

The Festival of Lights: A Diwali Tale

Learning objective: To understand the themes and traditions of Diwali through reading comprehension and descriptive writing.

Read the passage about the story of Diwali carefully. Then, answer the questions below in full sentences. Use the word bank to help you with your writing.

Diwali, often called the Festival of Lights, is a special time of year celebrated by millions of people. It is a festival that marks the triumph of light over darkness and good over evil. The story often shared during this time tells of a brave prince who returned home after a long period of exile. To guide him back, the people in his kingdom lit thousands of small clay oil lamps, known as divas, and placed them in rows along the streets and windowsills. Today, families clean their homes, wear new clothes, and share delicious sweets with their neighbours. The bright, glowing lamps remind us to always choose kindness and hope, even when things feel dark. Zara the zebra loves this festival because she sees beautiful, colourful patterns in the rangoli art that families create on their doorsteps.

Word bank: Diwali · tradition · celebration · divas · triumph · glowing · festival · reflection · kindness

1. Why do people light divas during the festival of Diwali? (2 marks)

2. What does the 'triumph of light over darkness' mean in the context of the story? (2 marks)

3. List three ways that families celebrate Diwali according to the text. (3 marks)

4. Why does Zara the zebra enjoy the festival of Diwali? (1 mark)

5. If you were preparing for a festival of lights, what is one kind act you could do for a friend or neighbour? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a beautiful rangoli pattern. Use symmetrical shapes and bright colours to show how Zara might decorate her doorstep for the festival.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are the prince returning home to a kingdom filled with thousands of glowing lights. Write a short diary entry (4-5 sentences) describing how you felt when you saw the city illuminated for your return.