

The Easter Journal

It was Good Friday and Jaya and Ali were enjoying their day off school by having a late breakfast in their pyjamas. “Slow down!” laughed Dad as the twins each wolfed down a second hot cross bun. “I need to get a photo of you with Riley Rabbit.”



Jaya and Ali giggled and posed with their class toy. “Say cheese!” said Dad. “This is going to look great in Riley’s journal.”

“Grandpa will be here soon,” said Dad, “but there’s just enough time for us to decorate some eggs!” Jaya and Ali painted their eggs with bright colours, using a tiny brush to add some details.



Just as they finished, there was a knock at the door. “That must be Grandpa!” said the twins excitedly, rushing to greet him. Grandpa put down his bags and gave Jaya and Ali a big hug.

“What have you brought with you?” asked Jaya.



“Everything we need for our special Easter tradition!” Grandpa said with a smile.

Out on the balcony, they worked together to make a beautiful Easter garden. “I think this is going to be our best one yet!” said Ali proudly as he took a photograph.

On Saturday, the family headed to the park. Mayor Pírez had organised an Easter egg hunt for the children.

“Are you **eggcited**?” joked Grandpa.

“Haha, good one!” said the twins, rolling their eyes.



“I’m really looking forward to finding an egg,” said Ali. “It’s been so hard giving up chocolate for Lent.”

“I can’t believe you haven’t had any since Pancake Day,” said Jaya. “It’s been hard enough giving up my tablet for six weeks!”

Mayor Pírez announced the start of the Easter egg hunt. “3, 2, 1, **GO!**” shouted the mayor and all of the children shot off in different directions.

Ali went to look under the benches and found an egg covered in pretty yellow foil. Jaya found a purple one in the bushes by the pond. They rushed to show Dad and Grandpa, who had each found an egg too.

“Make sure you save them,” smiled Grandpa. “No chocolate until after lunch tomorrow!”



The next morning was Easter Sunday and the family made their way to church for the sunrise service. As they entered the churchyard, the sun was just beginning to peek above the horizon.



“Christ is risen!” said Reverend Tasha as she greeted the congregation.

“Truly, he is risen!” everyone replied.

Everyone gathered together and sang an Easter hymn.

Then, the children followed Mr Murphy to Sunday school while the adults went inside the church. Dad and Grandpa listened while Reverend Tasha spoke about the life of Jesus and then said a special prayer.

Meanwhile, Mr Murphy told the children the Easter story. Then, he showed them how to make a flower cross using sticks and colourful tissue paper.



“Let’s get Dad to take a photo later for Riley’s journal,” said Ali.

At the end of the service, everyone went out to the church garden. Reverend Tasha gave some little plants to each family. “We add flowers to our garden as a symbol of new life,” she explained to the twins.



Jaya and Ali dug two small holes as Grandpa handed a plant to each of them.

“Another great snap for Riley’s journal,” said Grandpa, taking a photo.



Back at home, Grandpa helped the twins as they worked on Riley's journal. They wrote about their weekend and added their photos.

"How about some chocolate while we work...?" suggested Ali.

"No chocolate until after lunch!" said Grandpa.

"Food's ready!" called Dad and everyone sat down to enjoy their delicious Easter meal.

"Now, who would like their chocolate eggs?" asked Dad.

"I'll get them!" grinned Jaya.

Jaya fetched the basket and started to hand the eggs out. "Here's yours," she said to Ali. "And here's mine... and Dad's... and..."

Jaya pulled out an empty piece of pink foil.

"Grandpa!" Jaya and Ali exclaimed.

"Sorry," laughed Grandpa, "I just couldn't resist!"



Questions

1. What are Jaya and Ali celebrating in the story? Tick one.

- Christmas
- Easter
- their birthday

2. What do Jaya and Ali make with Grandpa? Tick one.

- an Easter garden
- an Easter bonnet
- an Easter basket

3. What does Mayor Pérez organise for the children? Tick one.

- an Easter disco
- an Easter parade
- an Easter egg hunt

4. Where does the family go for the sunrise service? Tick one.

- church
- the park
- school

5. What do Jaya and Ali do in the church garden? Tick one.

- They paint a picture.
- They plant some flowers.
- They play a game.

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Questions

1. What are Jaya and Ali eating at the beginning of the story? Tick one.

- muffins
 hot cross buns
 porridge

2. What day is it at the beginning of the story? Tick one.

- Good Friday
 Shrove Tuesday
 Christmas Day

3. Why do the twins and their family take photos throughout the story?

4. Draw a line to match up the boxes to complete the sentences.

Jaya pulled out an ●

● sang an Easter hymn.

Everyone gathered together and ●

● the children the Easter story.

Meanwhile, Mr Murphy told ●

● empty piece of pink foil.

5. Complete this sentence.

Jaya fetched the basket and started to hand the _____ out.

presents

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They are putting them in a journal for their class toy, Reggie Rabbit.
They are showing what they did during Easter.

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1. Why do Jaya and Ali have the day off school at the beginning of the story? Tick one.

- because they are poorly
- because it is their birthday
- because it is Good Friday

2. Who comes to visit Jaya and Ali?

3. Name three things the twins used to make their Easter garden.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

4. Draw a line to match the word to its meaning.

tradition ●	● like a diary; a personal record of daily events
journal ●	● a special activity which is repeated over many years
hymn ●	● a religious song or poem

5. What do the children do when the adults go inside church?

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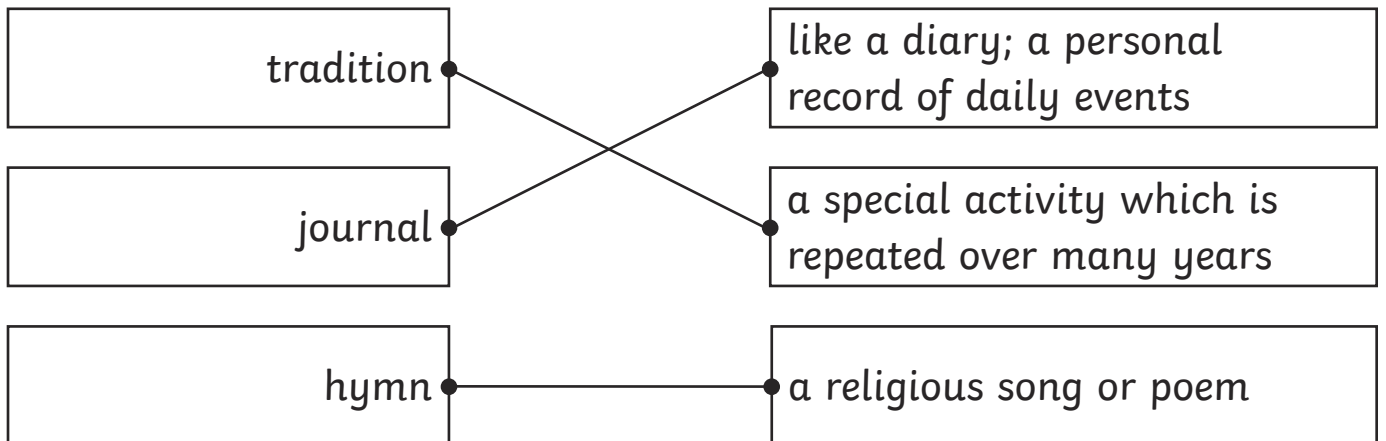
2. Who comes to visit Jaya and Ali?

Their grandpa.

3. Name three things the twins used to make their Easter garden.

Any three from the following: a tray; gravel; soil; spades/trowels; flowers/plants; a plant pot; pebbles/stones; moss; sticks; twine/string.

4. Draw a line to match the word to its meaning.



5. What do the children do when the adults go inside church?

They follow Mr Murphy to Sunday school. They listen to the Easter story. They made a flower cross using sticks and colourful tissue paper.

6. Why do you think flowers are seen as a symbol of 'new life'?

Various answers linked to the plants growing from a small seed and getting bigger.