The Festival of Lights: A Special Celebration

Learning objective: I can read a text about Hanukkah and answer questions to show my understanding.

About 15 minutes. Grown-up tip: Encourage your child to read the passage aloud to practise their expression and fluency.

Read the passage carefully. For retrieval questions, scan the text to find the exact word or phrase. For inference questions, use clues in the text to help you explain your answer. Example: If the text says someone is wearing a coat and shivering, you can infer it is cold outside.

Hanukkah is a beautiful Jewish festival known as the Festival of Lights. It lasts for eight days and usually happens in November or December. Families light a special nine-branched candlestick called a Menorah. Each night, they light one new candle until all eight are glowing brightly. The ninth candle, called the Shamash, is used to light the others.

This festival remembers a story from a long time ago. A small group of people found only enough oil to keep their temple lamp burning for one day. Amazingly, the oil lasted for eight whole days! This was seen as a miracle. To celebrate, families eat delicious foods cooked in oil, such as potato latkes. Children often play with a spinning top toy called a dreidel and exchange small gifts or chocolate coins. It is a time for singing, being with family, and remembering the importance of hope even when things seem difficult.

Word bank: Menorah · tradition · celebrate · miracle · festival

1. How many days does the festival of Hanukkah last? (1 mark)

2. What is the name of the special nine-branched candlestick? (1 mark)

3. Why do families eat foods cooked in oil during Hanukkah? Use evidence from the text. (2 marks)

4. Why is the Shamash candle different from the other eight candles? (2 marks)

5. Do you think Hanukkah is an important festival for families? Explain your answer using a reason. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a bright, colourful Menorah with all nine candles lit, surrounded by patterns of spinning dreidels.

Extension challenge: Imagine you are planning a celebration. If you were invited to a Hanukkah party, what would you be most excited to try and why?

I did it! Name: _____ Date: _____

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