

# Dipal's Diwali

On the first day of Diwali, everyone was busy cleaning. Dipal and Mohan were in their bedroom. As they tidied, Dipal took out some toys they no longer used and put them in a box. "We can give these toys to someone else to play with and we'll have more space!"



After cleaning the house, Dipal and Mohan went to the market with Mum and Dad. There were lots of things to get for Diwali! First, they went to buy new clothes. Dipal helped Mohan to find the perfect outfit. At the next stall, everyone chose their favourite flowers. Mohan loved the yellow marigolds!



Soon, they were in the busiest part of the market. A crowd of people were buying diya. Others stood and watched as more were made from clay. Mum and Dad gave the vendor enough money to buy all the diya they would need. Everyone had to help carry them – even Mohan!

The next day, Dipal was excited to go to the rangoli competition. The family walked along together, admiring the beautiful patterns. Dipal took lots of photos. "These will help us when we make a rangoli at home!" he said to Mum.

Back at home, Mum and Dipal created their own colourful rangoli design at the entrance of their house. Dad and Mohan came out with some flowers to add the finishing touch.



"Look, Mohan," said Dipal. "This will welcome Goddess Lakshmi into our home."

Mum and Dad spent the rest of the day preparing lots of food and sweets for the celebration. Dipal and Mohan decorated the house, ready for the morning.

On the third day of Diwali, Mohan and Dipal woke up even earlier than usual. They washed thoroughly and then got dressed in their new clothes. It was time to visit the temple. Mum and Dad carried the special food and sweets to offer to Goddess Lakshmi. Inside, they gave their offerings and prayed to the goddess. Then,



everyone from the town helped to decorate the temple.

Back at home, Dipal showed Mohan how to place diyas around their home, by the doors and windows. He told Mohan the story of Rama and Sita. "When we light these lamps, they will welcome home Lord Rama," said Dipal.

As dusk fell, it was time for Lakshmi Puja. Dipal's family were joined by grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins to worship Goddess Lakshmi. Dipal's grandfather used kumkum powder to apply tilak to everyone's forehead. The family prayed and chanted together. They offered Lakshmi the delicious sweets they had made.



Afterwards, the family shared a huge feast. Dipal filled his plate with pakoras, samosas and bhajis. Mohan smiled as he tried the sweet gulab jamun.

When the meal was over, the family went outside for the fireworks. Mohan giggled and clapped as Dipal made different shapes with his sparkler. "Happy Diwali, little brother," said Dipal. "I hope you have a wonderful year."



# Questions

1. What is Dipal putting in a box at the start of the story? Tick one.

- books
- toys
- pencils

2. What colour are the flowers Mohan loves? Tick one.

- yellow
- pink
- white

3. What are the diyas in the story made from? Tick one.

- clay
- paper
- plastic

4. What does everyone from the town help to decorate? Tick one.

- Mohan's house
- the school
- the temple

5. Why do the family go outside at the end of the story? Tick one.

- for some exercise
- for some food
- for the fireworks

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