended to be Thomas Percy's servant so he could move freely inside the buildings of Parliament. His job was to take care of the gunpowder hidden in the cellar.

The opening of Parliament had been set for November 5, 1605. The plotters were ready.



Caught!

A secret letter was sent to Lord Monteagle. He was a Catholic nobleman who was loyal to the king. The letter warned him not to attend the Parliament on November 5 because something terrible was going to happen. He showed the letter to the king's assistant. When the king heard this news, he ordered a complete search of the houses of Parliament.

my lord out of the loue i beare unto to some of your freuds
i haue a caer of your preservacion therfor i would...
aduyse you as you be tender vnder lyf to dertyssome
epscuse to shifte of your aHendance at this parliament
for god and man hathe concurred to p[ro]misse the widdenes
of this lyne and thinke not sligthe of this aduentisment
but reb're your self into your contri whiche you
maye expect the eilent in safti for they haue recev'd no
apparance of an stir yet i saye they shall recev[e] a ferre
blow this parliament and yet they shall nof seie who
hurts them this conuers is not to be continued becaus
they haue do volve uo harme for the
firme do volve uo good and can do volve uo harme for the

Part of the anonymous letter sent to Lord Monteagle

The search party found firewood in the cellar. A second search was ordered. This time they caught Fawkes with fuses and matches. They searched the cellar more thoroughly. During the second search, they found the thirty-six barrels of gunpowder.

Guy Fawkes tried to escape but was caught. The guards brought him to the king's chambers for questioning.

Fawkes told the king's guards that his plan was to blow up the king and his government. He insisted that he had acted alone. He told the king he was only sorry that the plot had failed.

Fawkes was a prisoner in the Tower of London. By November 9, he had signed his name on his final confession, revealing the names of his fellow plotters.

On the morning of November 5, the plotters had heard about Fawkes's arrest. They stole some horses and rode away from London. They tried to lead a revolt against the government. On November 8, a group of the king's men caught up with them. Robert Catesby and three other plotters were killed in a gunfight. The rebellion had failed.



The Tower of London

The English courts found all eight surviving plotters guilty of treason. They sentenced each traitor to death. In January 1606, Guy Fawkes and three other plotters were taken to the yard outside the Parliament to be **executed**. Their punishment was a warning to anyone who might try the same.



King James I later praised Guy Fawkes for his loyalty to his cause.

Another Conspiracy?

Some experts suggest that the Gunpowder Plot was an inside job. They think it might have been a plot by the king's staff to make harsher anti-Catholic laws. It might even have been the king's top aide who wrote the warning letter to Lord Monteagle. How could the plotters have carried out their work right under the noses of the king's guards? Were the plotters used as scapegoats to raise support for an unpopular king?

There is no clear proof of this. However, the discovery of the Gunpowder Plot brought the public relief that the king's life had been saved. The king claimed that his survival was a miracle and proof of his right to the throne. Parliament passed a law that same year to make November 5 an official day of celebration. The festivities were intended to strengthen loyalty to the king.



King James I

The Legacy of the Plot

The holiday was first called Gunpowder Treason Day. In the seventeenth century, people rang church bells and lit bonfires to mark the day.

In England then, it was popular to burn dummies of hated figures on bonfires. People believed that doing this would drive away evil spirits. On November 5, people began to burn a dummy of Guy Fawkes on the bonfire.



Modern artwork celebrates Guy Fawkes Day.

Bonfire Parties

Some parts of Britain have special traditions for Bonfire Night. In the town of Lewes (in the south of England), people wear costumes and carry torches through the streets. Some towns burn dummies of famous people who are unpopular with the public today, instead of Guy Fawkes.



By the late nineteenth century, **spectacular** firework displays and parades in towns and cities became popular. People marched to where the bonfire and firework displays were held. These days, the bonfires are usually arranged by local organizations.

Conclusion

Guy Fawkes Day celebrates the failure of the Gunpowder Plot to kill the king of England. These events happened over four hundred years ago. Today, millions of people in the United Kingdom continue to enjoy bonfires and special firework displays on November 5. Guy Fawkes Day has become a day to celebrate and have fun with friends and family.

Some Fiery Facts

Once a year, guards search the houses of Parliament before the official opening. They make sure there are no would-be plotters hiding in the basements.

Scientists have calculated that the 2,500 kilograms (5,512 lb.) of gunpowder hidden by Guy Fawkes would have exploded out about 490 meters (536 yd.).

Guy Fawkes has an island in the Galapagos Islands, Ecuador, named after him, called Isla Guy Fawkes.



Guards prepare for their annual search of Parliament.

Glossary

bonfires (<i>n.</i>)	large fires built outside for celebrations (p. 4)
dummy (<i>n.</i>)	a figure that is a likeness or model of someone (p. 4)
executed (<i>v.</i>)	killed, especially as punishment for committing a crime (p. 11)
festival (<i>n.</i>)	a celebration or an organized series of cultural events (p. 4)
loyal (<i>adj.</i>)	faithful to a person, government, institution, or cause (p. 6)
Parliament (<i>n.</i>)	the lawmaking body of the government of the United Kingdom, consisting of the House of Commons and the House of Lords (p. 4)
plot (<i>n.</i>)	a plan or scheme (p. 4)
rebellion (<i>n.</i>)	a fight against authority or power; an uprising (p. 7)
revolt (<i>n.</i>)	a fight against a government or authority (p. 6)
spectacular (<i>adj.</i>)	wonderful; impressive (p. 14)
tolerant (<i>adj.</i>)	willing to accept or allow behavior or beliefs that are different from one's own (p. 6)
treason (<i>n.</i>)	a crime of betrayal or disloyalty against one's government or ruler (p. 4)

Guy Fawkes Day

A Reading A-Z Level V Leveled Book

Word Count: 1,164

Connections

Writing and Art

Create a piece of art that represents the Guy Fawkes Day celebration.

Write a summary of your artwork.

Social Studies

Research to learn more about Parliament in the United Kingdom. Create a poster showing the different parts and identify the role of each part.



Reading A-Z

Visit www.readinga-z.com
for thousands of books and materials.