Bonfire Night Surprise

The sky was ink-black, dotted with glimmers of stars as people gathered on the chilly field. Sam hugged his coat tighter around him, his breath rising in little clouds that faded into the night. He looked around, eyes wide, as people murmured in excitement, pointing toward the dark sky. His best friend Lily stood beside him, her hands shoved deep into her pockets, hopping from one foot to the other.

"Do you think it's going to start soon?" Sam whispered, his voice barely above a hush, like he didn't want to break the spell.

Just then, a loud whoosh broke through the whispers. A trail of light shot up into the sky, and Sam's face lit up as bright as the explosion that followed. Colours blossomed across the darkness—reds, blues, greens, and sparkling silver that scattered like a million stars. Sam's mouth fell open in wonder, his eyes reflecting every burst of colour.

The smell of burnt wood drifted in the air, and Sam's nose tingled as he took in the scent of the nearby bonfire crackling away, warming the crowd around it. He could feel the heat from the flames on his cheeks, even from a distance. His stomach rumbled, and he looked over at the table where Lily's dad was handing out sticky toffee apples, their caramel coating gleaming under the lights.

Lily nudged him, grinning. "Bet you can't eat two!"

Sam grinned back, the excitement of the night sparking in his eyes. "Watch me!"

Questions:

These questions all involve you inferring information from the author's use of 'Show not Tell'.

Remember that you are relying on 'clues' and 'evidence' to answer these questions.

1. How does Sam feel about Bonfire Night?

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2. Why does Sam speak in a whisper to Lily at the beginning of the story?

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3. What clues are there that Sam is excited about the fireworks?

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4. Why does Sam's nose tingle? What might he be smelling?

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5. How do you know that the night is cold?

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Write a short story about anything you want but remember to use visual clues (show not tell) to show how our characters are feeling.

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