

Diwali Diary Entry: A Journey of Light

Learning objective: To use descriptive language and historical empathy to recount the story of Diwali from the perspective of a character living in ancient times.

Imagine you are a friend of Ellie the elephant, visiting a village during the festival of Diwali. Use this diary entry template to describe the sights, sounds, and the meaning behind the celebrations. Focus on using ambitious adjectives and emotive language to bring your writing to life.

Word bank: triumph · illuminated · tradition · celebration · courage · symbolise · vibrant · dazzling · generosity

1. The Arrival: Describe the atmosphere of the village as you arrive. What can you see and hear? Use at least two words from the word bank. (3 marks)

2. The Legend: Briefly summarise the story of light overcoming darkness. Why is this story told every year? (3 marks)

3. The Sensations: Describe the smells of the traditional food and the sight of the rows of clay lamps (diyas). How do they make you feel? (3 marks)

4. The Meaning: What does Diwali teach us about the importance of kindness and hope in our own lives? (2 marks)

5. The Reflection: Write one final sentence describing why this festival is important for bringing the community together. (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Research the patterns used in Rangoli art. Write a short paragraph explaining the mathematical symmetry used in these designs and why they are an important part of the festival.