The friends had a great time at the party and soon it was time to go home. 'I wish you could all come over to my house someday,' said Salma. 'We'd have such fun!'

'Me too!' said Eli. 'I wish you could come and see my puppy!'

'Why don't we ask our parents if we can do it next week when we're off school for our mid-term break?' suggested Muireann.

'That's a great idea!' said Eli. 'You could both come to my house one day and Salma, we could go to yours another day. We could have such fun!' said Eli.

That evening, Eli, Salma and Muireann asked their parents if they could visit each other's houses, and they all agreed. The three friends couldn't wait!

Having read the story, check for understanding using questions such as, 'Whose birthday was it?' Then dig deeper using these or similar questions:

- What language did Salma and her family speak? Can you and your family speak any language other than English? Do you think Salma and her brother liked going to school on Saturday to learn Arabic? Why or why not?
- Eli and his family went to Galway to see his cousins. Do you live near your family, like Muireann, or do you live far away from them, like Eli? Do you think Eli would have preferred if his family lived close by? Why?
- What things did Salma and Eli notice in Muireann's apartment? Have you got any of these things in your home?

PRAYER