



**Bhaveshsai Reddy**

**Elementary School: 3rd  
place winner**



## **IndiaFEST 2011– Essay Contest**

### **MY FAVORITE HOLIDAY**

My favorite holiday is Diwali. Diwali is a festival when all Hindus decorate their houses with lights. In the olden days a demon once ruled a city in India. All the people suffered because of the demon. The villagers went to Krishna asking for his help. Krishna along with Satyabama came to the village and killed the demon. Therefore we all celebrate Diwali because we are all happy that Krishna killed the demon. The lights resemble the good driving away the evil and how happy and thankful everyone was to Krishna. Another reason why we celebrate Diwali is because Lord Rama killed the demon Ravana and returned to Ayodhya with his wife and brother. Therefore everyone lighted up lamps so that Rama and his wife, Sita could see where they were going and the way back to Ayodhya. This day is also celebrating the moment when the Pandavas appeared from their exile because of the loss in the game against the Kauravas. As such, Diwali is celebrated for many reasons. This is why it is such a wonderful holiday and why I like it. I also like because of how brave Krishna and Satyabama were and how they killed the demon. It is a very joyful story to see the evil go away.

On Diwali people eat sweets, bring over family members and have fun! People also don't wear black clothes on Diwali because black represents evil and darkness. Children play many games. On Diwali, the most exciting part is when we all go outside and light up billions of fireworks. There are big ones, small ones, colorful ones, hot ones, and loud ones. There are also small ones that you throw on the floor and they pop and you can see a spark from them! They are called pop its. They are the smallest fireworks but yet the most amazing to children! Our parents light the big fireworks called Explosions. They light them really quickly and run back right after that. If they don't then the fireworks will blow up and hurt our parents. That's not good. Oh I almost forgot, the Chakras! There are these fireworks called Chakras that spin around on the floor really fast.

shooting out sparks and flames. Once, we lit all 10 of them at the same time and oh boy it looked like it was an explosion! Most of all, so much smoke was in the air. I started coughing so much I couldn't stand outside! It is a moment I can't explain! What makes it more fun is that you have about 40 or 50 people over at your house so you can see a colorful and splendid sparks which light up your heart!

In conclusion, Diwali is my favorite holiday because there are many reasons why we celebrate it which makes it unique from all the other holidays and also we get to see our family members, eat sweets and light fireworks. This is why Diwali is such a wonderful holiday!