

Madam Rides the Bus

TEXTUAL QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Before you Read:

1. **Ans:**A set of passengers

.....Get on the bus.

.....Get off the bus.

.....A row of seats

.....Platform

.....Tickets, please.

.....A roar and rattle.

.....Slowing down to a crawl.

.....Blowing a whistle.

2. **Ans:** From a fast-moving bus we can see far-off hills and green field which look very beautiful. The trees rush fast. Grazing animals can also be seen on green fields. Snowclad mountains look very beautiful. Road side shop decorated with various items are attractive to look at from a running bus. Crowds can also be seen in the market places. People walking in the street is a common view and people working in the fields where there are crops. Sometimes the buses run through an industrial area and factories can be seen. As the bus passes along railway track sometimes a running train can be seen.

Oral Comprehension Check – 1

1. **What was Valli's favourite pastime?**

Ans: Valli's favourite pastime was to stand in the doorway and watch the street outside.

2. What was a source of unending joy for Valli? What was her strongest desire?

Ans: The view of the bus with new passengers was a source of unending joy for Valli. Her strongest desire was to have a ride on the bus.

3. What did Valli find out about the bus journey? How did she find out these details?

Ans: Valli found out that the town was six miles from her village and the bus fare was thirty paise one-way. The trip to the town took forty-five minutes.

She found out these details from the conversation between her neighbours and people who regularly used the bus.

4. What do you think Valli was planning to do?

Ans: Valli was actually planning to ride on the bus. She could take one o'clock afternoon bus and came back home at about two forty-five.

Oral Comprehension Check - II

1. Why does the conductor call Valli 'madam'?

Ans: The conductor calls Valli 'madam' because she behaves like a grownup lady.

2. Why does Valli stand up on the seat? What does she see now?

Ans: Valli looked outside from the bus but a canvas blind cut off her view. So she had to stand up on the seat.

3. What does Valli tell the elderly man when he calls her a child?

Ans: When the elderly man calls Valli a child she haughtily replies that there is no child in the bus.

4. Why didn't Valli want to make friends with the elderly woman?

Ans: Valli didn't want to make friends with the elderly woman because she was absolutely repulsive with ugly earrings and smell of the betelnut. Betel juice was about to fall from her mouth.

Oral Comprehension Check – III

1. How could Valli save up money for her first journey? Was it easy for her?

Ans: Valli saved up money for her first journey resisting every temptation to buy peppermints, toys, balloons etc. She also prevented herself from riding the merry-go-round.

2. What did Valli see on her way that made her laugh?

Ans: Valli saw a cow with her tail raised running ahead of the bus. The driver blew the horn and the more frightened cow began to run even faster. This view made Valli laugh.

3. Why didn't she get off the bus at the bus station?

Ans: Valli didn't get off at the bus station because she was going back on the same bus. She was just making a bus ride.

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

Ans: Valli didn't want to go to the stall and have a drink because she had no money to do so. She refused to accept cold-drink from the conductor. It shows that she was self-confident and a girl with self-respect.

Thinking about the Text

1. What was Valli's deepest desire? Find words and phrases in the story that tell you this.

Ans: Valli's deepest desire was to ride on the bus from her village to the town.

The words and phrases are : Overwhelming desire; wistfully; calculated and recalculated; planned and replanted.

2. How did Valli plan her bus ride? What did she find out about the bus, and how did she save up the fare?

Ans: Valli planned her bus ride after collecting every details of the journey from the conversation between her neighbours and passengers. She came to know that the bus took forty-five minutes to reach the town and the fare was thirty paise. She saved up the fare resisting her temptation to buy peppermints, toys, balloons etc and her desire to ride on the merry-go-round.

3. What kind of a person is Valli? To answer this question, pick out the following sentences from the text and fill in the blanks. The words you fill in are the clues to your answer.

i) 'Stop the bus! Stop the bus!' And a tiny hand was raised.....

Ans: Commandingly.

ii) 'Yes, I..... go to town', said Valli, still standing outside the bus.

Ans: Simply have to.

iii) 'There's nobody here..... ', she said haughtily, 'I've paid my thirty paise like everyone else. '

Ans: Who's a child.

iv) 'Never mind ', she said. 'I can..... you don't have to help me. I'm not a child, I tell you', she said,.....

Ans: Get on by myself.

v) 'You needn't bother about me. I..... '. Valli said, turning her face toward the window and staring out.

Ans: Can take care of myself

vi) Then she turned to the conductor and said, 'Well, sir, I hope..... '

Ans: To see you again.

Valli is a self-confident girl. She is also self-dependent with a commanding nature.

4. Why does the conductor refer to Valli as 'madam'?

Ans: The conductor refers to Valli as 'madam' because she behaves like a grown up lady.

5. Find the lines in the text which tell you that Valli was enjoying her ride on the bus.

Ans: The lines are:

1) Valli clapped her hands with glee.

2) She laughed and laughed..... eyes.

3) Struck dumb with wonder, Valli gaped at everything.

6. Why does Valli refuse to look out of the window on her way back?

Ans: Valli refused to look out of the window on her way back after she had seen the dead cow. The view haunted her and extremely saddened.

7. What does Valli mean when she says, 'I was just agreeing with what you said about things happening without our knowledge. '

Ans: Valli admits that many things happen in our midst without our knowledge. Sometimes we can't understand these.

8. The author describes the things that Valli sees from an eight-year-old's point of view. Can you find evidence from the text for this statement?

Ans: The following evidence can be found in the text:

- a) Valli devoured every thing with her eyes.
- b) Valli clapped her hands with glee.
- c) She laughed and laughed until there were tears in her eyes.
- d) Struck dumb with wonder, Valli gaped at everything.

Speaking

This story has a lot of people talking in it. The conductor jokes and laughs with Valli, some passengers try to show their concern for her, and her mother and her aunt spend time chatting.

Read the conversation carefully. Then think of similar people, or similar situations that you have experienced. Mimic a person or person who spoke to you, saying what they said, along with your replies.

Ans: Do Yourself.

Writing

Write a page- about three paragraphs- on one of the following topics.

1. Have you ever planned something entirely on your own, without taking grown-ups into your confidence? What did you plan, and how? Did you carry out your plan?
2. Have you made a journey that was unforgettable in some way? What made it memorable?
3. Are you concerned about traffic and road safety? What are your concerns? How would you make road travel safer and more enjoyable?

Ans: 1. Yes. Once I planned to visit Guwahati on my own. I learnt from one of my neighbors how to go there. Some other information's were with me. I planned to go to Paltan Bazaar and return in a train. Yes. I carried out my plan. None of our family could know.

2. Once I was returning from Mangaldi with my father in a bus. It was almost evening when we crossed Dhula on NH52. Suddenly a cow ran fast through the front of the bus. The driver tried to save the animal. As a result, the bus rolled down the paddy field in a wink. It was about to hit a tree but luckily it stopped. No one was injured but the journey became unforgettable to each and every passenger of the bus.

3. Definitely, I am concerned above traffic and road safety. We have car and I some times drive it. So, I want to see that everyone observes traffic rules. I always strictly observe them as my father does. Traffic signals are my concern. Road travel can be made safe and enjoyable by obeying traffic rules.

Comprehension Questions and Answers

Q:- Read the passages carefully and answer the question by choosing the appropriate options given below:-

1. There was a girl named valliammai who was called Valli for short. She was right years old and very curious about things. Her favourite pastime was standing in the front door way of her house, watching what was happening in the street outside. There were no playmates of her own age on her street, and this was about all she had to do.

But for Valli, standing at the front door was very bit as enjoyable as any of the elaborate games other children played. Watching the street gave her many new unusual experiences.

Question :-

1. How old was Valli?

- a) Eight years.
- b) Nine years.
- c) Ten years.
- d) Five years.

Ans: a) Eight years.

2. What was her favorite past time?

- a) Wandering.
- b) Standing on the street.
- c) Sleeping.
- d) Standing in the front door way.

Ans: d) Standing in the front door way.

3. She did so because she had-

- a) Playmates.
- b) No playmates.
- c) Nothing to do.
- d) Games to play.

Ans: b) No playmates.

4. What did she get watching the street?

- a) Enjoyment.
- b) Pleasure.
- c) Experience.
- d) Many new unusual experiences.

Ans: d) Many new unusual experiences.

2. Day after day 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, 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 as a slang expression of disapproval.

Question :-

1. What was the wish that crept into her head?

- a) To go to the town.
- b) To meet the passengers.
- c) To see the bus.
- d) To ride the bus.

Ans: d) To ride the bus.

2. Her overwhelming desire made her to-

- a) Stand constantly
- b) Go to the station
- c) Stare wistfully at the passengers.
- d) Meet the passengers curiously.

Ans: c) Stare wistfully at the passengers.

3. What was it that kindled in her longings?

- a) The view of the running bus.

- b) Strangers.
- c) People who saw the bus.
- d) The faces of the passengers.

Ans: d) The faces of the passengers.

4. Why did they use the word 'Proud!'?

- a) To prove that they knew English.
- b) As a fashion.
- c) As a slang expression of disapproval.
- d) To express satisfaction.

Ans: c) As a slang expression of disapproval.

3. It was the slack time of day, and 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. Avoiding everyone's eyes, she walked quickly to an empty seat and sat down.

"May we start now, madam"? the conductor asked, smiling. Then he blew his whistle twice, and the bus moved forward with a roar.

It was a new bus, its outside painted a gleaming white with some green stripes along the side. Inside, the overhead bars shone like silver. Directly in front of Valli, above the windshield, there was a beautiful clock. The seats were soft and luxurious.

Question :-

1. Why were there only six and seven passengers on the bus? Because

- a) Of rain.

b) Of cold.

c) It was the slack time of the day.

d) It was the busy time of the day.

Ans: c) It was the slack time of the day.

2. Who were looking at Valli?

a) The pedestrians.

b) The passengers.

c) The strangers.

d) The driver and the conductor.

Ans: b) The passengers.

3. The conductor blew his whistle-

a) Twice.

b) Once.

c) Thrice.

d) None of these.

Ans: a) Twice.

4. The seats were-

a) Soft.

b) Luxurious.

c) Comfortable.

d) Soft and luxurious.

Ans: d) Soft and luxurious.

4. Her first journey – what careful, painstaking, elaborate plans she had to make for it! She had throatily saved whatever stray coins came her way, resisting every temptation to buy peppermints, toys, balloons, and the like, and finally she had saved a total of sixty paise. How difficult it had been, particularly that day at the village fair, but she had resolutely stifled a strong desire to ride the merry-go-round, even though she had the money.

After she had enough money saved, her next problem was how to slip out of the house without her mother's knowledge. But she managed this without too much difficulty. Every day after lunch her mother would nap from about one to four or so. Valli always used these hours for her 'excursions' as she stood looking from the door way of her house or sometimes even ventured out into the village; today, these same hours could be used for her first excursion outside the village.

Question :-

1. How did Valli save money?

a) By collecting from her parents.

b) By not spending money on buying sweets.

c) By not giving to many to anyone.

d) By not spending money on peppermints, toys etc.

Ans: d) By not spending money on peppermints, toys etc.

2. She usually liked to buy-

a) Peppermints, toys, balloons etc.

b) Books.

c) Food items.

d) Play items.

Ans: a) Peppermints, toys, balloons etc.

3. Why did not she ride the merry-go-round?

a) She had no money.

b) She did not like to ride.

c) She was afraid to do so.

d) She had no save money.

Ans: d) She had no save money.

4. Why could she venture out outside after lunch?

a) None could see her at that time.

b) Her friends would come at that time.

c) Her mother look a nap at that time.

d) She liked these hours.

Ans: c) Her mother look a nap at that time.

Short Answer Type Questions

1. Who was valliammai?

Ans: Valliammai was a girl of eighty years. She was called Valli for short. She was very intelligent and curious to know about various things. She had no playmates of her age. So she used to stand in the front door way and watch what was happening outside.

2. What was the most fascinating thing for Valli?

Ans: The most fascinating thing for Valli was the bus that travelled between her village and the nearest town. It passed through her street each hour, once going to the town and then coming back. The sight of the bus with passengers gave her unending joy.

3. How did Valli come to know every detail about the bus?

Ans: Valli came to know every detail about the bus from the conversation between her neighbours and the passengers. She also asked a few discreet questions.

4. How did Valli board the bus?

Ans: One afternoon when the bus was just on the point of leaving the village Valli raised her hand and shouted commandingly to stop the bus. The bus stopped and she got into it without anyone's help.

5. What happened when an elderly woman entered the bus and sat beside Valli?

Ans: An elderly woman entered the bus and sat beside Valli finding the seat vacant. Valli found the woman absolutely repulsive. She was wearing ugly earrings and smelt betel nut. Valli thought no one could be sociable with such a person.

6. How did Valli plan her bus journey?

Ans: Valli made careful and elaborate plan to make her first bus journey. She thriftily saved money resisting every temptation to buy peppermints, toys etc. Finally, she decide to go out after lunch when her mother took a nap.

7. Why did Valli clap her hands in glee?

Ans: Valli saw a young cow that suddenly began to run along the middle of the road. She ran before the bus. The driver sounded the horn and the cow began to run even faster raising its tail before the bus. Valli enjoyed the scene and clapped her hands in glee.

8. What did Valli do when the bus reached the town?

Ans: When the bus reached the town the passenger got off the bus. But Valli didn't do so. She continued to sit. She told the conductor that she would go back on the same bus. She paid the fare.

9. What did Valli do when she travelled back home?

Ans: Valli enjoyed everything around her on her way back home with the same excitement she had felt the first time. But suddenly she saw the cow lying dead by the roadside. At once she was overcome with sadness, she stopped looking outside because life became charmless and horrible.

10. How did Valli's aunt react to Valli's comment?

Ans: Valli agreed to what her mother said about general things. She did this like a mature girl. So her aunt was astonished at such comment and remarked that such a little girl interfered in the talks of adults.

Long Answer Type Questions

1. What did Valli long for? What did she do to fulfill her desire?

Ans: Valli was eight years old. She had no playmates of her age. Her favourite pastime was to stand in the front door and watch what was happening outside. A bus ran from her village to the nearest town. She developed a strong desire to ride the bus. Gradually she began to long for the bus ride to see the world outside. Soon she started to put her desire on action. She collected every detail of the bus journey and thriftily saved the money needed for the purpose. For this she had to resist her temptation to buy peppermints, toys etc. She also finalised the time of her bus journey and one afternoon she boarded the bus to the town.

2. Describe how Valli reacted to the elderly man and woman in the bus?

Ans: One spring afternoon Valli got into the bus to the town. She wanted to see the scene outside. But the canvas blind of the bus covered the lower part of her window. So, she stood up on her seat. An elderly man addressed her as 'child' and asked her to sit lest she should fall. This annoyed Valli. At once she replied that she was not a child and paid the full fare.

Again a woman entered and sat beside her. She was repulsive and asked Valli a few questions. But Valli asked her not to bother for her.

3. What did Valli see on her way back home? How did she react?

Ans: Valli did not get down from the bus. She made her return journey on the same bus.

On her way back home she began to enjoy the outside scenes as she had done the first time. But suddenly she saw a cow lying dead by the road-side. She asked the conductor if it was the same cow that had run before their bus earlier. The conductor shook his head in agreement and Valli was overcome with sadness. The scene of the dead cow haunted her. She no longer wanted to look out of the window. She sat glued to her seat until the bus reached her village.