

The Festival of Lights: A Diwali Narrative Challenge

Learning objective: To explore the narrative structure of the Diwali story, focusing on character motivation and the use of descriptive language to convey theme.

Help Ellie the elephant curate a historical exhibition about Diwali. You must sequence the key plot events chronologically, then use your creative writing skills to expand upon the emotional 'turning point' of the story. Use the vocabulary from the word bank to add depth to your descriptions.

Word bank: triumph · exile · resilience · illuminated · victory · reign · devotion · benevolence

1. 1. Sequence the following events from the Diwali story (1-5): The return to Ayodhya, The banishment of Rama, The rescue of Sita, The lighting of the oil lamps, The defeat of Ravana. Justify why the 'lighting of the lamps' is considered the most significant symbolic event. (3 marks)

2. 2. Explain why Rama's return to his kingdom after fourteen years of exile is a test of his character. How does his journey reflect the concept of 'resilience'? (3 marks)

3. 3. Compare and contrast the qualities of Rama and Ravana. Based on the story, justify your answer on why one is remembered for 'benevolence' and the other for his pride. (4 marks)

4. 4. What might happen if the people of Ayodhya had not lit the lamps to guide Rama home? How would this change the mood of the story? (3 marks)

5. 5. Describe the sensory experience of the city being 'illuminated'. Use at least three words from the word bank to paint a picture of the scene. (3 marks)

6. 6. If Ellie the elephant were to write a poem about the 'triumph of light over darkness', what two metaphors would she use to represent 'hope'? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw an intricate rangoli pattern that incorporates symbols of light, such as a diya lamp or a sun, ensuring the design shows symmetry and balance.



Extension challenge: Write a 200-word diary entry from the perspective of a citizen of Ayodhya who is preparing their home for the festival. Focus on the anticipation of the return and the cultural significance of the preparations.