The Festival of Lights: A Special Celebration

1. Eight days. (1 mark)

Working: The text states: 'It lasts for eight days'.

Accept '8 days' or 'eight days'.

2. A Menorah. (1 mark)

Working: The text states: 'a special nine-branched candlestick called a Menorah'.

Accept 'Menorah'.

3. Families eat foods cooked in oil to remember the miracle of the oil that lasted for eight days. (2 marks)

Working: The text says: 'To celebrate, families eat delicious foods cooked in oil... this was seen as a miracle.'

Must mention the miracle or the oil lasting eight days.

4. The Shamash is different because it is used to light all the other eight candles. (2 marks)

Working: The text states: 'The ninth candle, called the Shamash, is used to light the others.'

Must explain its function as the 'helper' candle.

5. Yes, it is important because it brings families together to share food and remember a story of hope. (3 marks)

Look for: The child should identify that it is a time for family, celebration, or remembering hope.

Good: Yes, it is important because they have a party and eat food.

Better: It is important because families get together to sing and eat latkes.

Best: It is important because it brings families together to celebrate and remember the miracle of hope, even when things are difficult.

What moves an answer up: Moving up requires connecting the activity (eating/singing) to the deeper meaning (hope/miracle) mentioned in the text.

What a secure answer looks like

A secure answer shows the child can retrieve facts directly from the text and link the traditions (like eating oil-based foods) to the historical miracle.

If your child is stuck

Ask the child to underline the sentence in the text that mentions the 'oil' or the 'candle' to help them find the answer.

Common mistakes to watch for

Children often confuse the number of candles (nine) with the number of days the oil lasted (eight), or they may forget that the Shamash is the tool used to light the others.