

Maya & Neel's India Adventure Series, Book 1

# Let's Celebrate 5 days of Diwali!



## Pronunciation Guide

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Barfi: Bur-fee

Laddoo: Ludd-doo

Chintu: Cheen-too

Mausi: Mau-see

Choti: Chho-tee

Mubarak: Moo-baa-ruk

Dhanteras: Dhun-terus

Namaste: Naa-mus-te

Diwali: Dee-waa-lee

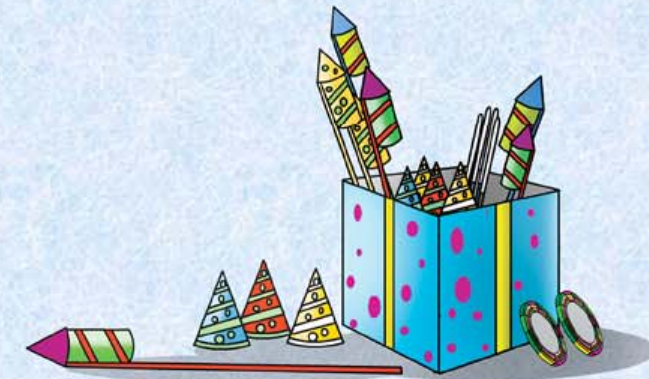
Ravan: Raa-vun

Diya: Dee-yaa

Ram: Raam

Kum Kum: Koom-koom

Rangoli: Run-goalie



*Note for parents:* Our books provide a glimpse into the beautiful cultural diversity of India, including occasional mythology references. Given India's size and diversity, Diwali is celebrated in a multitude of different ways. In this book, we showcase elements of the 5 days of Diwali that are best suited for young readers to follow.

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**Culture Groove**  
Raise Multicultural Kids

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Hi! I'm Maya. I love to go on fun adventures in India with my brother, Neel.

Hi! I'm Neel. We live in Chicago. We just landed in India to celebrate Diwali. Come join us.



Hi! I am Chintu, the squirrel. I love to join my friends on their trips.

This is a map of India. India is a big country. It has many states, languages, festivals, and dances.

Diwali is India's biggest festival. It's called the Festival of Lights. It's celebrated all over India.

Maya, Neel, and Chintu go to their Aunty Eesha's place. In India, aunty is called *Mausi*.

"Eesha *Mausi*, we are here to celebrate Diwali with you!" they say. *Mausi* welcomes them with warm hugs.

The kids ask, "*Mausi*, why is Diwali called the festival of lights?"

"Let me tell you the story of Diwali," *Mausi* says.



# The story of Diwali

Once upon a time, there was a famous king named Ram.

Ram had to live in a forest for 14 years with his queen, Seeta, and his brother, Laxman.



Ram had to be very brave.

He went all the way to Ravan's house and got Seeta back.

Ram then came back to his palace with Seeta and Laxman.

On that day, people decorated the entire city with lots of lights to welcome them. This day is celebrated as Diwali.

One day, an evil king named Ravan went to Ram's house in the forest.

Seeta was the only one at home. Ravan took Seeta away with him. She did not want to go.



