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Class-X

English

First Flight

Chapter-8



Betty Renshaw

The Sermon at Benares

Part - 1

Neha Rajvanshi

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BEFORE YOU READ

- This chapter is extracted from 'Values and Voices: A college Reader (1975) by Betty Renshaw. Sermon is a religious lecture. In this chapter we will learn about a sermon given by Gautam Buddha founder of Buddhism, at Banares.

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A brief introduction of Gautama Buddha's life and his journey to become Buddha from Siddhartha Gautam is also given in the text. In this sermon he talks about the ultimate destiny of human kind-Death.

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Sacred : पवित्र
Scriptures : पुस्तक

Before Christ

GAUTAMA Buddha (563 B.C. – 483 B.C.) began life as a prince named Siddhartha Gautama, in northern India. At twelve, he was sent away for schooling in the Hindu sacred scriptures and four years later he returned home to marry a princess.

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Befitted : उपयुक्त

funeral : अंतिम संस्कार

Shielded : रक्षित



They had a son and lived for ten years as befitted royalty. At about the age of twenty-five, the Prince, heretofore shielded from the sufferings of the world, while out hunting chanced upon a sick man, then an aged man, then a funeral procession,

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Alms : भिक्षा

Seek : तलाश करना

Enlightenment : ज्ञानोदय



and finally a monk begging for alms. These sights so moved him that he at once went out into the world to seek enlightenment concerning the sorrows he had witnessed. He wandered for seven years and finally sat down under a peepal tree,

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vowed : वचन लेना



where he vowed to stay until enlightenment came. Enlightened after seven days, he renamed the tree the Bodhi Tree (Tree of Wisdom) and began to teach and to share his new understandings.

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Preached : उपदेश देना
Sermon : प्रवचन

At that point he became known as the Buddha (the Awakened or the Enlightened). The Buddha preached his first sermon at the city of Benares, most holy of the dipping places on the River Ganges; that sermon has been preserved and is given here.

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It reflects the Buddha's wisdom about one inscrutable kind of suffering.

Inscrutable : रहस्यमय

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She gets (get) up early in the morning.

I + s/es

Plural ≠ Singular

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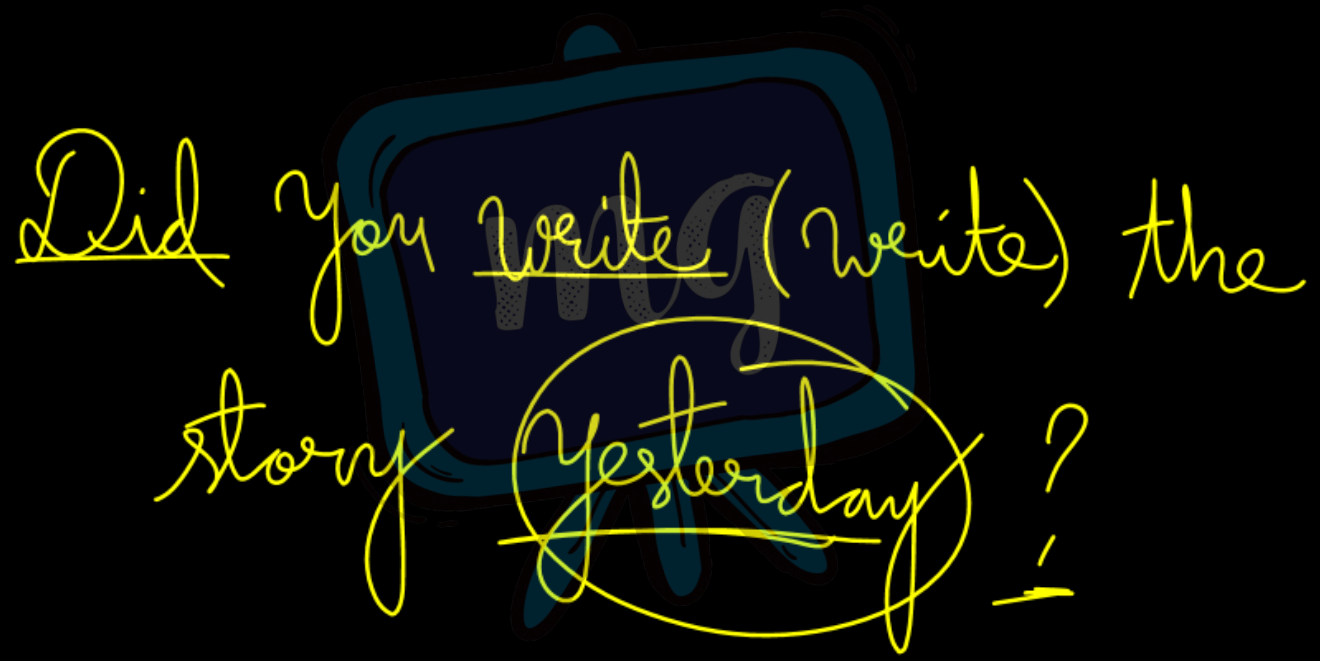

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They have submitted (submit)
the project already. Has/Have
M.V. IV
Singular Plural