

***Deepa: Lights Against the Darkness***

Written by Uma Krishnaswami

**Pre-Reading**

Think about a time you have lost a friend because of a fight or because of him/her moving away. How did you feel? What did you do?

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**Reading Comprehension**

- 1) Why was Deepa upset? (Cause & Effect)
  - a) Bani had moved away.
  - b) Bani was not there to light a lamp with Deepa.
  - c) The basketball group was uneven.
  - d) Bani had moved away without telling Deepa until the last moment.
  
- 2) What is the best definition of diya as used in the story? (Context Clues)
  - a) an oil lamp
  - b) a clay sculpture
  - c) a tool used on Diwali
  - d) an end to life
  
- 3) Why did the puris taste differently than on other Diwalis? (Cause & Effect)
  - a) They were not made as well.
  - b) The flour was rotten.
  - c) The potatoes did not taste as good as on other Diwalis.
  - d) Deepa felt sad.
  
- 4) How did Deepa solve her problem. (Conflict Resolution/Understanding Plot)
  - a) Deepa called Bani and they both lit the lamps separately but as friends
  - b) Deepa had the adults help her.
  - c) Deepa was brilliant.
  - d) Deepa called Bani her friend.
  
- 5) On page 21, the author writes, "She does not trust herself to say all this..." What does the author mean by this? What is Deepa scared will happen if she speaks? (Inference)

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**Vocabulary**

- 1) There are 165 kids in school. 165 is an \_\_\_\_\_ number.
  - a. even
  - b. uneven
  - c. active

d. easy

- 2) Deepa tried to lift Bani's suitcase, but she could not \_\_\_\_\_ the weight.
- a. bear
  - b. mood
  - c. stumble
  - d. steady
- 3) Deepa wanted to cut out decorations for Divali, but she could not \_\_\_\_\_ her hand and cut straight.
- a. bear
  - b. mood
  - c. stumble
  - d. steady
- 4) Bani was climbing the stairs without paying attention, so she \_\_\_\_\_ and fell.
- a. bear
  - b. mood
  - c. stumbled
  - d. steadied
- 5) Once Deepa and Bani were friends again, Deepa was in a good \_\_\_\_\_.
- a. bear
  - b. mood
  - c. stumble
  - d. steady

### Writing Extension

Imagine that Deepa was your friend, and she had not spoken to Bani. Write a letter to Bani telling her how sad Deepa is and advising Bani how to repair their friendship.