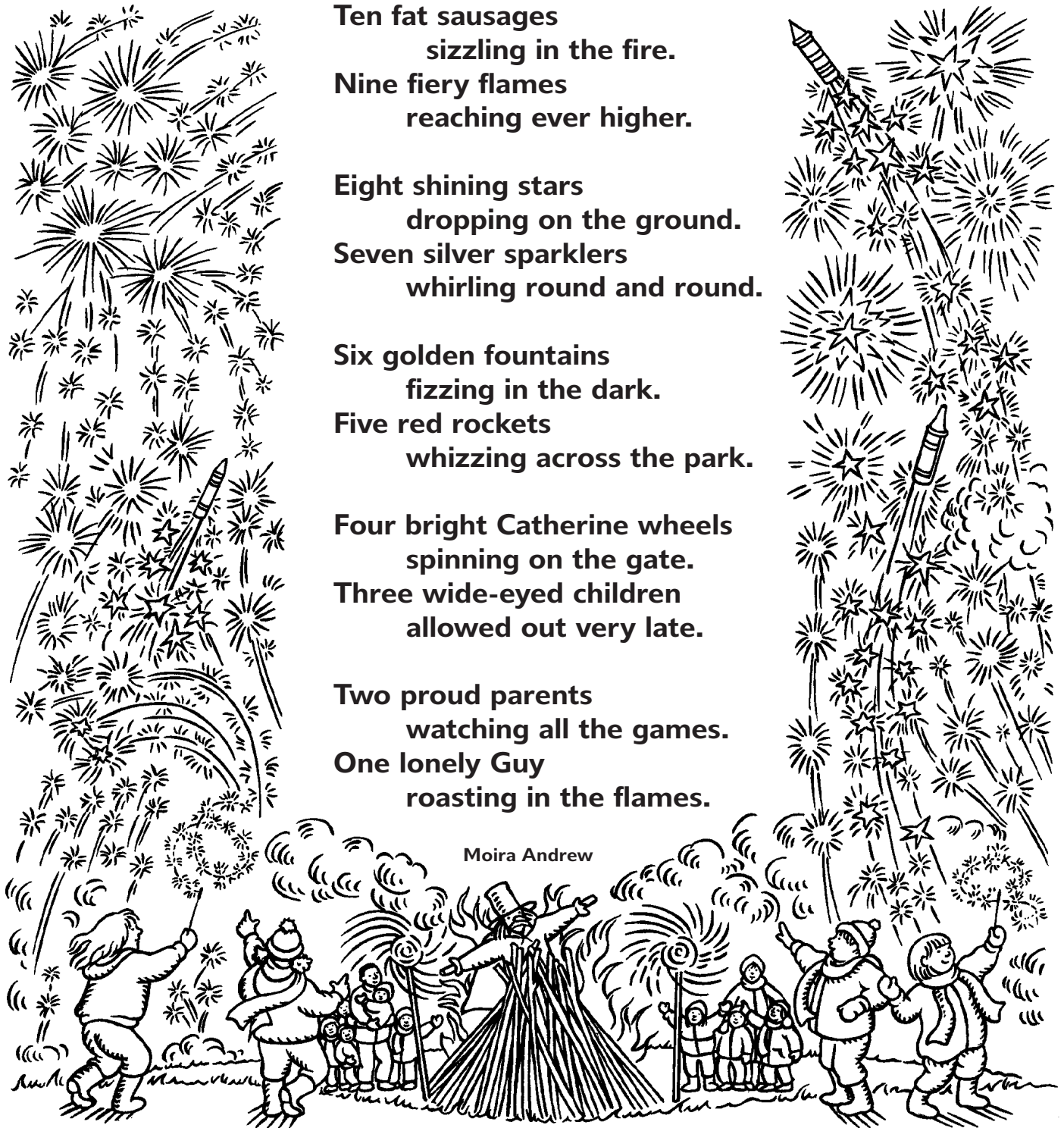


November night countdown



Ten fat sausages
sizzling in the fire.
Nine fiery flames
reaching ever higher.
Eight shining stars
dropping on the ground.
Seven silver sparklers
whirling round and round.
Six golden fountains
fizzing in the dark.
Five red rockets
whizzing across the park.
Four bright Catherine wheels
spinning on the gate.
Three wide-eyed children
allowed out very late.
Two proud parents
watching all the games.
One lonely Guy
roasting in the flames.

Moira Andrew

Teachers' notes

Read aloud the poem 'November Night countdown'. Ask the children if they know who 'One lonely Guy' refers to. Do they know what event is being celebrated? Read the poem aloud for a second time, encouraging the children to join in the countdown.

On the whiteboard, make a list of the things that the children most look forward to on Bonfire Night – sparklers, fireworks, rockets, Catherine wheels and so on. Talk about the different ways

that fireworks and bonfire flames move and light up the skies – *spinning, whirling, dancing, wizzing*. Encourage the children to choose six appropriate nouns and match these with a movement word. For example, *sparklers dancing, rockets zooming* and so on. Make a six-line poem from the pairings or draw a flaming bonfire with the noun/verb combination printed along a 'flame' to make a shape poem.

