**Symbiosis School, Nasik.**

**Std: X Term I (2020-21)**

**Subject: English Language & Literature**

**Lesson: Chapter 10 – Sermon at Benares**

**By Betty Renshaw**

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**Instructions:**

* Tally the answers with those given below and do the necessary corrections.
* Write the answers to textual questions in your notebook.
* **Answers to concept based questions**

1. **Where did Buddha preach his first sermon?**

Gautama Buddha preached his first sermon at the city of Benares, which is regarded as the holiest of the bathing places on the river Ganges.

**2. What did Kisa Gotami learn in the end?**

In the end, Kisa Gotami realised and learnt that death is common to all and that no one could avoid dying. People weep over their dead ones but it is only the wise who do not grieve as they have accepted the truth. A person should only try to seek inner peace.

**3. What did the Buddha preach to the people?**

The Buddha says that everything in this world is subject to death. He further says that the world is deeply affected by suffering, disease or pain. Inevitably there is death and decay.

**4. Describe the life of Gautama Buddha before enlightenment.**

Gautama Buddha was born in a royal family. His childhood name was Siddhartha. At the age of 12, he was sent away for schooling in Hindu sacred scriptures and four years later he got married to a princess. He was happily married for 10 years when one day he went hunting and saw a sick man, an aged man, a funeral procession and a monk begging for alms.

Seeing so much suffering in the world, Buddha decided to leave all comforts and seek enlightenment.

**5. Which people are referred to as “wise” by the Buddha in his sermons?**

People who do not grieve over death are referred to as wise by Buddha in his sermons.

* **Textual questions and answers:**

1. When her son dies, Kisa Gotami goes from house to house. What does she ask for? Does she get it? Why not?

When her son dies, Kisa Gotami goes from house to house requesting for a wonder drug that could bring her son back to life. No, she could not get it because there is no medicine that can bring a dead man back to life.

2. Kisa Gotami again goes from house to house after she speaks with the Buddha. What does she ask for, the second time around? Does she get it? Why not?

Upon seeing the Buddha, Kisa Gotami is refilled with hope and thus, she goes again from house to house looking for mustard seeds just as Lord Buddha had asked her. Many had mustard seeds to offer but none of them could fulfill Lord Buddha’s condition of having seen no deaths in the family. Therefore, she couldn’t find mustard seed for her son.

3. What does Kisa Gotami understand the second time that she failed to understand the first time? Was this what the Buddha wanted her to understand?

When Kisa Gotami failed to find mustard seeds that could fulfill Lord Buddha’s condition of having seen no deaths in the family, she became disheartened. After deep reflection, she realised that the man’s fate was just like the city lights that flickered and extinguished repeatedly. The cycle of birth and death was nature’s way of working. Suddenly, she became conscious as to how selfish she had been in her sorrow and that one who was born must rest eternally. Men are mortal. Yes, this is exactly what Lord Buddha wanted her to understand.

4. Why do you think Kisa Gotami understood this only the second time? In what way did the Buddha change her understanding?

Kisa Gotami was too overwhelmed with sorrow and pain that her ability to think clearly got clouded. She couldn’t realise that no one can escape the cycle of death. When Kisa Gotami failed to find mustard seeds that could fulfill Lord Buddha’s condition of having seen no deaths in the family, she became disheartened. After deep reflection, she made peace with the terms of the world. Lord Buddha played a major role in facilitating the shift in her understanding by teaching her a lesson that one must not grieve for what is bound to happen for it will only deepen the pain and suffering.

5. Self-response.