

# A Springtime Story: The Garden of Beginnings

*Learning objective: To develop reading comprehension skills by exploring the narrative elements and themes of the traditional Easter story.*

Read the story below carefully, then answer the questions that follow in full sentences. Remember to look back at the text to find your evidence.

In a peaceful garden, the air was filled with the scent of spring flowers. Ellie the elephant stood near a stone path, reflecting on the ancient story of Easter. She told the story to her friends, explaining that it was a time of hope and new beginnings. Long ago, people gathered to share a special meal, marking a moment of great importance. Even when things seemed difficult, there was a belief that light would always return after the darkness. The story tells of a journey that required immense courage, leading to a celebration that is still remembered today. Across the world, people use symbols like eggs and spring blossoms to represent this cycle of life. For Ellie, the story wasn't just about the past; it was a reminder that kindness and bravery can change the world for the better.

*Word bank: tradition · reflection · narrative · courage · symbolise*

**1. According to the passage, what two things do people use to represent the cycle of life? (2 marks)**

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**2. Why does Ellie think the story is important for people today? (2 marks)**

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**3. Find and copy a phrase from the text that describes how the garden felt. (1 mark)**

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**4. What does the phrase 'light would always return after the darkness' suggest about the theme of the story? (3 marks)**

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**5. If you were retelling this story, what other symbols of spring would you include and why? (2 marks)**

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**Draw:** Draw a picture of the garden described in the story, including your own interpretation of a symbol that represents 'new beginnings'.



*Extension challenge: Write a short poem or a diary entry from Ellie's perspective about why she thinks it is important to share stories from the past with others.*