

Madam Rides the Bus – Revision Notes (Class 10 English)

Summary of the Lesson

- **Author:** Vallikkannan
 - **Protagonist:** Valli, an 8-year-old curious and mature girl.
 - Valli is fascinated by the bus that passes through her village. She wants to experience a ride herself.
 - Saves money (carefully, without wasting on toys or treats) to buy a ticket.
 - One day, she boards the bus secretly without telling her mother.
 - On the journey:
 - Observes fields, shops, canal, cattle, etc.
 - Notices other passengers and keenly observes their behavior.
 - Enjoys the ride but behaves like a “madam” (serious, independent, self-respecting).
 - She refuses offers of food and drinks from fellow passengers—shows dignity.
 - Sees a young cow hit and killed by a vehicle. This makes her sad and thoughtful—first real encounter with death.
 - Returns home quietly, her mother unaware of her adventure.
-

Themes

- Curiosity and desire for new experiences
 - Childhood innocence and maturity
 - Value of independence and self-respect
 - Harsh realities of life (death)
 - Observation as a tool of learning
-

Characters

- Valli → 8-year-old girl, curious, observant, independent, self-respecting.
 - Bus Conductor → Friendly, jovial, calls her “madam,” humors her seriousness.
 - Other Passengers → Add realism; one elderly woman with betel juice seems repulsive to Valli.
-







Message of the Lesson

- Children are curious explorers of the world.
 - Independence and self-respect are valuable qualities, even in childhood.
 - Life is not only about fun but also has harsh realities like death.
 - Small experiences can teach big life lessons.
-

Literary Devices

- Irony → A small girl behaves like a grown-up “madam.”
 - Imagery → Descriptions of bus ride, landscapes, cow, passengers.
 - Symbolism → The dead cow symbolizes life’s harsh truths.
-

Short Questions & Answers

1. Who is the author of *Madam Rides the Bus*?
 Vallikkannan.
2. How old was Valli?
 8 years old.
3. What fascinated Valli the most?
 The bus ride and the outside world seen from it.
4. How did Valli arrange money for the ticket?
 By saving carefully, not spending on toys, balloons, or treats.
5. Why did the conductor call her “madam”?
 Because of her serious, mature, and self-respecting behavior.
6. What disturbed Valli on the return journey?
 The sight of a dead cow that had been hit by a vehicle.

7. Did Valli's mother know about her adventure?

👉 No, she was completely unaware.

🌟 Long Q&A

Q1. Describe Valli's character as portrayed in the story.

Answer: Valli was an 8-year-old girl who was very curious and observant. She wanted to explore the world outside her village. She was determined and saved money for the bus ride. She was self-respecting, refusing gifts from strangers. Her curiosity was balanced with maturity, as she learned about the harsh truth of life (death of the cow).

Q2. What lesson did Valli learn from her bus journey?

Answer: Valli learned that life is not just about fun and enjoyment but also about harsh realities. She was excited during her onward journey but became thoughtful on seeing the dead cow. This experience exposed her to the seriousness of life and death.

Q3. How did Valli show that she was a mature and self-respecting girl?

Answer: Valli carefully saved money for the bus ride, showing determination. She behaved seriously during the ride, refused offers of food, and did not want to depend on anyone. Even when the conductor teased her, she replied with confidence. This showed her self-respect and maturity beyond her age.

🌱 Value-Based Q&A

1. What values can we learn from Valli's character?

👉 Curiosity, independence, determination, self-respect, observation, courage.

2. What does the story teach about childhood experiences?

👉 Even small adventures can leave deep impressions and life lessons on young minds.

✅ With this, you now have the complete revision notes for *Madam Rides the Bus*:

- Summary
- Themes, Characters, Message

- **Literary Devices**
- **Short & Long Q&A**
- **Value-based questions**