

The Festival of Lights: Diwali Narrative Exploration

Learning objective: To analyse the narrative structure, symbolism, and cultural significance of the Diwali story, using rich vocabulary to explain character motivations and themes.

Read the following questions carefully. Use your knowledge of the Diwali story to provide thoughtful, detailed responses. Ensure you use full sentences and refer to specific characters or events from the narrative.

In the traditional Diwali narrative, Rama and Sita return to Ayodhya after fourteen years in exile. The citizens light rows of clay lamps (diyas) to guide their path home, marking the victory of light over darkness and good over evil.

Word bank: triumph · symbolism · exile · deity · perseverance · righteousness · illuminated · compassion

1. Explain why the citizens of Ayodhya chose to light clay lamps (diyas) to welcome Rama and Sita home. What does this act symbolise within the story? (2 marks)

2. Compare and contrast the qualities of Rama with the challenges he faced during his fourteen years in exile. How did his perseverance shape his character? (3 marks)

3. Justify why Diwali is often described as a celebration of 'the triumph of light over darkness.' Use examples from the narrative to support your reasoning. (3 marks)

4. Max the monkey is trying to calculate the cost of a celebration. If one decorative diya costs £0.45 and the villagers need to purchase 120 lamps, what is the total cost? Show your working out. (2 marks)

5. What might happen if the people of Ayodhya had not lit the lamps? How would this change the atmosphere or the ending of the story? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw an intricate Rangoli pattern that incorporates geometric shapes and vibrant colours to welcome guests during Diwali, just as Zara the zebra would design.



Extension challenge: Write a short, emotive poem from the perspective of a villager in Ayodhya waiting for Rama and Sita to arrive. Use at least three words from the word bank and describe the sensory experience of the city being illuminated.