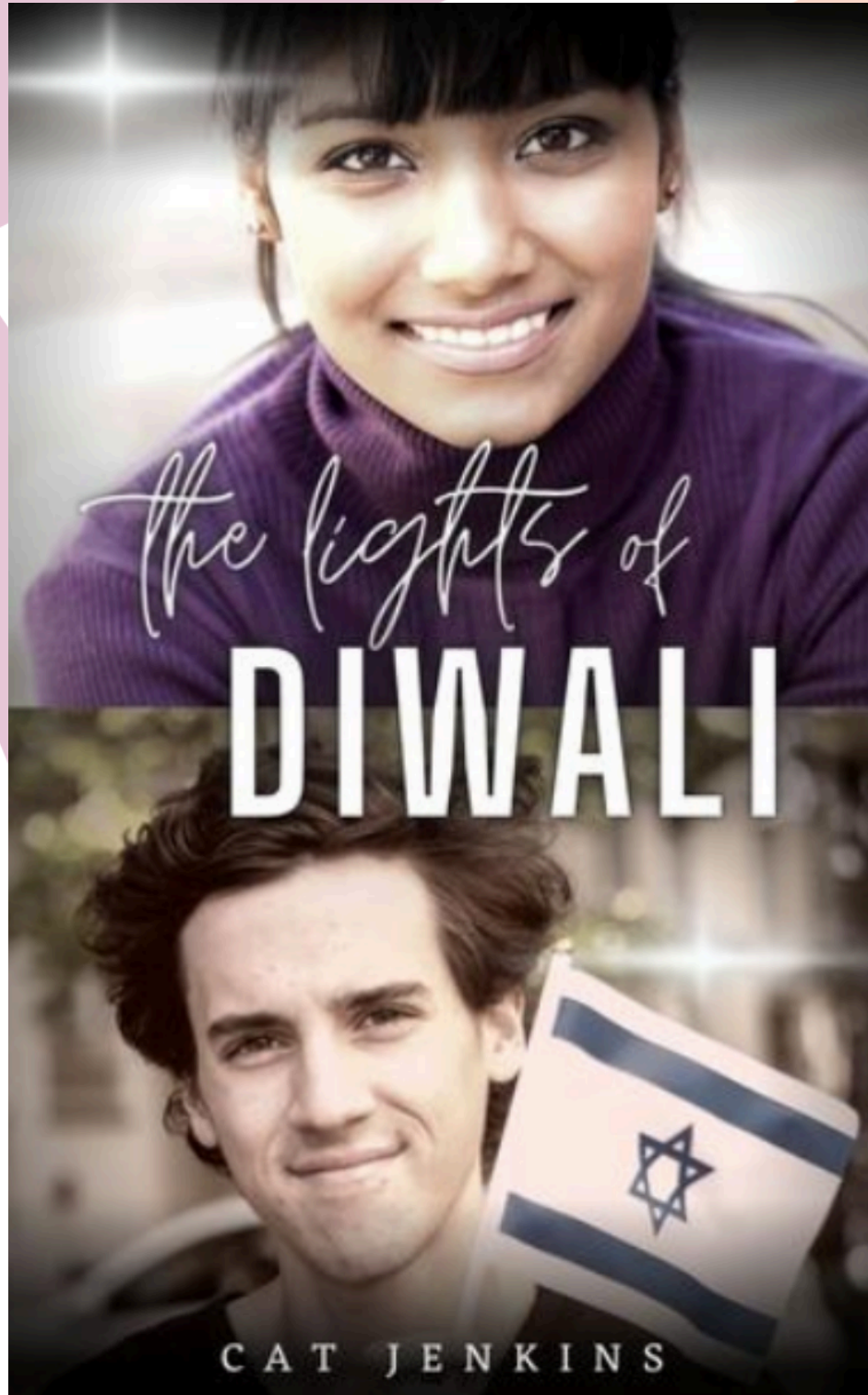


# TEACHER RESOURCES & STUDENT ACTIVITIES



# How to Use Storyshares Teacher Resources & Student Activities

## Pre-Reading

Share **background information**.

Introduce the **vocabulary** to the students. Discuss meanings. Click here for an **instructional routine** for vocabulary.

## Reading

Share the written response to reading prompt ahead of time as the **focus for reading**.

Encourage students to **read a chapter** of the text independently or in pairs.

## After Reading

Students can complete the **trivia worksheet** or make it into a game! Either way, make time to review answers.

Students complete the **written response to reading** prompt.

## Background Information

Chandra is an exchange student from India, living in the U.S. As the time of Diwali, the Festival of Lights, approaches, Chandra longs for her home in Mumbai. A friend and fellow exchange student from Israel shows Chandra how Diwali and its lights are tied to something bigger, how light could be a celebration of the human soul on a global stage.

## Visual Vocabulary

This vocabulary guide was created with English language learners in mind. This table flags Tier 2 vocabulary words in every chapter. This guide includes the definitions in context, as well as images and examples from the text.

## Trivia Questions


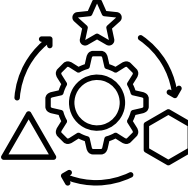

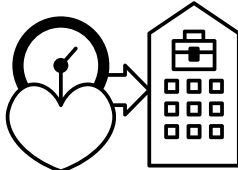


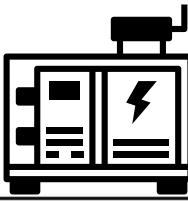

This is a ready-made student worksheet that can be given as a check for understanding after students have finished the book. You can also gamify the trivia questions, making this a small group activity. **Answers: 1. C; 2. A; 3. D; 4. A**



Click [here](#) for reading comprehension worksheets and graphic organizers.



## The Lights of Diwali by Cat Jenkins

Word	Definition	Image	Example
<b>shiver</b> (verb)	to shake very quickly, usually because of the cold		"She <b>shivered</b> in the twilight and looked at the carved pumpkin sitting on some stranger's porch." (ch 1)
<b>adapt</b> (verb)	to become used to, adjust, or change		"She'd told her family she would <b>adapt</b> ." (ch 1)
<b>custom</b> (noun)	traditional practices shared by a social group		"She let American culture and <b>customs</b> flow around her like pools of foreign water." (ch 2)
<b>devote</b> (verb)	to set apart for a special purpose		"Once the house was clean, day two of Diwali was <b>devoted</b> to decorating." (ch 4)
<b>bond</b> (noun)	connections		"It was the day of family gatherings, of feasting and renewal of the <b>bonds</b> between relatives." (ch 5)
<b>stray</b> (verb)	to wander from or go beyond a place		"She admired Ezra's bravery for wanting to <b>stray</b> far from his home for so much of his life." (ch 6)
<b>generator</b> (noun)	a device that provides electricity		"That tree has over three million lights, and it takes five <b>generators</b> to keep them all burning." (ch 11)
<b>symbolize</b> (verb)	to represent something else or mean something deeper		"Diwali was beautiful, but it <b>symbolized</b> so much more than decorations, food, and family." (ch 12)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Multiple Choice

Read the questions carefully. Choose the answer that fits the question best.

**1. What best explains how Chandra's idea of the jack o' lantern changes in the story?**

- A. She thinks it is a useless tradition and never appreciates its significance.
- B. She wants to destroy it because it reminds her of home in a negative way.
- C. She first finds it odd and lonely, but then sees it as a symbol of shared human celebration of light.
- D. She views it as an evil omen at first and continues to fear it throughout.

**2. How does Ezra help Chandra stop feeling out of place in a new country?**

- A. He shares stories of his own homesickness and many global festivals of light.
- B. He ignores her feelings and focuses only on his own adventures.
- C. He criticizes her culture.
- D. He tells her to return to Mumbai.

**3. Why does Chandra decide to light a candle in her dorm room at the end of the story?**

- A. To show Ezra she wants to see more American festivals.
- B. To protest against Halloween.
- C. To start a fire because she is cold.
- D. To connect with her family's Diwali tradition.

**4. What theme do Chandra and Ezra ultimately realize about festivals of light around the world?**

- A. Celebrations of light are a universal human experience symbolizing hope and connection, despite cultural differences.
- B. They are all so different it is difficult to find any similarities.
- C. Festivals of light are only celebrated in Western countries.
- D. Only Diwali truly matters among all festivals.

### Written Response to Reading

How does the story use celebrations of light from different cultures to help Chandra overcome her homesickness? (*Chandra overcomes her homesickness when...*)

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