

The Festival of Lights: A Diwali Story

Learning objective: To develop reading comprehension skills by identifying key themes and sequences in a narrative about Diwali.

Read the story below carefully, then answer the questions that follow. Remember to use full sentences for your answers.

In the heart of a bustling town, Pip the bookworm caterpillar was helping his friends prepare for Diwali. The air was filled with the delicious scent of sweet treats and spices. Diwali, the festival of lights, is a special time that celebrates the triumph of light over darkness and good over evil. Zara the zebra was busy on the porch, creating a stunning rangoli pattern. She used bright, colourful powders to make intricate geometric shapes on the floor to welcome guests. Meanwhile, Max the monkey was carefully placing small clay lamps, called diyas, along the garden path. He counted them to make sure there were exactly twenty-four, creating a beautiful golden glow as the sun began to set. Ellie the elephant shared stories of how families clean their homes and wear their finest clothes to mark this joyous occasion. As the sky turned dark, the friends sat together, watching the flickering flames and feeling the warmth of their shared celebration.

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

1. Why do people celebrate Diwali according to the story? (2 marks)

2. Describe the two different tasks that Zara and Max were doing to prepare for the festival. (2 marks)

3. Find and copy one word from the text that describes the pattern Zara was making. (1 mark)

4. How did the friends feel at the end of the story? Use evidence from the text to support your answer. (2 marks)

5. If Max bought a new pack of 10 candles for £4.50, and he had a £10 note, how much change would he receive? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw your own symmetrical rangoli pattern using geometric shapes like triangles, squares, and circles.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are inviting a friend to a Diwali celebration. Write a short invitation letter (using 50-70 words) explaining why the festival is important and what activities you will be doing.