



## ENGLISH

### NCERT - NCERT ENGLISH(HINGLISH)

### THE SERMON AT BENARES

#### Thinking About The Text

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



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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?



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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?



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



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5. How do you usually understand the idea of ‘selfishness’? Do you agree with Kisa Gotami that she was being ‘selfish in her grief’?



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## Thinking About The Language

1. This text is written in an old-fashioned style, for it reports an incident more than two millennia old. Look for the following words

and phrases in the text, and try to rephrase them in more current language, based on how you understand them.

give thee medicine for thy child

Pray tell me

Kisa repaired to the Buddha

there was no house but someone had died in it

kinsmen

Mark!



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2. You know that we can combine sentences using words like and, or, but, yet and then. But sometimes no such word seems appropriate. In such a case we can use a semicolon (;) or a dash (–) to combine two clauses.

She has no interest in music, I doubt she will become a singer like her mother.

The second clause here gives the speaker's opinion on the first clause.

Here is a sentence from the text that uses semicolons to combine clauses. Break up the sentence into three simple sentences. Can you then say which has a better rhythm when you

read it, the single sentence using semicolons, or the three simple sentences?

For there is not any means by which those who have been born can avoid dying, after reaching old age there is death, of such a nature are living beings.



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