



Celebrating a Failure

Read the passage and answer the questions. (CEFR B1–B2)

Class _____ No. _____ Name _____



1 Few countries hold an annual festival to mark a terrorist attack that never happened, yet that is essentially what Britain does every November. In its early years, the day was openly political and religious. An act of Parliament required churches to hold services of thanksgiving, and the celebrations often expressed hostility toward Catholics. Effigies of the Pope were burned alongside those of Fawkes, and the law requiring the commemoration was not repealed until 1859.

2 Over time, most of this hostility faded, and the night became a family event built around fireworks. Some traditions remain controversial, however. In Lewes, one society still marches under a No Popery banner. In the 1950s, it was even shut out of the town's main procession because it refused to stop carrying the banner.

3 Meanwhile, Fawkes himself has been reinvented. Thanks to a graphic novel and a 2005 film, his stylized face became a global symbol of resistance, worn by protesters who know little about the Gunpowder Plot. The man burned in effigy for centuries is now, for some, a hero. Bonfire Night shows how a single historical event can carry very different meanings for different generations.

Comprehension

1. What is the main idea of the passage?

- (A) Bonfire Night is the only festival in Britain that uses fireworks.
- (B) The Gunpowder Plot failed because of a graphic novel.
- (C) The meaning of Bonfire Night has changed greatly over the centuries.
- (D) Catholics in Britain still celebrate Bonfire Night with church services.

2. Until when did the law require people to commemorate the day?

- (A) Until 1859.
- (B) Until the 1950s.
- (C) Until 2005.
- (D) It is still required today.

3. Why was one society in Lewes shut out of the town's main procession in the 1950s?

- (A) It used too many fireworks near the houses.
- (B) It burned an effigy of Guy Fawkes.
- (C) It wanted to wear Guy Fawkes masks.
- (D) It refused to stop carrying a No Popery banner.

4. What can we infer about many people who wear the Guy Fawkes mask today?

- (A) They are members of the societies in Lewes.
- (B) They use his face as a symbol without knowing much about his plot.
- (C) They want to bring back the 1605 law.
- (D) They wear it only on the night of November 5.

5. In paragraph 1, the word "repealed" is closest in meaning to

- (A) officially ended
- (B) made stronger
- (C) written down
- (D) celebrated

6. Why does the writer begin the passage with the sentence about "a terrorist attack that never happened"?

- (A) To warn readers about the danger of fireworks.
- (B) To argue that the Gunpowder Plot was not a real event.
- (C) To show readers how unusual it is to celebrate this event every year.
- (D) To compare Britain with other countries that celebrate attacks.



Vocabulary, Paraphrase & Summary

Match the words with the definitions. Then rewrite and summarize.

Class _____ No. _____ Name _____

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| 1. annual | a. to officially end a law so that it no longer has any power |
| 2. hostility | b. to slowly become weaker or less clear until it disappears |
| 3. effigy | c. causing a lot of disagreement because people have strong different opinions |
| 4. repeal | d. a line of people who walk or move together as part of a public event |
| 5. fade | e. to change something so much that it seems new or has a new image |
| 6. controversial | f. happening once every year |
| 7. procession | g. unfriendly or angry feelings or behavior toward someone |
| 8. reinvent | h. a model or doll of a person, often made to show anger toward that person |

Paraphrase — say it in your own words

1. “In its early years, the day was openly political and religious.”

Hint: Start with "At first," and change "openly" to "clearly". Use "was about".

2. “Over time, most of this hostility faded, and the night became a family event built around fireworks.”

Hint: Use "Little by little" and replace "hostility faded" with "people stopped feeling so angry".

3. “The man burned in effigy for centuries is now, for some, a hero.”

Hint: Use "Although" and "dolls of him". Change "for some" to "some people".

Summary

Summarize the passage in about 50 words.



Debate & Opinion Essay

Prepare for a debate. Then write your opinion (100–150 words).

Class _____ No. _____ Name _____

Motion: Festivals with a troubled history should be changed to fit modern values.

FOR 賛成

- Some old customs, like the No Popery banner in Lewes, can hurt people of a certain religion today, so they should be removed.
- Bonfire Night already changed from an anti-Catholic event into a family fireworks night, and most people think this change was good.
- Festivals belong to the people who celebrate them now, so each generation has the right to change their meaning.

Add your own reason:

AGAINST 反対

- If we change every difficult part, people will forget the real history behind the festival.
- Many people who join the festival do not mean to attack anyone, so they see the old customs as tradition, not hate.
- Festivals change naturally over time, as Bonfire Night did, so there is no need to force changes from outside.

Add your own reason:

Opinion	<i>I believe / I think that ...</i>
Reason 1	<i>First, ... For example, ...</i>
Reason 2	<i>Second, ... In fact, ...</i>
Counter	<i>Some people say ... However, ...</i>
Conclusion	<i>In conclusion, ...</i>