

Springtime Traditions: Exploring the Easter Story

Learning objective: To analyse the narrative structure and themes within the traditional Easter story, focusing on character motivation and historical context.

Read the passage below carefully. Use your inference skills to answer the questions. Refer to the word bank if you need help with the vocabulary.

In the heart of the ancient city of Jerusalem, a series of profound events unfolded that would change history forever. Ellie the elephant, with her remarkable memory for historical narratives, explains that the Easter story is a complex tapestry of themes. It begins with a period of quiet reflection, often associated with the arrival of spring and the renewal of the natural world. Central to the story is a message of resilience and hope, as the narrative moves from moments of deep solemnity to a jubilant celebration of new beginnings. Throughout centuries, this story has been retold through art, music, and literature, becoming a cornerstone of cultural heritage. For many, the egg has become a symbol of this season, representing the hidden potential of life waiting to emerge. Whether viewed through a historical lens or a cultural one, the story invites us to consider the values of kindness, courage, and the importance of looking towards the future with optimism.

Word bank: solemn · commemoration · resilience · tradition · narrative · reflection · significance

1. Why does the author use the metaphor of a 'tapestry' to describe the Easter story? Explain your reasoning. (2 marks)

2. Compare and contrast the themes of 'solemnity' and 'jubilation' as mentioned in the passage. How do these opposing emotions shape the narrative? (3 marks)

3. Justify why the egg is used as a symbolic representation of this season. Refer to the text in your response. (2 marks)

4. What might happen to the cultural significance of the Easter story if it were no longer retold through art and literature? Explain your thoughts. (3 marks)

5. Identify two values mentioned in the text and explain how a character like Leo the lion might demonstrate these in a modern-day setting. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene that represents the transition from winter to spring, incorporating a symbol that reflects the theme of 'new beginnings' mentioned in the passage.



Extension challenge: Research the historical origins of using eggs during spring festivals. Write a persuasive paragraph explaining why you believe certain traditions endure for thousands of years while others fade away.