

Diwali: The Festival of Lights Writing Frame

Learning objective: To write a descriptive narrative retelling the story of Diwali, focusing on atmosphere, character motivation, and sensory language.

Use this scaffold to structure your retelling of the Diwali story. Focus on using show-not-tell descriptions to bring the triumph of light over darkness to life. Think about how the characters feel during the long journey home.

As the moon hung low in the velvet sky, a trail of golden oil lamps began to flicker into life, piercing the heavy, ancient darkness.

Word bank: illuminated · triumphantly · flickering · consequently · vibrant · overcoming · courageously · radiant · furthermore · nevertheless · symbolising

1. Introduction: Establish the setting and the tone of the story. How does the kingdom look before the lamps are lit? Start with: 'The kingdom was shrouded in a deep, heavy gloom, yet in the distance...' (2 marks)

2. Character Motivation: Explain why the hero must return home. Justify why their presence is essential to the people. Start with: 'The journey back was treacherous, but the hero was driven by...' (3 marks)

3. The Climax: Describe the moment the lights are finally lit. How does the atmosphere change? Use sensory language. Start with: 'Suddenly, a single flame sparked, and then...' (3 marks)

4. Compare and Contrast: Compare the feelings of the people before the lights appeared to their feelings after the celebration began. Start with: 'Initially, the atmosphere was defined by silence, whereas afterwards...' (3 marks)

5. The Resolution: Reflect on the meaning of the festival. Explain why light is a powerful symbol in this story. Start with: 'Ultimately, the lamps represented more than just fire; they symbolised...' (2 marks)

6. Creative Extension: What might happen if the lamps had never been lit? Justify your prediction about the future of the kingdom. Start with: 'If the darkness had persisted, the kingdom would have...' (4 marks)

Extension challenge: Imagine you are an advisor to the hero. Write a short speech (100 words) to the people of the kingdom explaining why they must keep the lamps lit every year to protect their future. Use persuasive language and formal tone.