

The Festival of Lights: A Diwali Tale

Learning objective: To develop reading comprehension skills by retrieving information, making inferences, and evaluating themes within a narrative text about Diwali.

Read the passage carefully, then answer the questions below. Use full sentences and refer back to the text to support your answers.

Diwali, the vibrant Festival of Lights, is a cherished celebration observed by millions of people across the globe. Ellie the elephant was fascinated by the history of this special time, particularly the story of Prince Rama and his return to his kingdom after fourteen years of exile. To guide him home through the darkest night of the month, the villagers lit rows of earthen lamps, known as diyas, creating a golden, luminous trail. Today, the tradition continues as families decorate their doorsteps with intricate patterns of coloured sand, called rangoli, and share delicious sweets with neighbours. The festival is not merely about the brightness of the lamps; it signifies the triumph of light over darkness and knowledge over ignorance. As Ellie watched the flickering flames, she realised that Diwali is a time for reflection, kindness, and welcoming new beginnings. It is a period when communities unite to share joy, exchange gifts, and appreciate the prosperity that comes from working together in harmony and peace.

Word bank: festival · tradition · luminous · triumph · celebration · symbolise · prosperity

1. According to the text, why did the villagers light the diyas when Prince Rama returned home? (2 marks)

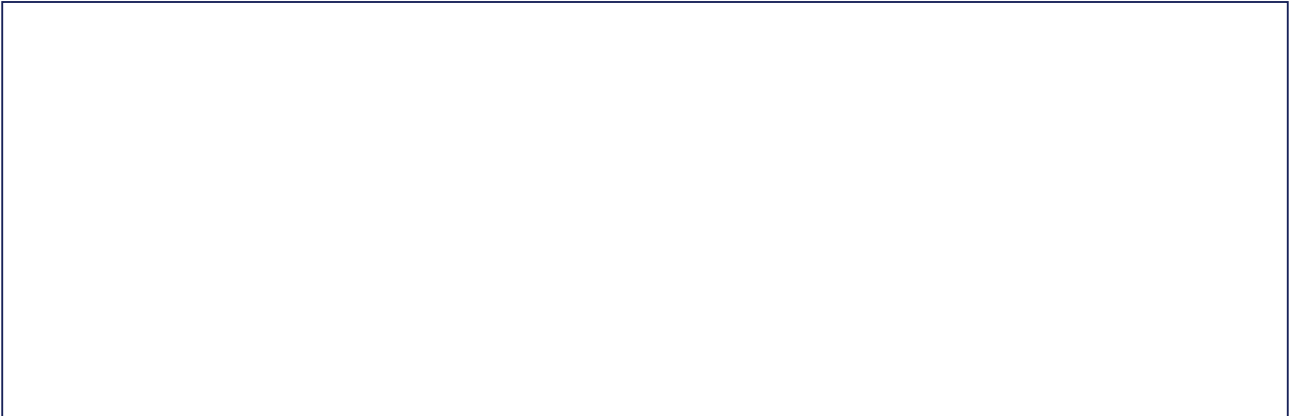
2. What are the two specific traditions mentioned that families use to decorate or share during Diwali? (2 marks)

3. How does the author use the phrase 'triumph of light over darkness' to describe the meaning of Diwali? (2 marks)

4. Why might Ellie feel that Diwali is a time for 'new beginnings'? (2 marks)

5. Do you think festivals like Diwali are important for bringing communities together? Justify your answer. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene showing a beautiful rangoli pattern on a doorstep, surrounded by glowing diyas to light the way.



Extension challenge: Explain why light is often used as a symbol in different cultures. Compare and contrast the feeling of a 'Festival of Lights' with another celebration you know. What might happen if a community stopped celebrating their traditional festivals? Justify your perspective.