

# The Sermon at Benares

## Previous Year Questions

**Q.1.** You have been chosen to address the student gathering from the nearby schools, to speak on "How to Deal with Loss Personal or Material". Prepare the speech draft in not more than 120 words, with reference to the commonality of themes in John Benyman's.

"The Ball Poem' and 'A Sermon at Benaras'.

You may begin this way.

Good Morning everyone. Today, I'd like to discuss two pieces of literature that offer a powerful insight into how we can learn to deal with loss.

You may end in this way -

To conclude, I'd like to say that -

Thank you.

**Q.2.** What message might the Buddha's story hold for those who are in positions of power and privilege ?

**Q.3.** Grief or sadness is an emotion natural to all types of loss or significant change. You have been asked to present an analysis of the approaches of Lencho and Kisa Gotami in dealing with their respective losses. Write this presentation draft including your insights, and comparing the approaches of both.

You may begin like this One acknowledges that Lencho had unwavering faith in God whereas Kisa Gotami in her grief, believed that her son .....however .....

(Reference - A Letter to God and The Sermon at Benares)

**Q.4.** Timely help and sympathy are a great help for those who are in grief. Gautama Buddha helped Kisa Gotami by his kind words and guidance in overcoming her grief. It is a big relief for grieving persons if support and care are extended to them. How are kindness and sympathy important in a peaceful and joyful life ?

- Q.5.** What challenges do Siddhartha in 'The Sermon at Benares' and Valliammai in 'Madam Rides the Bus' face? How do their journeys reflect on the themes of human experience and self-realisation ?
- Q.6.** How, according to Buddha, can one obtain peace of mind?
- Q.7.** How does Buddha bring about a different perspective in Kisa Gotami's understanding of life ?
- Q.8.** Grief is often seen as a measure of love. Justify your response to Buddha's sermon.
- Q.9.** "These sights so moved him that he at once went out into the world to seek enlightenment." What were the sights that moved 'him' ?
- Q.10.** Through the story of Kisa Gotami, what did the Buddha try to preach to the common man ?
- Q.11.** What does the Buddha say about the world?
- Q.12.** What did Siddhartha Gautama come across by chance when he was about twenty-five years old ?
- Q.13.** 'As ripe fruits are in danger of falling early, so mortals when born are always in danger of death'. With this statement of the Buddha find out the moral values that Kisa Gotami learnt after the death of her child.
- Q.14.** Why did Kisa Gotami meet the Buddha? How did Buddha change her life ?
- Q.15.** What did Kisa Gotami do after the death of her only son ?
- Q.16.** What lesson on death and suffering did the Buddha teach Gotami in the chapter, "The Sermon at Benaras"?