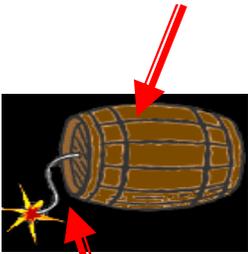


## *Guy Fawkes and the Gunpowder Plot (Bonfire Night)*



A barrel



A fuse

**Happy Guy Fawkes Day!**



A burning guy



Bonfire

Four hundred years ago, in 1605, a man called Guy Fawkes and a group of plotters attempted to blow up the Houses of Parliament in London with barrels of gunpowder, which they had placed in the basement. They wanted to kill King James.

Guy Fawkes was a Catholic who believed that King James did not treat well the Catholics in England. He put fines on those who didn't go to Protestant churches. So, a group of men, whose leader was Robert Catesby, plotted to kill King James and blow up the Houses of Parliament where he passed the laws.

The plot was simple. The next time the King went to Parliament, they would blow everyone there with gunpowder. The men rented a house with a cellar next door to the Parliament building. There, they began to dig a tunnel in order to reach the parliament building underground. They planned to put gunpowder in the basement and blow up the parliament and the King. Guy Fawkes had to keep watch over the 36 barrels of gunpowder in the cellar and to light the fuse.

On the morning of the 5<sup>th</sup> November, soldiers discovered Guy who was hiding in the cellar and arrested him. They took him to the Tower of London, where they questioned and tortured him. In the end, he told them the truth about the plot. Guy Fawkes and all his friend plotters were killed and their heads were put on poles.

Today, people in England celebrate Guy Fawkes and his plot by making a big bonfire. On top of the bonfire they put a man made of straw and old clothes. They burn the straw man, let off fireworks and sing this special song:

**Remember, remember  
The fifth of November,  
Gunpowder, treason and plot,  
I see no reason, why gunpowder treason  
Should ever be forgot.**



Head on pole

### **Glossary**

- Catholic = A group of Christians whose leader is the Pope.
- A fine = Money we pay if we have done something illegal
- To plot = To make secret plans - the plotter = the person who plots
- To blow up = To explode
- To torture = To make someone suffer, to cause pain, usually in order to punish him
- Treason = A crime against the leader of the country
- To treat = To behave