

Making Inferences

Read the short story then answer the questions in full sentences.

Eid al-Fitr – At Last!

“Now Aktar and Manju, before we celebrate as a family, we need to remember the words of the **Imam** and share our good fortune with our neighbours,” smiled Dad.

“How do we do that?” they both asked.

“You can both take some Eid food to Mr and Mrs Hogarth next door. Sharing with our neighbours is a special part of today, just like they share gifts with us when they celebrate their special days.”

Returning from their errand, the children sat with the family, ready to begin the celebration meal.

Mum and Manju had spent a lot of time in the kitchen preparing the special meal but all of the visitors brought something to share with them. As well as a huge pot of **beef biryani**, date parcels and **baklava**, Grandma brought her famous lamb kofta kebabs and **falooda** and Auntie Nadya brought coconut samosas and **halwa**.

Everyone was happy and chatty and their tummies felt full for the first time in a month. Presents were exchanged and games were played. Aktar and Manju were helpful hosts and the day was a success for everyone.

By the end of the day, long after the family had waved their relations goodbye, Aktar reflected on the celebrations that ended the month-long fast. “Thank you for a great day. I’m glad that I made it to the end of Ramadan,” he whispered to Dad as he was nodding off to sleep, “I feel that I’m trying to be a good Muslim.”

“Eid Mubarak, Aktar, so do I,” smiled Dad proudly.



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Glossary

Imam – the prayer leader at a mosque

beef biryani – spicy coloured rice mixed with meat, fish, or vegetables

baklava – a dessert of filo pastry layered with nuts, with syrup or honey

falooda – a cold desert of rose syrup, vermicelli, sweet basil seeds, and pieces of jelly with milk, often topped off with a scoop of ice cream

halwa – a sweet dish made of almonds, carrots, or semolina boiled with milk, sweetened with sugar and spiced with cardamom

Questions

1. Why does Dad ask the children to share their good fortune with others before they celebrate themselves?
2. Why did Mum and Manju need to spend a long time in the kitchen?
3. Using information from the whole text, why does Aktar think he is being a good Muslim?
4. How does this story make you feel? Refer to the vocabulary the author uses in the text to justify your opinion.

Challenge: How would you feel if you had fasted (gone without food during daylight hours) for a month? Would it make you a better person? How?