

The Trail of Diwali Lamps

The night before Diwali, Hanita heard someone tiptoeing down the hall.

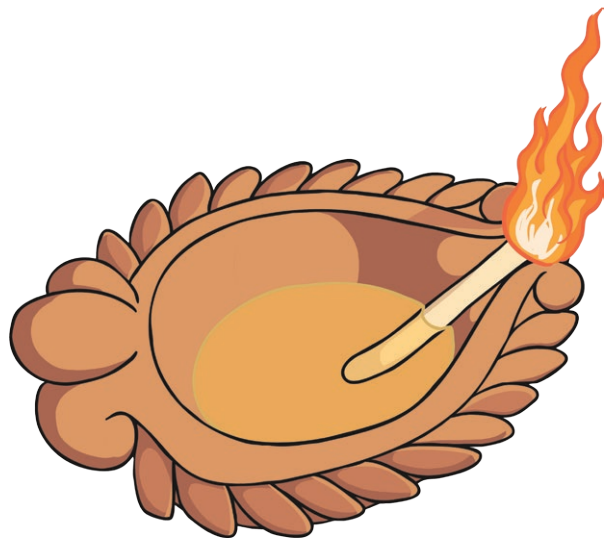
On the first day of Diwali, Hanita saw a new little Diva lamp outside her bedroom. She made Rangoli patterns with her sister, Leela! When she went to bed, Hanita saw more Diva lamps in the hall.

On the second day of Diwali, they made some sweets and food, ready for the party. Hanita also got her hands painted with henna designs.

On the third day, the rest of the family came to join their party. Hanita, Leela and Jay gave their mum a lovely jewellery box and yellow scarf. The family said their prayers to Lakshmi, the goddess of wealth and left the windows and doors open to welcome her in. They watched fireworks and lit Diva lamps. Hanita saw at least ten more Diva lamps outside her bedroom.

On the fourth day of Diwali, Hanita's mum and dad went out to lunch together.

On the fifth day, it was the last day of Diwali. Hanita followed a trail of 20 little diva lamps down to the kitchen. At the end, she found her brother, Jay, with a pretty bracelet for her. "Thank you! So you left the trail of Diva lamps!" Squeaked Hanita and Jay smiled.



Questions

1. Which festival are they celebrating?

Christmas

Easter

Diwali

2. What did they make on the first day?

clothes

Rangoli patterns

a drink

3. How many days of celebrations are there?

5 days

1 day

5 weeks

4. What did Hanita get on her hands?

mud

cat designs

henna designs

5. Tick **two** true facts.

The family lit Diwa lamps.

The family all went away on holiday.

The family left their windows and doors open.

Answers

1. Which festival are they celebrating?
Diwali
2. What did they make on the first day?
Rangoli patterns
3. How many days of celebrations are there?
5 days
4. What did Hanita get on her hands?
henna designs
5. Tick **two** true facts.
The family lit Diwa lamps.
The family left their windows and doors open.

The Trail of Diwali Lamps

As Hanita closed her eyes the night before the five days of Diwali celebrations started, she thought she heard someone tiptoeing down the hallway. On the first day of Diwali, Hanita sprung out of her soft, comfy bed and got dressed. As she zoomed into the hallway, she noticed a new little Diva lamp that wasn't there before. After breakfast, she made Rangoli patterns with her sister Leela! When she went outside, she waved at her brother, Jay, who was helping their dad with the lights. When she went to bed, she saw more Diva lamps in the hall.

On the second day of Diwali, the Rangoli patterns were finished. Then they made some delicious sweets and food ready for the party. Hanita also got her hands painted with henna designs. When the third day came, the main day of Diwali, the rest of the family all came to join in. Hanita, Leela and Jay gave their mum a gorgeous jewellery box and yellow, silky scarf.



The whole family said their prayers to Lakshmi, the goddess of wealth and left the windows and doors open to welcome her in. They had a big party with sweets, food, sparklers and fireworks and lit Diva lamps. On her way to bed, she thought there may be at least ten more Diva lamps outside her bedroom now.

On the fourth day of Diwali, Hanita's mum and dad went out to lunch together to celebrate their marriage and on the fifth day, it was the last day of Diwali. Hanita woke up and slowly walked out of her bedroom, following the trail of now 20 little Diva lamps down to the kitchen. There, she found her brother, Jay, standing with a beautiful, sparkling bracelet for her. "Thank you! So you left the trail of Diva lamps!" Squeaked Hanita and Jay smiled.

Questions

1. Who is the main character?

Rangoli

Diwali

Hanita

2. What did she hear the night before Diwali started?

someone tiptoeing down the hall

sleigh bells on the roof

music outside

3. What did the children give their mum on the third day?

a ring

a jewellery box and scarf

a hat and some gloves

4. Find and copy **one** word which means 'yummy'.

5. Complete the sentence by adding in the missing words.

There she found her _____, Jay, standing with a _____,
sparkling bracelet for her.

Answers

1. Who is the main character?

Hanita

2. What did she hear the night before Diwali started?

someone tiptoeing down the hall

3. What did the children give their mum on the third day?

a jewellery box and scarf

4. Find and copy **one** word which means 'yummy'.

delicious

5. Complete the sentence by adding in the missing words.

There she found her brother, Jay, standing with a beautiful, sparkling bracelet for her.

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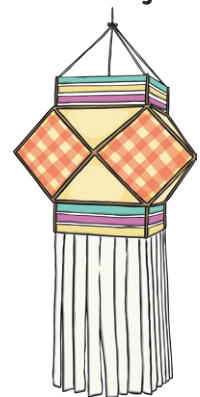
Hanita took ages to get to sleep on the night before the Diwali celebrations started because she was so excited and she kept thinking about everything that they were going to be doing over the next five days. Just before she fell asleep, she thought she heard someone tiptoeing down the hallway.

At last, it was 'Dhanteras', the first morning of Diwali and Hanita sprung out of her soft, comfy bed and got dressed in a rush. As she zoomed into the hallway, she noticed a new little Diva lamp that wasn't there before. How strange, thought Hanita. She found her mum and sister in the kitchen, gobbled up her cereal as quickly as she could and then it was time to get started on the Rangoli patterns! Hanita loved this part of Diwali and each year, she had become better at creating the bright, colourful patterns.

"Where's your first pattern going to go?" Leela asked her.

"On the doorstep, please!" Hanita replied excitedly. When she went out to put the final pieces to her Rangoli masterpiece, she waved at her brother, Jay, and cousin, Babul, both helping her dad as he was putting up the lights and fixing the final roof tile that had blown off in the wind. As Hanita was going to bed that evening, she noticed another few Diva lamps leading out of her bedroom and told herself to find out why they were there in the morning.

Hanita, Leela and their mum finished their Rangoli patterns for the house on the second day of Diwali, called 'Naraka Chaturdasi'. They also managed to decorate the family shop too. When they got home, they made some delicious sweets and yummy looking food ready for the party. As Hanita was admiring her mum's hands, which were full of henna designs, she also smelt the beautiful perfume that her mum had just bathed in.



“Please can you paint my hands with henna designs too?” Hanita asked her mum, who smiled and patted the sofa next to her and nodded her head.

When the third day came, the main Diwali day, the rest of Hanita’s family – both granddads and grandmas, three uncles, four aunties and eight cousins all came to join in. All the children gave their mums the carefully picked out presents that they had bought and made. Hanita and Leela gave their mum a gorgeous jewellery box with lovely little sequins all over the lid and Jay gave her a yellow, silky scarf. Hanita, Leela and Jay got to light the Diya lamps inside and outside the house that night, with their parents carefully watching them. Jay and Babul also sent some of the lamps sailing down the river, which looked very pretty. The whole family said their prayers to Lakshmi - the goddess of wealth and enjoyed a big party with sweets, food, sparklers and fireworks! Their dad also remembered to leave the windows and doors open to welcome Lakshmi into their home. On her way to bed, she was too tired to count the new little Diya lamps that had appeared by her bedroom, but she thought there may be at least ten more now.

On Padwa, the fourth day of Diwali, Hanita’s mum and dad went out to lunch together to celebrate their marriage. Hanita’s dad had given her mum a sparkly, purple necklace. The fifth day, ‘Bhai Dooj’, was the last day of Diwali. Hanita woke up late and slowly walked out of her bedroom, still rubbing her eyes. And there, on the floor, were 20 little Diya lamps leading along the hallway, down the stairs and into the kitchen.

When Hanita got to the end of the trail, she found her brother, Jay, standing with a beautiful, sparkling bracelet for her. “Thank you! So you left the trail of Diya lamps!” Squeaked Hanita and Jay smiled.



Questions

1. Why couldn't Hanita get to sleep before Diwali?

because she was scared

because she was excited

because she was sad

2. What did she find in the hallway on day one?

3. Tick **one** true fact.

They made a roast dinner.

The family left their windows and doors open.

Hanita and Leela helped their dad with the lights.

4. What is the goddess of wealth called?

5. Complete the sentence.

On _____, the _____, Hanita's mum
and dad went out to _____ together to celebrate their _____.

6. Which part of the celebrations do you think Hanita liked the most and how do you know?

Answers

1. Why couldn't Hanita get to sleep before Diwali?
because she was excited
2. What did she find in the hallway on day one?
She found a new little Diwa lamp that wasn't there before.
3. Tick **one** true fact.
The family left their windows and doors open.
4. What is the goddess of wealth called?
Lakshmi
5. Complete the sentence.
On Padwa, the fourth day of Diwali, Hanita's mum and dad went out to lunch together to celebrate their marriage.
6. Which part of the celebrations do you think Hanita liked the most and how do you know?
Children's own answers.
E.g. I think Hanita liked creating the Rangolia patterns the most. I think that because in the story, it says, 'Hanita loved this part of Diwali and each year, she had become better at creating the bright, colourful patterns.'