

The Festival of Lights: A Diwali Tale

Learning objective: To develop reading comprehension skills by retrieving information, making inferences, and justifying personal opinions regarding cultural narratives.

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions below. Ensure you use full sentences and evidence from the text where required.

As autumn leaves blanket the ground, Ellie the elephant prepares for the radiant festival of Diwali. This ancient celebration, known as the 'Festival of Lights', marks the victory of light over darkness and knowledge over ignorance. Across the globe, families cleanse their homes, decorating doorways with intricate rangoli patterns made from coloured powders. The most iconic tradition involves placing small clay oil lamps, called dias, in neat rows along windowsills and paths. These flickering flames represent the inner light that protects every household from spiritual darkness. Ellie loves how the golden glow transforms the night into a tapestry of warmth and hope. During this season, communities exchange sweet treats and new garments, symbolising prosperity and fresh beginnings. It is a time for reflection, where people set aside past grievances to foster unity and kindness. By illuminating the darkness, Diwali encourages individuals to look within themselves to find the strength to act with integrity. As the night sky sparkles, the collective light serves as a beautiful reminder that even a tiny, singular flame can banish the deepest shadows.

Word bank: dias · triumph · prosperity · tradition · illumination · symbolise · righteousness

1. Identify two specific ways in which families prepare their homes for the festival of Diwali according to the text. (2 marks)

2. What do the flickering dias represent in the context of the festival? (2 marks)

3. Explain why the author describes the celebration as a 'tapestry of warmth and hope'. What does this suggest about the atmosphere of the festival? (3 marks)

4. Based on the text, why might it be considered important for people to exchange gifts and sweets during this time? (2 marks)

5. The text states that Diwali encourages individuals to 'look within themselves'. Do you believe that internal reflection is more important than external celebrations? Justify your answer. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw an elaborate rangoli pattern using geometric shapes and vibrant colours, surrounded by glowing clay diya as described by Ellie.



Extension challenge: Compare and contrast the themes of Diwali with another celebration that focuses on light or new beginnings. Write a paragraph explaining the commonalities and differences, and justify why these celebrations remain significant in modern society.