

Grade 3 ELA Assessment: The Festival of Lights

Learning objective: To demonstrate understanding of the narrative structure, cultural significance, and descriptive language associated with the story of Rama and Sita.

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions below. Use your best handwriting and check your spelling. You have 45 minutes to complete this assessment.

In the ancient legend, Prince Rama and his wife Sita were sent into exile for fourteen years. During this time, they faced many challenges, including the cunning King Ravana. With the help of the loyal monkey general, Hanuman, Rama fought a fierce battle to rescue Sita. When they finally returned home to Ayodhya, the citizens were overjoyed. To guide them through the darkness of the new moon night, the people lit thousands of small clay lamps, known as diyas, placing them in rows along the streets and rooftops. This warm, golden glow represented the triumph of light over darkness and good over evil. Today, families celebrate this event as Diwali, sharing sweets and decorating their homes with colorful patterns to invite happiness for the year ahead.

Word bank: Diwali · triumph · exile · victory · celebration · divine · compassion · courage · symbolise · righteousness

1. Why were the citizens of Ayodhya so eager to light diyas upon the return of Rama and Sita? Use evidence from the text. (2 marks)

2. Explain why the author uses the phrase 'triumph of light over darkness' to describe the meaning of Diwali. (2 marks)

3. Find and copy two adjectives from the text that describe the atmosphere of the celebration. (2 marks)

4. Max the monkey is curious about the sequence of events. Summarise the three main parts of the story (the beginning, the middle, and the end) in your own words. (3 marks)

5. Compare and contrast the challenges Rama faced in the forest with the way the people of Ayodhya welcomed him home. How do these two parts of the story reflect the theme of the festival? (4 marks)

6. Justify why festivals like Diwali are important to communities today. Consider how light and sharing food might affect how people feel. (4 marks)

7. Extended Writing: Imagine you are a citizen of Ayodhya. Write a short diary entry (approx. 100 words) describing your preparations for the arrival of Rama and Sita. Describe the sights, sounds, and smells of the city. (5 marks)

Draw: Draw a detailed 'rangoli' pattern in the space below. Use geometric shapes and symmetrical designs to represent the joy and light of Diwali.



Extension challenge: Total: /25. Challenge: If you were to write a modern-day story based on the theme of 'light over darkness', what obstacle would your main character face? How would they overcome it without using magic? Explain your reasoning.