

Springtime Traditions: The Easter Story

Learning objective: To develop comprehension skills by identifying literal and inferential information within a text about historical and cultural traditions.

Read the passage carefully, ensuring you look for clues in the text. Answer the questions in full sentences, providing evidence where required.

As the vernal equinox brings longer days to the meadow, Pip the caterpillar watches the landscape transform. In many cultures, Easter is a significant period of reflection and celebration. Historically, it marks the culmination of a period of solemnity, followed by a joyous commemoration of new beginnings. The festival is rooted in ancient narratives that speak of a miraculous resurrection, symbolising hope and the return of light after a period of darkness. Across Britain, these stories have been passed down through generations, often accompanied by the sharing of eggs. These eggs are not merely treats; they represent the promise of new life, mirroring the way nature awakens during the spring. Communities often gather for special services or meals, reinforcing bonds of friendship and kindness. While the origins are ancient, the message of renewal remains a cornerstone of the season. Pip finds it fascinating how a simple story can influence traditions that span centuries, reminding everyone that even after the coldest winter, the warmth of spring—and hope—will always return to the world.

Word bank: Resurrection · Tradition · Symbolism · Observance · Commemoration · Vernal

1. According to the text, what do eggs represent during the Easter season? (1 mark) (1 mark)

2. What does Pip notice about the landscape as the vernal equinox arrives? (1 mark) (1 mark)

3. Explain why the author suggests that the story of Easter is linked to the changing of the seasons. (2 marks) (2 marks)

4. What might happen if a community stopped sharing traditions and stories like the ones mentioned in the passage? Justify your answer. (2 marks) (2 marks)

5. Do you agree that festivals like Easter are important for bringing people together? Justify your opinion using examples from the text or your own experience. (3 marks) (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene that illustrates 'renewal'. Include symbols of spring mentioned in the text, such as new growth or light, and show Pip the caterpillar observing the beauty of the season.



Extension challenge: Compare and contrast the way Easter is described in the text with a different festival you have studied. Write a short paragraph explaining why societies choose to use symbols (like eggs or light) to explain complex historical or religious narratives. Finally, if you were to create a new tradition to celebrate the arrival of spring, what would it be and why?