

The Story Of Guy Fawkes

Many years ago there was a man named Guy Fawkes who lived in York. Sadly his father died when he was very young and his mother married a religious man. Over time young Guy learned about religion and decided he would travel abroad to fight for the Catholics. Guy was a very good fighter, he was very smart and very brave, and he was very loyal and kind to his friends. He felt strongly about doing what was right and helping those who could not help themselves.

Whilst fighting in the Eighty Year's War he met a friend who asked for his help one day, and Guy gladly agreed. His friend was part of a group who didn't like the King Of England and his opposing religion, and they thought that he was not right for the throne and wanted his daughter the princess to rule the country instead. Guy Fawkes and his friends believed if they got rid of the King then all would be okay in the country, so they set a plan to blow him up in an explosion at the houses of Parliament in London.

For a long time they planned how they would blow up Parliament and met at an inn in secret to draw up the plans. Guy Fawkes was to be in charge of setting the gunpowder, but they didn't know how to get it close enough to such a protected building without anybody seeing. Smart thinking Guy found work as a Caretaker at a house nearby Parliament and in time they began to dig an underground tunnel underneath the building where they could set their gunpowder. They dug for weeks and weeks, quietly and quickly. When the tunnel was complete they stocked twenty barrels of gunpowder in the store room beneath the buildings, but due to the damp conditions the gunpowder went off. They had to act quickly, and after they restocked the fresh gunpowder they covered it with firewood to keep it hidden should anybody discover the secret tunnel.

As the time grew closer to the planned date of blowing up Parliament, one of the people who were plotting the explosion started to worry about some of their Catholic friends who would be inside the building at the time. They wrote a letter to their friends to tell them to keep away from Parliament on the fifth of November. But without Guy Fawkes knowing the letter was passed to the King who ordered his spies to investigate and the group of friends continued with their plot.

As was arranged, Guy Fawkes hid in the tunnel the night before the explosion, armed with the gunpowder and a watch to know when to set it off, they had set it up so that he could light the match and have enough time for it to burn and for him to be far enough away before the explosion. But as he was leaving he was caught and arrested by the King's men and taken in for questioning.

At first Guy Fawkes didn't speak at all, even though the King ordered that he be tortured until he confesses who he was working for and what they were doing. After days of torture and in terrible pain Guy Fawkes told them who he was, but he refused to tell them the identity of his friends. He held out for many days, unable to stand and finding it hard to speak because of how badly they hurt and tortured him. But finally, after all of the pain that he could take he confessed all.

The King held a court where Guy Fawkes and thirteen of his friends were found guilty of high treason and sentenced to death. On the day of the execution Guy Fawkes and his friends were dragged by horses to where they would be hung, drawn and quartered in front of a huge crowd of the public, the King wanted everybody to see that if they break the law they will be punished severely. Guy Fawkes had to watch as his friends were all killed and their body parts put on spikes around the kingdom as a warning to others to do as they were told. But when it was Guy Fawkes turn to be executed instead he broke his own neck so that he would have a quick and dignified death, instead of the cruel and slow torture that he had watched his friends go through.

The King was very happy that he had foiled the plot to blow up Parliament and he marked the date of the fifth of November for all of his kingdom to hold a bonfire, and to make a dummy Guy to burn in the flames and celebrate the victory of the day. And every year it remained a reminder to the people that they should not break the law because of what happened to Guy Fawkes.