



Comprehension Check (Page 9)

1. Velu stood on the platform but he felt “as if he was still on a moving train.” Why?
2. What made him feel miserable?
3. (i) Velu travelled without a ticket. Why?
(ii) How did he escape the ticket collector’s attention?
4. Why had Velu run away from home?
5. Why did he decide to follow the strange girl?

Answers:

1. Velu had run away from home. Being a small boy he was naturally tired, hungry and afraid of the ticket examiner. He lay down near the compartment door. He could not get over the feeling that his train journey was over.
2. Velu was alone, tired and hungry. He didn’t have a ticket also. So he felt miserable.
3. (i) Velu travelled without a ticket because he had no money.
(ii) He escaped the ticket collector’s notice because the ticket collector did not come to that unreserved compartment.
4. Velu had run away from home because of the misdeeds of his father, who used to snatch all the money from him and his sister. He also beat the children.
5. Velu agreed to go after the ‘strange’ girl because he was hungry and the girl promised to get food for him.

Comprehension Check (Page 13)

1. Can Velu read Tamil and English? How do you know?
2. “If you are not careful, you will soon be counting bars there,” the girl said.
3. (i) What is she referring to?
(ii) What does she mean when she says “If you are not careful.”?
(She says something a little later which means the same. Find that sentence.)
4. (i) Where did the girl lead Velu to?
(ii) What did they get to eat?
5. What work did she do? (Think of a one-word answer).

Answers:

1. Velu could not read sign boards in English. But he read the Tamil sign on the Central jail.
2. (i) She is referring to Central jail.
(ii) She pointed out to Velu that doing wrong was not so important as escaping the police or getting caught.
The sentence is: ‘You don’t have to do anything. Just don’t get caught, that’s all’.
3. (i) The girl led Velu to a marriage hall.
(ii) They got some food from the garbage bin. It was leftover food.

