

The Festival of Lights: A Diwali Tale

Learning objective: To develop reading comprehension skills by identifying key information and themes within a text about Diwali.

Read the passage carefully, then answer the questions below using full sentences where appropriate. Keep an eye out for how the characters celebrate this special occasion.

Ellie the elephant was excited for the most colourful time of the year: Diwali. She sat with her friends, explaining that Diwali is known as the Festival of Lights. It is a time when families clean their homes, wear their best new clothes, and share delicious sweets with their neighbours. The most important part of the celebration is the lighting of tiny clay lamps called diyas. These are placed in rows along windowsills and doorsteps to guide goodness into the home. Zara the zebra had spent all morning creating a beautiful rangoli pattern on the ground using bright, coloured powders. 'It symbolises joy and welcomes guests,' Zara explained. As the sun set, the group watched the glow of the lamps flicker against the dark sky. It was a time to remember that light always triumphs over darkness and that kindness should be shared by everyone. Ellie felt very lucky to be part of such a warm and glowing tradition.

Word bank: diya · rangoli · tradition · triumph · celebration · festive

1. Why is Diwali often called the 'Festival of Lights'? (2 marks)

2. List two things that families do to prepare for the Diwali celebration. (2 marks)

3. What does Zara use to create her rangoli pattern, and why does she make it? (2 marks)

4. Find and copy a phrase from the text that explains the deeper meaning behind the light of the diyas. (1 mark)

5. In your own words, why do you think Ellie feels 'lucky' at the end of the story? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw your own symmetrical rangoli pattern using bright colours. Remember to include a space in the centre where a diya lamp could be placed.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are hosting a Diwali party. Write a short invitation to your friends, including what special foods you might serve and how you will decorate your home to celebrate.