

The Festival of Lights: A Diwali Tale

Learning objective: To develop reading comprehension skills by identifying key themes, characters, and cultural significance in the story of Diwali.

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions below in full sentences. Use your best handwriting and check your spelling.

Diwali, often called the Festival of Lights, is a significant celebration observed by millions of people across the globe. Ellie the elephant, who loves hearing stories from different cultures, recently shared the tale of Rama and Sita with her friends. The story tells of Prince Rama and his wife, Sita, who were sent away from their home for fourteen years. After many adventures and facing great challenges, they finally defeated the darkness and returned to their kingdom. To welcome them home, the people of the city lit thousands of small clay lamps, known as diyas, placing them in rows along the streets and windowsills. The soft, warm glow of the lamps guided the couple back through the darkest night of the year. Today, Diwali is a time for families to gather, exchange gifts, share delicious sweets, and decorate their homes with colourful patterns called rangoli. It serves as a beautiful reminder that light will always overcome darkness and that goodness will triumph over bad choices.

Word bank: triumph · tradition · celebration · divine · guidance · festival · illumination

1. Why did the people of the city light thousands of clay lamps when Rama and Sita returned? (2 marks)

2. According to the passage, what two things do families often do together during Diwali? (2 marks)

3. What is the deeper, symbolic meaning behind the lighting of lamps during Diwali? (2 marks)

4. Explain what a 'rangoli' is in your own words based on the text. (1 mark)

5. How does the author describe the night when Rama and Sita returned to their kingdom? (1 mark)

Draw: Draw a beautiful, symmetrical rangoli pattern using bright colours. Add a small glowing diya lamp in the centre of your design.



Extension challenge: Research one other festival that involves light or fire. Write a short paragraph comparing that festival to Diwali, noting at least one similarity and one difference.