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## Before you start

1. What do you already know about Guy Fawkes? Arrange your ideas in a mind map. You can add more information when you learn more about him from the story.



Guy Fawkes

2. You will read these words very often in the story. Match the words with their meaning. Use a dictionary if you need to.

- |                |                          |                    |                          |
|----------------|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| 1) gunpowder   | <input type="checkbox"/> | 8) to execute      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2) Catholic    | <input type="checkbox"/> | 9) barrel          | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3) conspiracy  | <input type="checkbox"/> | 10) fuse           | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4) to blow up  | <input type="checkbox"/> | 11) State Opening  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5) conspirator | <input type="checkbox"/> | 12) spy            | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6) plot        | <input type="checkbox"/> | 13) to assassinate | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7) to fail     | <input type="checkbox"/> | 14) torture        | <input type="checkbox"/> |

- a) To not succeed.
- b) An explosive powder.
- c) A large, round container for storing something, often made of wood.
- d) Someone who secretly watches other people to find out information about them.
- e) A secret plan by a group of people to do something bad or illegal.
- f) To kill someone as punishment.
- g) Belonging to the part of the Christian religion that is led by the Pope.
- h) To kill someone important.
- i) A member of a conspiracy.
- j) The formal opening of parliament by the king or queen.
- k) To destroy something with a bomb.
- l) To cause someone a lot of pain, in order to find out information.
- m) A plan to do something bad.
- n) The part of a bomb that you light to start the explosion.

## The characters

Thanks to the celebration of Bonfire Night that takes place on November 5th every year, most people in Britain know the name Guy Fawkes. A member of a group of men who planned to blow up the House of Lords and kill King James I in 1605, Guy Fawkes was responsible for guarding the barrels of gunpowder which were hidden under the Houses of Parliament. However, the plot failed and the conspirators were **punished**. Here is a short introduction to the key people involved:



Guy Fawkes

**Guy Fawkes** was a soldier who began his career fighting for the Spanish army against the Dutch in the Eighty Years' War. During this time, he became an expert in **explosives** and later used this knowledge in the plot to blow up the House of Lords.



Robert Cecil

**Robert Cecil** was the favourite of King James I. He spent many years working together with the most powerful Catholics in the country in the hope of replacing the **Protestant** king with a Catholic.



Francis Tresham

**Francis Tresham** was one of the main plotters involved in the Gunpowder Plot. Some people think he was the one to **reveal** the plan, though many historians say there is no real proof of this.



Lord Monteagle

**Lord Monteagle**, whose real name was William Parker, received an **anonymous** letter from one of the plotters warning him of the attack. He then told Robert Cecil about the Gunpowder Plot.



King James

**King James I** was born in 1566, the son of Mary, Queen of Scots. When he was eight months old, his father was murdered and his mother was put into prison. He never saw her again. She was later executed by her cousin, Elizabeth I of England. Although James' mother was Catholic, James was never close to her and grew up a Protestant. At the age of one he became King of Scotland. Later, in 1603, he became King of England and Ireland as well.



Robert Cecil

**Robert Cecil** was one of the most powerful politicians in England at the time of Elizabeth I. His father, William Cecil, had been the chief adviser to Queen Elizabeth I. Robert became Secretary of State under Elizabeth and remained in power under James I. He was also known as the "spymaster".

The Undercroft



**The House of Lords** is the English Parliament. Its members were Lords rather than democratically elected politicians. In 1605 Westminster was quite different than it is today. It was surrounded by a wall, a bit like a small city in itself. Within the walls there were shops and inns and – most famously – a huge **cellar** known as an **undercroft** where shopkeepers could **store** their goods. The conspirators of the Gunpowder Plot used this undercroft to hide their gunpowder until the State opened the Parliament.

**punish** if you do sth bad, you are punished | **explosive** a substance used to blow sth up | **Protestant** belonging to the part of the Christian religion that separated from Rome in the 1500s | **to reveal** to tell sb sth that was a secret | **anonymous** not giving a name

**cellar** a room under a building | **to store** to keep



Hey, check this out!" Liam pointed at a scarecrow, whose head was sticking out of a pile of rubbish.

"Cool!" said Jenson.

The boys pulled the scarecrow out of the pile. **Apart from** a missing arm, he was **in pretty good shape**.

"I can ask my dad for some clothes," said Liam, wiping some dirt off the scarecrow's face. "His head's the same size."

The two boys often came to the local rubbish dump looking for unusual **items**. It was amazing what they found: old TVs which still worked, radios, coats, and old leather boots. They took their findings home and cleaned them. The scarecrow was perfect for tonight's **bonfire**.

Back home the boys cleaned up the scarecrow and repaired his arm.

They dressed him in a shirt and trousers and gave him gloves and shoes and a hat for his head. Then they went into town to buy him a **mask**.

The mask they bought had narrow, black eyes and an **evil** smile.

**apart from** except for | **in pretty good shape** (phrase) in good condition | **item** thing | **bonfire** a very large fire outside | **mask** a covering for the face that hides the person wearing it | **evil** bad



That afternoon the boys carried their new doll down to the village green, where wood and branches were piled up high to make a bonfire, waiting to be **lit**. Liam threw the doll over his shoulder and carried it to the top of the pile.

As night fell, people began to gather on the green. Someone lit the paper at the base of the bonfire, and soon the wood was blazing wildly. The boys watched the flames rise towards the masked figure above. They heard people talk around them.

"Doesn't he look scary?" they said. "I've seen his mask on TV."

As the scarecrow's legs caught fire, a little girl began to cry. "That man is going to die!" she wailed.

Her father put his arm around her. "Don't worry," he said. "**He's** just a **guy**. He tried to kill the King of England a long time ago. His name was Guy Fawkes. This is his punishment."

It didn't matter what her father said, the girl carried on crying. No one in the world **deserved** to die like this.

**to light** (lit, lit) to set sth on fire | **guy** a doll that looks like Guy Fawkes | **to deserve sth** to earn sth through your behaviour