

Oral Reading Test

- ▶ Once there was a blind woman who was as wise as she was old. Every day she prayed to Ganesha, the Hindu god of success. Ganesha was so touched by her devotion that he appeared before the old woman after her prayer and offered to grant her a wish. The old woman always turned down Ganesha's offer, explaining that she had everything she needed.

One day, Ganesha advised the old woman to ask her son and daughter-in-law for a suggestion, as he really wanted to help her.

The old woman went first to her son, who advised her to ask for wealth. Then the old woman went to her daughter-in-law, who suggested she ask for a grandson.

The old woman wasn't happy with either of these suggestions. She knew that her son wanted wealth and her daughter-in-law wanted a child, but the old woman didn't want either of those things for herself.

She decided to ask her neighbor, another old woman, what she thought. Her neighbor suggested she ask for her sight to be restored. After all, she reasoned, the old woman had many more years to live, and being able to see would make her life easier.

The old woman knew this was a good suggestion, but she became very thoughtful and struggled with the decision. Who should she make happy—her children or herself?

By the next morning, the old woman had made up her mind, and when Ganesha appeared to her, she said, "I want to see my grandson drinking milk from a golden bowl."

Ganesha happily laughed aloud, saying, "You have tricked me! But I have promised to give you what you want, and you shall have everything."

And that is how the desires of all three—the old woman, the son, and the daughter-in-law—were granted.