

Playstage

Junior

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# THE GUNPOWDER PLOT



A fun class assembly or presentation



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## THE GUNPOWDER PLOT

### PRODUCTION NOTES

This school assembly has been written for a class of approximately 30, to be performed over approximately 20 minutes. It includes factual comments, an acting element, and songs. For a longer assembly, other elements could be added. Although the assembly has been written for 30 students, the assembly can easily be adapted for a smaller class of 15, or larger of 45 by reallocating the lines between the children.

### COSTUMES

Costumes are not necessary, but may add to the visual effect of the play. Should full costumes not be possible, or practical as part of the assembly, hats/wigs with no further costume could be used. Here is a picture of the period showing the conspirators in The Gunpowder Plot. As you can see, the men of that period all wore tall hats with bands and feathers. And they all wore big lace edged collars.



There is also a need for a Victorian costume for the boy/girl who comes in with a “guy” on a pushchair. Here is a visual of the scene.



## VISUALS

Pictures are essential to this presentation because it would be impossible to present a piece about fireworks without having some visual treats for the audience. Obviously we have included a section about firework safety. ON NO ACCOUNT SHOULD REAL FIREWORKS BE USED. This presentation is a golden opportunity for children to do their own artwork – either 2D or 3D – of their idea of fireworks. We have given some examples of other visuals in the text which can be accessed from the internet by typing “Images of (subject matter)” into your search engine. Depending on what equipment available to you, or how much you want the class to have an input to producing the visuals, these images can either be hi-tech or low tech. In other words, you could source images to your computer and display them remotely on a display unit on the stage or you could have a flipchart that displays artwork the children have done which is flipped over by one of the children to reveal the next image to illustrate the presentation. Or you could have a mixture of both.

There could be some advantage in downloading a video of one of the spectacular New Year firework displays from You Tube. The London one would be most appropriate. The link is: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Jp9\\_sgJcN0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Jp9_sgJcN0)

## SOUND EFFECTS

Fairly important in a piece about fireworks. You can download free firework sound effects from here: <http://www.freesfx.co.uk/sfx/fireworks>

## SONGS

The following songs are suggested in the assembly, however could be easily substitute with other relevant tunes.

Instrumental of ‘FIREWORK’ – Katy Perry (*backing track from [www.ameritz.co.uk](http://www.ameritz.co.uk)*)

BUILD A BONFIRE (unaccompanied)

10 LITTLE FIREWORKS

## PROPS

Children need to bring on stage any artwork they have done. Victorian Boy needs a “guy” in a pushchair, plus a hat to collect money in.

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### A Key Stage 1 Assembly

*The children walk onto the stage/front of assembly, chanting, "Remember, remember, the fifth of November" and range themselves so that they stand on the stage in 2 or 3 rows. (Perhaps first row sitting, second row standing and third row standing on a bench.) It would help if the order that they stand are the order that lines are assigned to help remind them that it is their turn to speak.*

Remember, remember the fifth of November.

Gunpowder, treason, and plot.

I see no reason why gunpowder treason

Should ever be forgot.

### CHILD 1

Welcome to our assembly

### CHILD 2

It is nearly the 5<sup>th</sup> of November - (*or "We have just passed 5<sup>th</sup> of November" depending upon the date!*) the night we celebrate Bonfire Night, sometimes called "Guy Fawkes Night". We have been learning all about why we light Bonfires and Fireworks on this special night.

### CHILD 3

There is a short poem that is read around this time. The words include gunpowder, treason and plot. These are all words that we have learnt about during our lessons.

### ALL CHILDREN

Remember, remember the fifth of November.

Gunpowder, treason, and plot.

I see no reason why gunpowder treason

Should ever be forgot.

### CHILD 4

Many years ago, in 1605, a man called Guy Fawkes tried to blow up the Houses of Parliament, by lighting gunpowder which had been hidden in the basement.