

The Festival of Lights: A Diwali Tale

Learning objective: To develop reading comprehension skills by identifying key themes, retrieving information, and making inferences about the cultural significance of Diwali.

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions below. Ensure your answers are written in full sentences where appropriate.

In the heart of the village, Ellie the elephant and her friends gathered to learn about Diwali, the festival of lights. Ellie explained that Diwali is a significant celebration for millions of people worldwide, symbolising the spiritual victory of light over darkness and good over evil. The air was filled with excitement as families prepared for the festivities. Homes were scrubbed clean and decorated with vibrant rangoli patterns, created from coloured powders, rice, and flower petals. As twilight descended, thousands of small clay oil lamps, known as diyas, were placed in rows along windowsills and doorways. The flickering flames illuminated the night, guiding positivity and prosperity into every home. Families exchanged delicious sweets and gifts, while the sky sparkled with the glow of fireworks. It was a time for reflection, unity, and fresh beginnings. Ellie reminded her friends that, much like the diyas, kindness and knowledge can shine brightly even in the darkest of times, reminding us all to be beacons of hope for one another.

Word bank: diya · celebration · tradition · triumph · prosperity · illuminated

1. According to the text, what does the festival of Diwali symbolise? (2 marks) (2 marks)

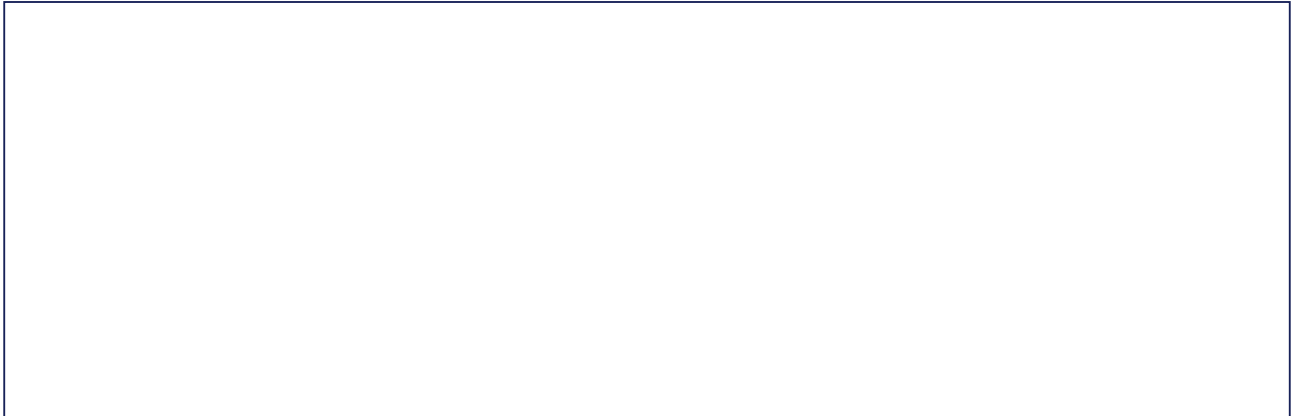
2. What materials are mentioned as being used to create traditional rangoli patterns? (2 marks) (2 marks)

3. Why do you think families clean their homes thoroughly before the festival begins? (2 marks) (2 marks)

4. Why is the image of the flickering diya used to represent 'hope' in the passage? (2 marks) (2 marks)

5. Ellie suggests that kindness is like a light. Do you agree that small acts of kindness can have a big impact? Explain your reasoning. (3 marks) (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a vibrant rangoli pattern on the floor of a home, surrounded by several glowing clay diyas, capturing the warm and peaceful atmosphere of Diwali.



Extension challenge: Research one other festival celebrated around the world that involves light. Write a short paragraph comparing its traditions to those of Diwali.