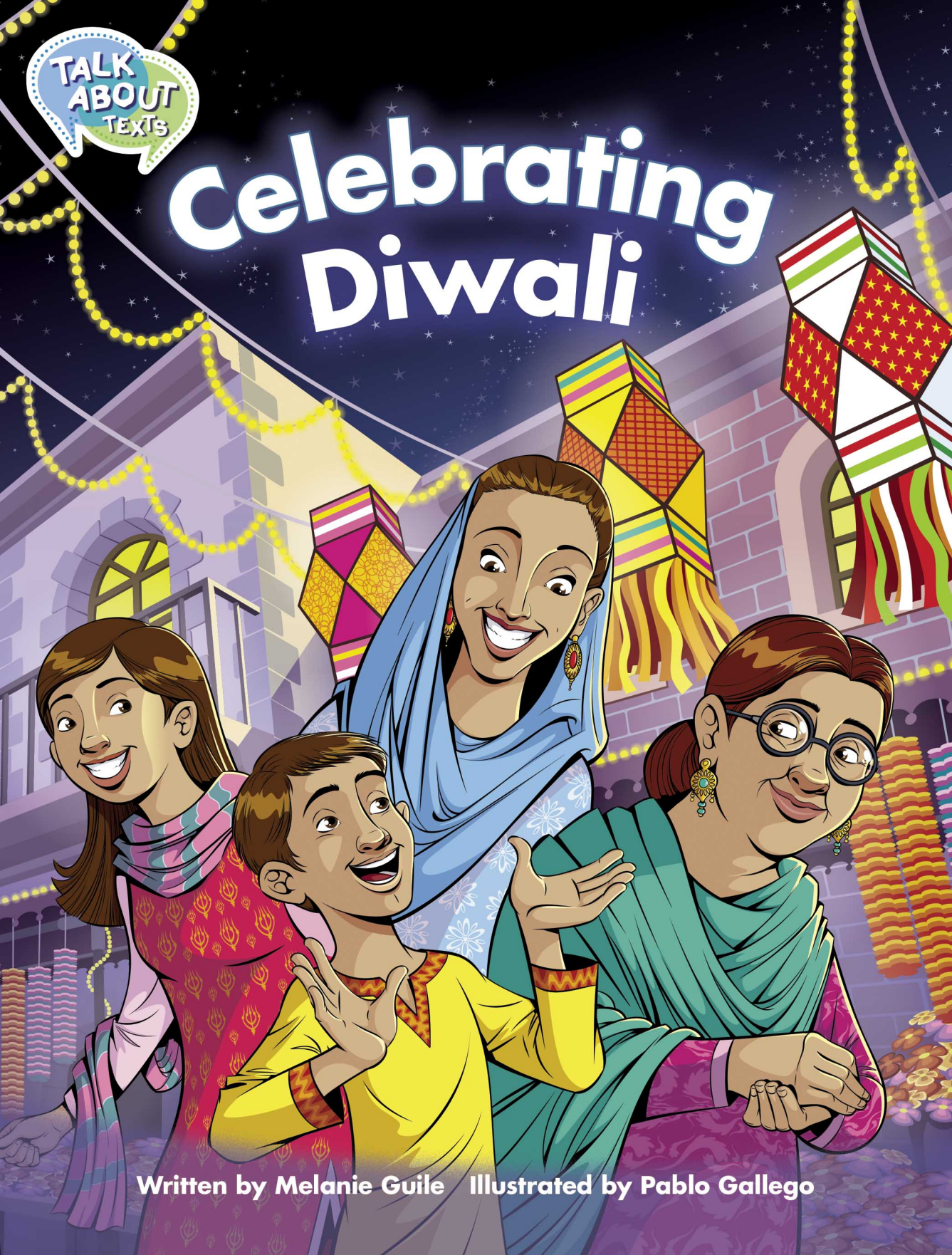


TALK  
ABOUT  
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# Celebrating Diwali



Written by Melanie Guile    Illustrated by Pablo Gallego

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# Chapter 1

## Festival Time!



I can't keep still. I'm bursting with excitement! Mum says to go to sleep but I can't. I'm as jumpy as a grasshopper. Why? Because I'm in Delhi, India, visiting Nani. And here's the best part: I'm here for Diwali, the festival of lights.

I'm Dev, by the way. I'm here on holiday with my big sister, Pia, and Mum. Dad stayed at home in Adelaide. That's where Pia and I were born, but Mum and Dad come from India. Mum was born in this house.

I've never been to India before. Everything is so different here!

You wouldn't believe how busy Delhi is. The streets are full of colour and movement – and so many people! Nani says it's extra busy now because people are preparing for Diwali.

Back home we don't celebrate Indian festivals. Nani explained everything to Pia and me as we helped prepare lunch.

Nani told us that Diwali, the festival of lights, is part of the Hindu faith. It is more than 1500 years old.

In the ancient Hindu story, the celebration of Diwali records the time the great Lord Rama and his wife, Sita, returned home after fourteen years. During those years, Rama had fought a great battle to rescue Sita from the wicked King Ravana. People lit lamps to welcome them back to their kingdom and celebrate the victory.

