

Active Stories

# The Gunpowder Plot



By Owen Denovan

## Writing opportunities

- **Report writing**  
*(newspaper)*
- **Persuasive writing**  
*(recruiting allies)*

## Links to other subject areas

- **Gunpowder Plot**  
*(History)*
- **Compare and contrast localities**  
*(London)*
- **Family trees**  
*(Royal family)*
- **Houses of Parliament**  
*(pencil drawing)*
- **Filling barrels**  
*(measuring capacity)*

## Active games

### Line up

*Children stand on benches in groups of 6. Children order themselves without putting any feet on the floor at any point. Each child has a word. Children must discuss the words and order them in terms of strength or quality.*

### I've put a spell on you

*Each child has a word and they can approach any classmate who they challenge to spell their word. If the challenged player is incorrect then the challenger puts a spell on them (any on the spot movement) Players can only be released from the spell if they spell another word correctly.*

## How this works

- **Black text = story**  
*(read outloud)*
- **Blue text = action**

1.

Hello! I'm Guy. How do you do?  
I'm looking for help to form a new crew.

This country's not right, it's a terrible thing

**STOMP**

What can we do about this horrible king?!

2.

I've got a plan, a major event.  
I'm going to blow up parliament!

But I need some help to perform this act.  
Let's join together and make a pact

**HANDS IN THE MIDDLE, 3,2,1- JUMP AND SHOUT BOOM!**

3.

We must dig a tunnel to get deep underground  
**DIG QUICKLY**

But we mustn't get caught so don't make a sound

**DIG SLOWER AND QUIETER**

Keep digging, keep digging! Be quick and remember.

We must get this finished for the 5th of November

4.

Now fill up these barrels all the way to the top,  
Be careful, this powder will do more than just pop.

**CAREFULLY SHOVEL POWDER INTO BARREL BENDING KNEES AND RISING SLOWLY**

My plan is to blow the King sky high,  
With all of his friends there at his side!

5.

Next roll the barrels all the way to the end.  
Oh why did we build a tunnel that bends?!

**ROLL BARRELS TWISTING AND TURNING**

Turn left, then turn right and turn left once more

**WALK TURNING LEFT AND RIGHT**

And place the barrels right there on the floor.

**MIME LIFTING HEAVY OBJECT AND PLACE IT ON FLOOR**

6.

At last we're all set, the job's nearly done,  
But first we should do a practice run.

Creep past the guards **TIPTOE**, open the door

**MIME HEAVING A DOOR**

Crouch down everyone, stay close to the floor.

**SQUAT RUN TWISTING AND TURNING**

Quick down the tunnel and light the fuse.

Then hurry back, there's no time to lose.

**SQUAT RUN THE OTHER DIRECTION, MAKING TURNS**

7.

Right everyone, we're looking OK  
I hope that nothing will stand in our way.

Now off to bed, get lots of rest.

Because tomorrow morning is our real test.

**MIME SLEEPING**



8.

Get out of bed! We've all slept too long.

**MIME STRETCHING AND RUBBING EYES**

We best hurry up or our chance will be gone!

Into your clothes, put on your shoes.

That's it, hurry. There's no time to lose

**MIME PUTTING CLOTHES ON**

11.

Quick down the tunnel and light the fuse.

But what is that noise? There's no time to lose.

**SQUAT RUN THE OTHER DIRECTION,  
MAKING TURNS**

Oh no! We've been spotted! The guards are coming.

Forget the fuse, we need to get running.

9.

Do we all know the plan? Let's have a quick check.

Just tell me again, it might save our neck.

Nice work, we know it! We'll be fine.

The King's on his way and we've not got much time.

12.

Back through the tunnel, turn left and turn right.

**RUNNING THROUGH THE TUNNEL  
TURNING LEFT AND RIGHT**

We'll try to lose them in the darkness of night.

They're hot on our tail we can't get away. Quick try to hide, behind all this hay.

**SILENTLY CROUCH AND HIDE**

10.

Creep past the guards

**TIPTOE** open the door

**MIME HEAVING A DOOR**

Crouch down everyone, stay close to the floor.

**SQUAT RUN TWISTING  
AND TURNING**

13.

"They went down here. They haven't gone far.

We'll catch these criminals and put them behind bars.

How dare they try to kill our King.

Who would do such a terrible thing?

14.

Look high and look low, keep looking, don't quit!

**TEACHER TIP TOES AND MIMES LOOKING  
HIGH AND LOW**

Why is this hay here? And what's behind it?

AH HA! I've found you, your plan has failed!

Guards arrest them let's take them to jail

**MARCH SLOWLY IN A LINE**

15.

Into the cells you go but you won't be long.

Because what you have tried is very wrong.

You won't rot in here, that's for sure

For you, something much worse lies in store.