

A Festive Reflection: The Spirit of Giving

Learning objective: To write a reflective recount about the meaning of Christmas, using expanded noun phrases and varied conjunctions to express personal perspectives.

Use the following prompts to structure your reflection. Think carefully about how you describe the atmosphere and the significance of community and kindness during the festive season. Aim to use sophisticated vocabulary to explain your ideas.

As the frost glittered upon the windowpane like scattered diamonds, I began to consider the true meaning behind the warmth of the festive season.

Word bank: festive · tradition · generosity · reflection · furthermore · consequently · nevertheless · significance · communal · cherished · anticipation

1. The Atmosphere: Describe the setting of your festive celebration. How does the environment change when the holidays approach? Start with: The atmosphere transformed as... (2 marks)

2. The Meaning of Giving: Explain why giving to others is often considered more rewarding than receiving gifts. Justify your reasoning using an example. Start with: Beyond the physical presents, the true essence of the season is found in... (3 marks)

3. Personal Traditions: Compare and contrast your own family traditions with those of a friend or a historical custom. Why are these rituals important to maintain? Start with: Whilst many families observe similar customs, my family uniquely chooses to... (3 marks)

4. The Value of Community: What might happen if we only focused on the material side of Christmas? Explain why community and connection are vital. Start with: If society were to ignore the importance of togetherness, the impact would be... (3 marks)

5. Future Hopes: Reflect on the year that has passed. What is one positive change you hope to carry forward into the New Year? Start with: Looking ahead, I am determined to... (2 marks)

6. Conclusion: Summarise your feelings about the season. What final thought would you like to leave with the reader? Start with: In conclusion, the festive season serves as a poignant reminder that... (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Imagine you are writing a letter to a person living in a different country who does not celebrate Christmas. How would you explain the 'spirit of the season' to them? Write a short, persuasive paragraph justifying why acts of kindness are essential to human happiness, regardless of one's cultural background.