

Grade X Lesson 9

Madam Rides the Bus

Main Points of the Story

- ❖ Valli was an eight-year-old girl.
- ❖ The most fascinating thing for her was the bus that travelled between her village and the nearest town.
- ❖ She wanted to ride the bus.
- ❖ She made an elaborate planning and saved sixty paise - the both ways fare of the bus.
- ❖ The bus conductor stretched out his hand to help her up but Valli could get on by herself.
- ❖ The conductor was fond of joking and called her 'madam'.
- ❖ The bus started with a roar and Valli was constantly looking outside.
- ❖ The conductor asked her to sit down as she had paid for her seat.
- ❖ She took her seat and an elderly woman sat beside her.
- ❖ The old woman was very repulsive and the smell of the betel she was chewing offended Valli.
- ❖ The old woman asked why Valli was travelling alone.
- ❖ Valli asked her not to bother about her.
- ❖ Suddenly, a young cow came running very fast in the middle of the road.
- ❖ The driver sounded his horn loudly but the more he honked, the more frightened the animal would become.
- ❖ Valli laughed, at the scene until tears came in her eyes.
- ❖ Her destination had come. The driver asked Valli to get off the bus.
- ❖ Valli handed thirty paise coins to the driver and told him that she was going back on the same bus.
- ❖ The conductor was surprised. He offered a free cold drink to her.
- ❖ Valli firmly, but politely, rejected the offer.
- ❖ He asked if her mother wouldn't be looking for her.
- ❖ On her return journey, she saw the same cow lying dead by the side of the road.
- ❖ The memory of the dead cow haunted her and she was no longer looking outside.
- ❖ She wished and hopes to see the driver again.
- ❖ She found her mother awake and talking to one of her aunts.
- ❖ Her aunt was a chatterbox.
- ❖ Valli agreed that many things were happening outside without their knowledge.

Multiple Choice Questions

I. Read the extracts given below and attempt ANY ONE, by answering the questions that follow.

Suddenly she was started by a voice. "Listen, child," said the voice, "you shouldn't stand like that. Sit down." Sitting down, she looked to see who had spoken. It was an elderly man had honestly been concerned for her, but she was annoyed by his attention.

"There's nobody here who's a child," she said haughtily. "I've paid my thirty paise like everyone else."

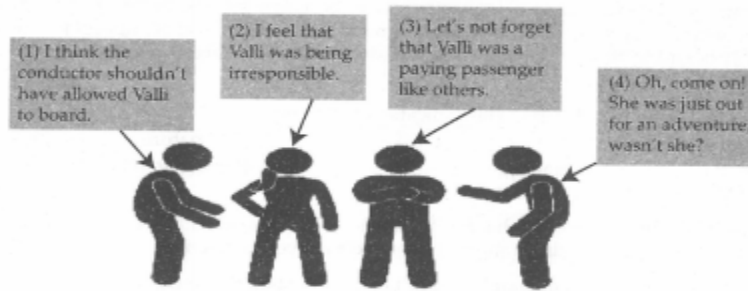
The conductor chimed in. "Oh, sir, but this is a very grown-up madam. Do you think a mere girl could pay her own fare and travel to the city all alone?" Valli shot an angry glance at the conductor and said, "I am not a madam. Please remember that. And you've not yet given me my ticket."

"Til remember," the conductor said, mimicking her tone. Everyone laughed, and gradually Valli too joined in the laughter.

1. How did Valli feel when the elderly man expressed concern that she was standing?
 - a. Rather shocked
 - b. Somewhat happy
 - c. **Fairly displeased**
 - d. Quite embarrassed
2. Choose the option that lists the set of statements that are NOT TRUE according to the given extract.
 1. Valli was travelling without a guardian.
 2. The conductor was bullying Valli.
 3. Valli was nervous in her interactions.
 4. Valli was a child passenger.
 5. Valli followed the elderly man's advice.
 6. Valli's response to the elderly man was respectful.
 7. It took Valli some time to participate in the jocular conversations.

a. 2,3,4 b. 5,6,7 c. 3,5,7 d. **2,3,6**

3. Pick the option that correctly classifies fact's (F) and opinion/s (O) of the students below.



- a. F-12 and O-3,4
- b. F-234 and O-1
- c. F-2,4 and O-13
- d. F-3 and O-1,2,4

4. Which word does 'chimed in' NOT correspond to?

- a. Intervened
- b. Interrupted
- c. **Intersected**
- d. Interjected

5. Choose the characteristic displayed by the conductor when he addressed Valli and declared that she couldn't be 'a mere girl'.

- a. encouragement
- b. **indulgence**
- c. embarrassment
- d. authority

II. "Day after day she watched the bus, and gradually a tiny wish crept into her head and grew there she wanted to ride on that bus, even if it was just once. This wish became stronger, until it was an overwhelming desire. Valli would stare wistfully at the people who got on and off the bus when it stood at the street corner. Their faces would kindle in her longings, dreams, and hopes. If one of her friends happened to ride the bus and tried to describe the sights of the town to her. Valli would be jealous to listen and would shout, in English: "Proud!

1. Valli would stare wistfully at the people as she

- a. had been watching the bus for a long time.
- b. was inspired by the people travelling on the bus.
- c. **had a strong desire to take a ride on the bus.**
- d. envied the people who could travel on the bus.

2. Pick the option that shows the list of words that collocate with 'overwhelming' (eg overwhelming desire)

- 1. response
- 2. lies
- 3. support
- 4. majority
- 5. pets
- 6. places
- a. 1, 5 & 6
- b. **1, 3 & 4**
- c. 2 & 5
- d. 3, 5 & 6

3. Valli would be jealous to listen. This indicates Valli's

- a. **longing to ride the bus**
- b. nature as an envious person.
- c. denial to accept her situation.
- d. inclination to trouble travellers.

4. A part of the extract has been paraphrased. Choose the option that includes the most appropriate solution to the blanks

The desire became so (i) _____ that it transformed into an (ii) _____ one. Valli would look (iii) _____ at people who boarded the bus and got off.

- A. i. active ii. overt iii. longingly
- B. i. vigorous ii. overpowering iii. Cheerfully
- C. i. staunch ii. overt iii. joyfully
- D. i. **vigorous** ii. **overpowering** iii. **longingly**

5. What does the line gradually a tiny wish crept into her head and grew there', mean?

- a. **The wish developed in her head over a period of time.**
- b. The wish was a feeling of wanting to prove her strength.
- c. The wish was planted in her head by someone's suggestion.
- d. The wish was small and was overpowered by a sense of doubt.

III. "Yes, I'm travelling alone, she answered curtly. And I've got a ticket too." "Yes she's on her way to town, said the conductor. With a thirty paise ticket. Oh, why don't you mind your own business, said Valli. But she laughed all the same, and the conductor laughed too But the old woman went on with her drivel. Is it proper for such a young person to travel alone? Do you know exactly where you're going in town? What's the street? What's the house number? You needn't bother about me. I can take care of myself, Valli said, turning her face towards the window and staring out."

1. Pick the option that matches the expressions with 'mind correctly.

	Expression		Meaning
1.	bring to mind	A.	be receptive to someone's ideas
2.	be in two minds	B.	think about only one subject
3.	have an open mind	C.	recall something
4.	put your mind at ease	D.	undecided
		E.	reassure you
		F.	reach a decision

a. 1-F, 2-C, 3-A, 4-D

b. 1-C, 2-D, 3-A, 4-E

c. 1-B, 2-F, 3-E, 4-A

d. 1-F, 2-D, 3-C, 4-B

2. Valli told the conductor to mind his own business and laughed as well. This shows that Valli

a. was not really bothered about what the conductor said.

b. didn't like the conductor speaking about her.

c. **disliked what the conductor said but was amused.**

d. was impressed with what the conductor said.

3. The old woman went on with her drivel. Why is the word 'drivel' used here?
It is used to show that the old woman.

a. was talking incessantly.

b. **kept muttering a lot of nonsense.**

c. was volunteering advice on request.

d. spoke non-stop about herself.

4. The old woman asked her questions

(A) due to anxiety about Valli travelling alone.

(b) **out of curiosity and concern for Valli.**

(C) interest in Valli's life and need for travel.

(D) due to the habit of interfering in Valli's life.

5. How do you think Valli felt when the old woman asked her questions? Pick the option that best describes her feelings

A. i. irritated

ii. agitated

B. i. concerned

ii. upset

C. i. upset

ii. agitated

D. i. **upset**

ii. **irritated**



Next Generation School

Extract Based Questions

Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

1. 'Don't you want to have a look at the sights, now that you're here?'

'All by myself? Oh, I'd be much too afraid.'

'Greatly amused by the girl's way of speaking, the conductor said, 'But you weren't afraid to come in the bus.'

'Nothing to be afraid of about that,' she answered.

- a. Who is the 'girl' mentioned in the passage?
- b. Why didn't she get off the bus when she reached her destination?
- c. Write the meaning of the word, 'amused'.

Ans. a. Valli is the 'girl' mentioned in the passage.

b. She didn't get off the bus when she reached her destination because she was afraid to move alone and had to return back by the same bus.

c. 'Amused' means 'delighted'.

2. Day after day she watched the bus and gradually a tiny wish crept into her head and grew there: she wanted to ride on that bus, even if just once. This wish became stronger and stronger, until it was an overwhelming desire. Valli would stare wistfully at the people who got on or off the bus when it stopped at the street corner. Their faces would kindle in her longings, and hopes.

- a. Which bus did Valli Watch every day?
- b. What became her strongest desire?
- c. What did look at longingly when the bus stopped at the street corner?
- d. Which word in the passage means the same as 'rouse feelings, interest, etc.'?

Ans. a. Every day Valli watched a bus that travelled between her village and the nearest town, and that was once going to the town and coming back.

b. She was very eager to ride on the bus. This wish gradually because her strongest desire.

c. When the bus stopped at the street corner, she stared wishfully at the people who got on or off the bus.

d. 'Kindle' means the same as 'rouse feeling, interest, etc.'.

3. An elderly woman came and sat beside her. 'Are you all alone, dear?' she asked Valli as the bus started again.

Valli found the woman absolutely repulsive-such big holes she had in her earlobes, and such ugly earrings in them! And she could smell the betel nut the woman was chewing and see the betel juice that was threatening to spill over her lips at any moment. Ugh!-who could be sociable with such a person?

'Yes, I'm travelling alone,' she answered curtly. 'And I've got a ticket too.'

- a. What was the old woman's concern?
- b. Why didn't Valli want to make friends with the elderly woman?
- c. What was Vall's curt reply to the elderly woman?
- d. Which word in the passage means the same as, 'very unpleasant/disgusting'?

- Ans.
- a. The old woman's concern was how an eight-year old child, Valli, could travel alone without her guardian.
 - b. Valli did not want to make friends with the elderly woman because the old woman was chewing betel nut and had ugly earrings.
 - c. Valli curtly replied to the elderly woman that she had got a ticket and could take care of herself.
 - d. The word is 'repulsive'.

4. Over many days and months Valli listened carefully to conversations between her neighbours and people who regularly used the bus, and she also asked a few discreet questions here and there. This way she picked up various small details about the bus journey.

- a. Why did Valli carefully listen to the conversations of the people?
- b. Why did she want to collect the information about the bus journey?
- c. What does the about description show about Valli?
- d. Which word in the passage means the same as 'careful'?

- Ans.
- a. Valli carefully listened to the conversation of the people because she wanted to know various details about the bus journey.
 - b. She wanted to collect the information about the bus journey because she was planning to ride the bus on a fine spring morning.
 - c. The above description shows that Valli had a deep attraction for the bus and the passengers as well. Her strongest desire was to ride on the bus.
 - d. 'Discreet' means 'careful'.

5. Their faces would kindle in her longings, dreams, and hopes. If one of her friends happened to ride the bus and tried to describe the sights of the town to her, Valli would be too jealous to listen and would shout, in English: 'Proud! Proud!' Neither she nor her friends really understood the meaning of the word, but they used it often it as a slang expression of disapproval.

- a. Why did Valli carefully listen to the conversations of the people?
- b. Why did she want to collect the information about the bus journey?
- c. What does the above description show about Valli?
- d. Which word in the passage means the same as 'careful'?

- Ans.
- a. Valli carefully listened to the conversation of the people because she wanted to know various details about the bus journey.
 - b. She wanted to collect the information about the bus journey because she was planning to ride the bus on a fine spring morning.
 - c. The above description shows

Short Answer Type Questions

1. What was the favourite pastime of Valli?

Ans. Valliammai or Valli was eight years old. Her favourite pastime was standing in the front doorway of her house. From there, she watched what was happening in the street outside. For her, standing at the front door was as enjoyed as any of the games other children played.

2. What was the most fascinating thing that Valli saw on the street?

Ans. Watching the bus travel between her village and the nearest town was the most fascinating thing for Valli. The bus always filled each time with new set of passengers. It was the source of unending joy for Valli.

3. What was the tiny wish that crept into Valli's head?

Ans. The sight of the bus was the most fascinating thing for Valli. Day after day she watched the bus. A tiny wish crept into her head. She wanted to ride on that bus. At least, just once. This wish became so strong that it grew into an overwhelming desire.

4. Why did Valli listen to the conversation? What did she get from them?

Ans. Valli was anxious to know more and more about the bus journey. She had nourished a strong desire to enjoy a bus from her village to the nearest town. She listened to the neighbours and people who regularly used the bus. She was collecting the necessary details from them to plan out her bus journey. Such details could help her in her mission.

5. How did Valli calculate and plan the bus journey?

Ans. Valli had gathered all the necessary details about the bus journey from those who regularly used the bus. The town was six miles from her village. The one-way fare was thirty paise. The trip to the town took forty-five minutes. If she took the one o'clock bus, she could reach the town at one forty-five. She calculated that she could be back home by about two forty-five.

6. How did Valli board the bus? Why did she say, 'I can get on by myself'?

Ans. When Valli sighted the bus she shouted 'stop the bus! Stop the bus!' She raised her tiny hand 'commandingly'. The bus slowed down and finally stopped. She told the conductor that she wanted to go to the town and she tried to handover the money. The conductor seeing that she was just a child, stretched out his hand to help her up. Valli replied that she could get on by herself and didn't need any help.

7. Why was Valli overcome with shyness and avoided everyone's eyes?

Ans. It was the slack time of the day. There were only six or seven passengers on the bus. They were all looking at Valli and laughing with the conductor. Valli was overcome with shyness. She tried to avoid everyone's eyes. She walked quickly to an empty seat and down.

8. What did Valli see when peered over the blind?

Ans. Valli found that a canvas blind cut off her view. So, she peered over the blind to look outside. The bus was going along the bank of a canal. Beyond it were palm trees and grassland and distant mountains. And then, there were acres of green fields as far as her eyes could see.

9. Why didn't Valli like the remark of the elderly man? What did she say to him?

Ans. An elderly man saw Valli standing in the bus. He asked her to sit down. He had honestly felt concerned for her. Valli didn't like to be called herself a 'child'. She retorted that she was not a child. She had paid thirty paise like everyone else.

10. How did Valli react when the conductor called her 'a very grown-up madam'?"

Ans. The bus conductor teased Valli by calling her 'a very grown-up madam'. Valli reacted sharply saying that she was not a madam. She reminded him that he had not yet given her

ticket. The conductor mimicked her tone and said, 'I'll remember.' Everyone laughed and gradually Valli too joined in the laughter.

11. Why did Valli find the elderly woman absolutely repulsive?

Ans. The elderly woman who was sitting beside Valli in the bus looked absolutely repulsive to Valli. She had big holes in her ears and had ugly earrings in them. She didn't relish the smell of the betel nut that she chewing. The betel juice was about to spill over her lips at any moment. She couldn't be social with such a woman.

12. How careful and painstaking elaborate plans did Valli have to make for her first journey and how did she save money for it?

Ans. Valli had to make careful and painstaking plans for her first bus journey. Saving sixty paise for the both ways fare was not an easy job. She saved thriftily every stray coin that came in her way. She had to give up the temptation of buying peppermints, toys and balloons and stifle her desire to ride on the merry-go-round.

13. What was the next problem after Valli had enough money?

Ans. After she had saved enough money, Valli had her next problem. It was how to slip out of the house without her mother's knowledge. She solved this problem easily. Every day after lunch her mother would nap from about one to four or so. She could easily venture out on her mission.

14. Why did Valli laugh until there were tears in her eyes?

Ans. Valli saw a young cow running very fast in the middle of the road. It was right in front of the bus. The bus slowed down to a crawl. The driver sounded the horn loudly again and again. But more he honked; the more frightened the animal became and galloped right in front of the bus. Valli laughed until there were tears in her eyes.

15. Why didn't Valli get the bus when the bus stopped at the town?

Ans. Valli's destination, the nearest town from her village, had come. Everyone got off except Valli. The conductor reminded that her destination had come and she should get off the bus. Valli told that she was going back on the same bus. She handed thirty more coins to the conductor and asked for the ticket. She just felt like having a bus ride again.

16. Why didn't Valli want to have a look at the sights alone?

Ans. The conductor asked if Valli didn't want to have a look at the sights in the town. She replied that she would be too afraid to visit them all alone. The conductor reminded that she was travelling all alone by bus. Valli replied that there was nothing to be afraid of in the bus.

17. Why didn't Valli accept a free drink from the bus conductor? What does this act show about her character?

Ans. The bus conductor asked Valli to let him bring her a cold drink. She replied that she didn't have enough money for that. He should just give him her ticket. The conductor offered to give it totally free. She said firmly, 'Please, no.' This shows how proud and self-respecting Valli was.

18. What dampened Valli's enthusiasm during the return journey?

Ans. During her return journey, Valli saw a young cow lying dead by the side of the road. She was the same lovable and beautiful cow that she saw only a little while ago. Now, it looked so horrible and frightening as it lay there. There was a fixed stare in her lifeless eyes and she was smeared with blood. The sight dampened her enthusiasm and she stopped looking outside.

19. Did Valli's bus ride remain a secret for her mother and aunt?

Ans. When Valli entered her house, she found her mother awake and talking to one of her aunts. Her aunt was a real chatterbox. She asked where she had been so far. Valli's mother spoke casually. She didn't expect a reply. Both these ladies could know nothing about Valli's pleasure ride on the bus.

20. Why did Valli smile to herself? Did her mother and aunt have any chance of knowing the secret of her smile?

Ans. Valli agreed with her mother that many things were happening outside in the world without their knowledge. Ironically, the two ladies didn't know anything about Valli's bus-journey. They didn't know that 'just a chit of a girl' had done such a great feat. Valli smiled to herself. There was no chance of her secret being exposed.

21. Why would Vall stand at the front door?

Ans. Valli would stand at the front door because she watched what was happening in the street outside very carefully. She also watched the bus every day. The sight of the bus was a source of unending joy for Valli.

22. How did Valli react when she saw the dead cow by the roadside?

Ans. When Valli saw the dead cow by the roadside, looking so horrible, she was terribly shocked and became very sad. She could not imagine how such a beautiful creature lost its charm and life!

23. How did Valli save money for her first bus journey?

Ans. Valli saved money by sacrificing all her childlike desires and temptations in order to fulfil her indomitable wish to ride the bus. She stopped buying toys, peppermints, balloons, and the like. Thus, she thriftily saved money required for her first bus journey.

24. Why didn't Valli want to go to the stall and have a drink? What does it tell you about her?

Ans. Valli did not want to go to the stall and have a drink because she did not have money to buy it. Even she refused the offer of a drink by the conductor. It tells us that she was wise girl and had control on her feelings.

25. Why does the conductor call Valli, 'madam'?"

Ans. The conductor calls Valli, 'madam' because she behaves like a mature woman. She has a great confidence in her and looks wiser than her age. Above all her behaviour and way of talking shows her self-dependence and maturity.

26. Give examples to show that Valli was a good planner.

Ans. Valli was indeed a good planner at her very young age. She made careful plans for her visit to the town by bus. She saved every coin she could to ride the bus. She calculated the time to cover the complete journey. She decided to take the one o'clock bus so that she would come back by two forty-five to her village.

27. What was Valli's favourite pastime?

Ans. Valli's favourite pastime was standing in the front doorway of her house, watching what was happening in the street outside. Moreover, she had no playmates. So, this was all that she had to do.

28. How can you say that the conductor was a good-natured jolly fellow? Support your answer with examples.

Ans. undoubtedly, the conductor was a good natured jolly fellow. If we study his behaviour towards Valli, an eight-year-old girl in the story, we can make out his conduct. When she entered the bus, he guided her towards the seat. Jokingly he called her 'my fine madam' as a comment because she behaved like a mature woman.

29. Why does Valli stand upon the seat? What does she see now?

Ans. Valli stands upon the seat because the bus curtains had covered the lower part of her window and she was not able to see the sights. Now, she sees that the bus was moving along the bank of a canal. The road was narrow. She saw mountains, green grass fields and palm trees.

30. What sight did Valli experience during her first journey by bus?

Ans. During her first journey by bus, Valli experienced beautiful sights such as mountains, green grass fields and palm trees on the way. More fascinating was her journey when she was a cow galloping in front of the bus. This made her laugh heartily.

31. What was Valli's favourite pastime and what was the source of unending joy for her?

Ans. Valli's favourite pastime was standing in the front doorway of her house and watching everything outside the street carefully. This gave her many unusual experiences. The sight of the bus was a source of unending joy for Valli as she had the attraction for the bus and the passengers.

Long Answer Type Questions

1. What was Valli's obsession? How did she prepare and save money for her first bus journey? Or How did Valli plan for her first bus journey?

Ans. The most fascinating sight for Valli was seeing the bus that travelled from her village to the nearest town. A tiny wish crept into her head. She wanted to ride on that bus, at least for once. This wish became stronger until it was an overwhelming desire. She listened to the conversations of her neighbours and people. They regularly used the bus. She found out after questioning them that the both ways fare was sixty paise. It took forty-five minutes to reach the town. It was six miles from her village.

After gathering all necessary details, Valli started saving money thriftily. She saved every coin that came her way. It was not an easy job for a girl of eight years. She had to resist her temptation of buying peppermints, toys, balloons and having a ride on the merry-go-round. When the money problem was solved, another problem was solved quite easily. She planned her journey during one to four o'clock when her mother took a nap in the afternoon. All such elaborate planning led Valli to have an enjoyable and smooth her first bus journey.

2. Describe what Valli saw during her bus journey. How did the scenes and sights affect her?

Ans. Valli was really excited. After all, it was her first bus journey. She 'devoured' everything with her eyes. When she started to look outside, her view was cut off by a canvas blind. She stood up on the seat and peered over the blind. She watched the bus passing along the bank of a canal. She saw palm trees, grasslands, distant mountains and the vast blue sky. Acres of green fields stretched out as far as her eyes could see. The bus went past the railway station, the bright looking shops and through the busy crossroads. One funny scene cheered her. A young cow ran in front of the bus. She was just in the middle of the road. The more the driver honked, the more frightened the cow became. Valli laughed till tears were in her eyes. However, another sight dampened her enthusiasm. The same cow which looked so lovable and beautiful a while ago was lying dead beside the road. A fast running vehicle had struck her dead. Now, the same cow was looking so horrible and frightening that Valli stopped looking outside. In short, the canal, mountains, palms, grasslands and the blue sky enthused and thrilled Valli. But, the repulsive elderly woman chewing the betel nut and the dead cow dampened her enthusiasm during the journey.

3. What did standing at the front door mean to Valli?

Ans. Valliammai or Valli was just 'a chit of a girl'. She was eight years old. She was always anxious to gather all details, why and how about things. She was not very social either. She had no playmates of her own age in her neighbourhood. Nature=ally, she could not play games with friends. But, she more than compensated this drawback. Her favourite pastime was standing in the front doorway of her house. Standing in there, she could watch what was happening in the street outside. But for Valli, standing at the front door was very enjoyable as any of the games other children played. Watching the street gave her many new unusual experiences. The most fascinating of all these scenes was the scene of the bus that travelled between her village and the nearest town. Seeing a new set of passengers every time, she also wished to have the bus ride, at least for once.

4. Do you think that Valli enjoyed her first ride on a bus? Give examples in support of your answer.

Ans. It was Valli's first bus ride. Naturally, she was full of excitement and enthusiasm. She devoured everything with her eyes. She stood up on the seat to have a full view of things outside. The bus was going along the bank of a canal. Beyond it, there were palms, grasslands

and distant mountains. On the other side, there was a deep ditch. And then acres upon across of green field stretched out as far as the eye could see. The bus went past the railway station, the bright looking shops. Suddenly, Valli clapped her hands with glee. She saw a young cow with her raised tail in the air running very fast just in the middle of the road. The driver sounded his horn loudly again and again. But the more he honked, more frightened the cow became. Faster it galloped - always right in front of the bus. This was very funny to Valli. She laughed and laughed until there were tears in her eyes.

5. Describe Valli's interaction with (i) the conductor (ii) with the old gentleman (iii) with the elderly repulsive woman.

Ans. The conductor was a jolly sort of person. He was fond of joking. He enjoyed teasing Valli with his gentle comic remarks. He called her 'madam'. Valli reacted sharply replying that she was not a 'madam'. The conductor showed his concern when he tried to help her up, she told him that she could help herself. Valli showed that she was a self-respecting girl. She politely refused to accept a free drink from the conductor.

The old gentleman was honestly concerned when he found Valli standing in the bus. 'Listen child ... you shouldn't stand like that', he said. Valli was annoyed by his attention and replied promptly that she was not a child. She had paid her thirty paise like everyone else.

The elderly woman, who sat beside her, was quite repulsive to Valli. She didn't like the big holes in her ears and the ugly earrings in them. Nor did Valli relish the unpleasant smell that came from the betel nut she was chewing. She couldn't be social with such a person.

6. Give a character-sketch of Valli in your own words by giving examples from the text.

Ans. Valli emerged as a very clever, sensitive, self-respecting and fun-loving girl. She was just eight years old. She was very curious about things. She was a good observer of things. Her favourite pastime was standing in the front doorway of her house. She used to watch from there what was happening in the street outside. There were no playmates of her own age in the neighbourhood. Standing at the door was as enjoyable for her as any of the games children played.

Valli was mature, clever and practical beyond her years. Saving sixty paise was not an easy job for a girl of her age. She thriftily saved every coin that came in her way. She was determined to resist any temptation that came in her way. She sacrificed buying peppermints, toys, balloons and having a joy ride on a merry-go-round to save her money.

Valli was full of excitement and enthusiasm. She enjoyed the landscape looking outside the window. The canal, palm trees, grassland, distant mountains and green fields gave her tremendous pleasure. The sight of a young cow running towards the bus at full speed enthused her. The more the driver honked, the more frightened the animal became and came just in front of the bus. Valli enjoyed the fun and laughed till tears came into her eyes.

Valli was a very sensitive girl. She was shocked to see the same cow lying on the roadside smeared with blood. Her horrible and frightening looks dampened her enthusiasm. She stopped looking outside. Valli didn't like being called a 'madam' or 'a child'. She dared the conductor to mind his own business. Valli was a free cold drink offered by the bus conductor. She was a great planner and planned things after knowing all necessary details about them.

7. Valli's dream was to enjoy a ride on the bus to the nearest town. What preparations did she make to realize her dream?

Ans. It is quite natural when we want to fulfil our desires; some temptations always come in our way. In the story, we see that Valli had the deepest desire to enjoy a ride on the bus. She usually stood in the front doorway of her house and carefully watched how a bus ran from her village to the nearby town every day. So, a temptation raised in her mind to ride on this bus. As her desire and temptation go together, so Valli was courageous and confident to fulfil her desire. She collected every desired piece of information about journey such as distance, fare and time of bus journey. So, she took a great risk to ride the bus. However, she slipped out of the house without her mother's knowledge and managed to fulfil her desire of enjoying a bus ride.

8. Whenever we want to achieve something difficulties always come in our way. What did Valli have to do to go and ride in a bus?

Ans. Valli decided that the only time available to her for the trip was during her mother's afternoon nap. She decided to take the one o'clock afternoon bus that reached the town at one forty-five, so that she could be back home by about two forty-five as she would travel on the same bus. She listened carefully to the conversations between her neighbours and people who regularly used the bus, and she also asked a few discreet questions here and there. This way she picked up various small details about the bus journey. The bus fare was thirty paise one way. To save money for the fare, she saved whatever stray coins that came her way.

9. Once we decide to achieve something, so many difficulties come in our way. With focused attention we can make that achievement. How did Valli succeed in fulfilling her desire of riding a bus?

Ans. It is absolutely true that once we decide to achieve something, many difficulties come in our way. If we are determined to do it with focused attention, we can make that achievement. In the story, Valli had an indomitable desire of riding a bus, as she had never made a journey by bus in her life.

Valli collected each and every possible piece of information about the bus journey-like how many miles away the town was and what the fare was and how much time it took to complete this journey. She even did not buy toys, balloons, etc. in order to save money. At last, on a fine spring afternoon, she rode on the bus and succeeded her long-cherished desire of riding a bus.

10. We want to fulfil our desires. Some temptations always come in our way. We have to face them. How did Valli fight the temptations that came in her way and manage to fulfil her desire of enjoying a bus ride?

Ans. It is quite natural when we want to fulfil our desires; some temptations always come in our way. In the story, we see that Valli had the deepest desire to enjoy a ride on the bus. She usually stood in the front doorway of her house and carefully watched how a bus ran from her village to the nearby town every day. So, a temptation raised in her mind to ride on this bus. As her desire and temptation go together, so Valli was courageous and confident to fulfil her desire. She collected every desired piece of information about journey such as distance, fare and time of bus journey. So, she took a great risk to ride the bus. However, she slipped out of the house without her mother's knowledge and managed to fulfil her desire of enjoying a bus ride.

11. In modern era people are selfish and insensitive to the sufferings of their neighbours, But Valli is not one of them. She grieves over the accidental death of a young com Thus, Valli's character brings forth some values. Discuss these values on the basis of Madam Rides the Bus'.

Ans. It is absolutely true that in modern era people are selfish and insensitive to the suffering of their neighbours. They are so much occupied with their household matters and burdened with responsibilities of the family that they cannot think of their neighbours. So, they only think for the good of their family, and become insensitive to the sufferings of their neighbours, because the selfish motive gains ground them.

But Valli, the protagonist of the story, is not like the so-called selfish and insensitive people. She is only eight-year old. She is quite sensitive to see the world through her innocent eyes. She grieved over the accidental death of a young cow. Her young heart was moved by the tragic death of the cow. Thus, we see that little Valli's character is an eye-opener to the selfish people today.

12. 'Never mind,' she said, 'I can get on by myself.' "You don't have to help me,' said Valli to the conductor. She shows extraordinary courage in making the bus journey all alone. Taking inspiration from Valli's character, write how ability and courage to take risks are essential to fulfil one's dream.

Ans. It is absolutely true that ability and courage to take risks are essential to fulfil one dream.

In the story, Valli is the epitome of extraordinary courage in making the bus journey all alone. She was only an eight-year-old girl. She had never experienced any bus journey in her life. Her parents never allowed her to go outside her house. However, she mustered enough courage to take the risk to ride a bus on a fine spring morning. She told the conductor that she did not need any help from him to ride the bus. Hence Valli is a glowing example of inspiration and courage to all budding youngsters. So, courage to take risks in life is a beacon of hope and ability to fulfil one's dream.

13. Behaviour of the conductor in 'Madam Rides the Bus' is an example of good manners. Mentioning the instances of good manners shown by the conductor in the story write how you can make your life happy by observing good manners.

Ans. Good manners make one's life happy, graceful and respectful. In the context, behaviour of the conductor of the bus is an example of good manner. When Valli said to the conductor, 'I can get on by myself. You don't have to help me,' the conductor jokingly replied, 'Oh, please don't be angry with me, my fine madam. Here, have a seat right up there in front. Again the conductor said, 'Okay, madam, whenever you feel like a bus ride, come and join us.' These are the instances of good manners shown by the conductor in the story.

In the light of these instances, we can make our life happier and more respectful if we give respect to others. If we are polite, can others be rude to us? Our sweet words and our graceful behaviour make us happy in life in all circumstances.

18. Valli was so overcome with sadness to see the dead cow that she lost all enthusiasm.

Do you feel the same way? If you feel concerned about the plight of animals falling prey to the fast moving traffic, what efforts will you make to make road travel safer?

Ans. In the story, we see that Valli is overcome with sadness to see the dead cow that she lost all enthusiasm. The sight of the dead cow dampened her spirits. In fact, it is a shattering blow to her sensitive heart. Dead cow is a symbol of sadness to her and the image of the dead cow haunted her all the while.

Yes, I also feel the same way because in today's scenario, we can see the plight of animals, falling prey to the fast moving traffic almost daily. I think that traffic rules should be followed strictly. In the case of animals, speeding traffic should be controlled. Moreover, to make road travel safer, traffic authorities should take necessary steps to check reckless driving.

19. What saddened Valli on her first journey by bus? How did it affect her?

Ans. The most unpleasant thing for Valli that made her sad on first journey by the bus was the sight of the dead cow, lying on the roadside. It affected her terribly. She could not imagine what had been a lovable, beautiful creature just a little while ago, had now suddenly lost charm and life. The little madam was overcome with sadness. The memory of the dead cow haunted her, dampening her enthusiasm. So, Valli no longer wanted to look out the window.

20. Give, in brief, a pen portrait of Valli.

Ans. Valli is a very young self-confident, daredevil girl. Her life's first bus journey into the world outside her village tells us about her induction into the mystery of life and death. Her first journey also reveals her careful, painstaking and elaborate plans as to how she had had to make for it! Her careful planning to save money for riding the bus also shows her parsimonious character to fulfil her aim. Moreover, she was a determined girl with a commanding nature. So, she behaved like a 'mature woman'. She was also a prestigious girl as she declined the offer of the conductor's cold drink. She was also a sensitive girl. She could not bear the sight of the dead cow and became very sad.

21. What was Valli's greatest desire? How did she fulfil it?

Ans. Valli's greatest desire was to ride on the bus that travelled between her village and the nearest town. The sight of the bus, filled each time with a new set of passengers, was a source of unending joy for Valli.

Over many days and months, Valli listened conversations between her neighbours and the passengers who rode the bus. This way, she picked up various small details about the bus journey.

Valli had the desired information about journey like how many miles away the town was, what the fare was and how much time it took to complete the bus journey. Then she started to save money. She did not buy toys, balloons, etc. Even she did not ride on the merry-go-round in the village fair. At last, on a fine spring afternoon, she rode on the bus and started her journey. Thus, Valli fulfilled her indomitable desire to ride the bus.

22. How did Valli plan carefully before she undertook a journey by bus?

Ans. Valli planned very carefully before she undertook a bus journey. She saved every coin she could. She controlled her temptation to buy peppermints, toys, balloons, and the like. Finally, she saved a total of sixty paise. She also did not ride on a merry-go-round at the village fair.

Valli's next plan was to slip out of the house without her mother's knowledge. She managed this without much of a difficulty. Every day mother took a nap after lunch for four or more hours. So, it was her opportunity to visit the town during this period.

23. How did Valli save up money for first journey? What made her laugh on her way?

Ans. To save up money for her first journey, Valli resisted the temptation to buy toffees, toys, balloons, etc. she did not even ride on the merry-go-round at the village fair. During the bus journey, Valli was greatly amused when she saw a young cow running in front of the bus. She clapped with glee. The bus slowed to a crawl and the driver sounded the horn loudly again and again. But the more her honked, the more she was frightened. The animal became, the faster in galloped. It seemed quite funny to Valli. It made her laugh and laugh all the way.



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TEST YOUR SKILLS

Short Answer Type Questions

1. What was the favourite pastime of Valli?
2. What was the most fascinating thing for Valli and why?
3. How did Valli's wish become an overwhelming desire?
4. How did Valli collect details regarding the bus journey from the people?
5. How did she thriftily save the money needed for her first bus journey?
6. What did Valli say when the conductor tried to help her up?
7. Why the conductor did called Valli 'madam' again and again?
8. Why was the old woman so repulsive to Valli?
9. Why did Valli refuse to accept the offer of a free cold drink from the bus conductor?
10. How did Valli react on seeing the dead cow on the roadside?

Long Answer Type Questions

1. Give a brief character sketch of Valli giving all the necessary traits of her character.
2. How did Valli plan her first bus journey? Was it an easy job for a girl of eight years old?
3. Describe in brief Valli's first bus journey as has been narrated in 'Madam Rides the Bus'.
4. Describe the landscape and the natural sights that Valli saw looking outside the window.



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