

Madam Rides the Bus

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

She saw a young cow running in the middle of the road in front of the bus, with its tail in the air. This sight made Valli clap and laugh loudly.

2. How did other passengers behave when they saw Valli in the bus?

The other passengers were surprised to see such a young girl travelling alone. Some were curious and questioned her, while others advised her to sit down carefully.

3. How did Valli pick up various small details about the bus journey?

Or

How did Valli gather information about the bus journey?

Or

How and what did Valli find out the bus journey?

Valli picked up details by listening to the conversations of neighbours and asking discreet questions. She learned about the timings, fare, and distance of the bus journey.

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

Valli saved money by resisting her temptations. She didn't buy toys, sweets, or balloons and saved every coin carefully to collect 60 paise for the journey.

5. How did Valli solve the problem of slipping out of the house without her mother's knowledge?

Or

How did Valli manage to slip out of the house?

Valli waited for her mother to take a nap in the afternoon. Then she quietly slipped out of the house and reached the bus stop without anyone noticing.

6. What was Valli's favourite past time?

Valli's favourite pastime was to stand at the front doorway of her house and watch what was happening in the street outside.

7. What was the inside of the bus like?

Or

Describe the inside of the bus.

The bus had soft and luxurious seats. It was newly painted and looked clean and bright. The overhead bars were shiny and the windows offered a good outside view.

8. Why did Valli stand up on the seat?

Valli stood up on the seat to look out of the window as her view was blocked by the high seat backs.

9. What could be seen outside as the bus was going along the bank of a canal?

Valli saw palm trees, grasslands, distant mountains, and blue sky as the bus moved along the canal. She found the scenery beautiful.

10. Write two sentences about the bus conductor's personality from your reading of "Madam Rides the Bus"?

The conductor was friendly and had a sense of humour. He treated Valli with respect and called her 'Madam' playfully.

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

Valli had seen a young cow dead on the road, which made her sad. The joy of the ride vanished, so she did not feel like looking out of the window again.

12. What does Valli mean when she says "I was just agreeing with what you said about things happening without our knowledge"?

Valli says this when her mother talks about how many things happen around us without our knowing. Valli agrees because she too had taken a bus ride without her mother's knowledge.

13. What sort of a man was the conductor?

The conductor was jolly and friendly. He enjoyed joking with Valli and treated her with care and respect during the journey.

14. What was Valli's strongest desire? Find the words and phrases in the story "Madam Rides the Bus" that tell you this.

Valli's strongest desire was to ride on the bus. The story says, "This wish became stronger and stronger until it was an overwhelming desire."

15. How did Valli plan her bus journey? What did she find out about the bus journey and how did she save up the bus fare?

Valli planned the journey by listening to others and asking questions. She found out that the town was six miles away, the fare was thirty paise one way, and the ride took 45 minutes. She saved money by giving up treats and toys.

16. What was a source of unending joy for Valli? What was her overwhelming desire?

The sight of the bus and the excitement of a journey were a source of joy for Valli. Her overwhelming desire was to ride the bus to the town.

17. Why does the conductor call Valli as "madam"?

The conductor calls Valli "madam" in a playful and respectful tone, because she acted like a grown-up and was travelling alone.

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

Valli was excited by simple things like a cow running or the bus ride. Her reactions, like clapping with joy or refusing help proudly, show a child's view of the world.

19. What kind of person is Valli?

Valli is curious, confident, and independent. She is also brave and determined to fulfil her desire of riding the bus alone.

20. Why did not Valli want to have a look at the sights in the Town?

Valli did not get down to look around the town because she had no money left and was afraid of missing the return bus.

21. Why did Valli refuse to accept the free treat offered by the conductor?

Valli refused the treat as she was self-respecting. She wanted to pay her own way and not take anything for free.

22. Find the lines in the text which make you confirm that Valli was enjoying her ride on the bus.

"She laughed and laughed until there were tears in her eyes." This line confirms that Valli was truly enjoying her bus ride.

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

Valli found the old woman unattractive and smelly. She didn't want to get friendly with her or share space with her.

24. Why did not Valli want to go the stall and have a drink? What does this tell you about her?

Valli refused the drink because she had no money left and didn't want to take a free treat. This shows she was disciplined and self-reliant.

25. What was the most fascinating thing for Valli? What did she wish to do?

The most fascinating thing for Valli was the bus ride to the town. She wished to experience the ride by herself.

26. "Valli's bus journey was a joy ride full of pleasant and new experience" – Why?

Valli's bus ride gave her new experiences—seeing new places, meeting people, and feeling independent. It brought her both joy and a life lesson.

27. Why did Valli find the old woman who sat beside her in the bus "absolutely repulsive"?

The old woman had betel juice in her mouth and it seemed to spill. She had big ears and wore earrings. Valli found her appearance and behaviour unpleasant.

28. What was the distance from Valli's village to the nearest town? What was the bus fare for a trip from Valli's village to the town?

The distance from the village to the town was six miles. The bus fare was thirty paise for one way.

29. Give a description of the bus in which Valli travelled.

The bus was new with white and green colours. The seats were soft, and the windows were large for a good outside view.

30. How did Valli feel on seeing the dead cow on the road?

Valli felt sad and shocked. The lifeless body of the cow reminded her of how joyful it looked earlier.

31. What did Valli see when she reached home?

When Valli reached home, she saw her mother chatting with her aunt. They didn't know she had gone anywhere.

32. Describe the view from the bus when it crossed the canal.

There were palm trees, green fields, mountains in the distance, and the blue sky. The scene was beautiful and peaceful.

33. Why did not Valli get off the bus at the bus station?

Valli didn't get off the bus because she had no money for anything else and had only come for the bus ride.

34. How do you know that Valli was not bored during the return journey?

Valli sat quietly and didn't look out much, but she was thinking about the dead cow. Though silent, she was not bored—just lost in thought.

35. State why Valli used to stand always in the front doorway of her house.

Valli loved watching the street outside. It was her favourite pastime and gave her a chance to observe the bus and people.

36. What was the tiny wish of Valli? How did that wish become an overwhelming desire?

Valli's tiny wish was to ride the bus. Over time, as she saw it daily and heard people talk, the wish grew into an overwhelming desire.

37. Why was Valli irritated when the old man referred to her as child?

Valli felt insulted. She wanted to be treated like a grown-up and didn't like being called a child.

38. How did Valli react on seeing the dead cow?

Valli became silent and sad. She was disturbed to see the lifeless cow and lost her interest in enjoying the view.

39. When and why did Valli clap her hands with glee?

She clapped her hands with glee when she saw a young cow running in front of the bus. The scene was funny and exciting for her.

40. Describe how the view of the dead cow haunted Valli? What did she learn from this incident?

Valli was deeply affected by the sight of the dead cow. It made her realise the harsh reality of life and death, and her joy disappeared.

41. "Oh please don't be angry with me, my fine madam" – Who is the speaker addressing as madam? Why is "madam" angry with the speaker?

The conductor is addressing Valli as "madam." Valli was upset when he offered her a drink and called her a child.

42. "Listen child," said the voice, "You should not stand like that, sit down" – Who is being asked to sit down and why?

Valli is being asked to sit down by another passenger or the conductor because it was not safe to stand while the bus was moving.

43. "Proud! Proud!" – Who is the speaker? When and why did the speaker say these words?

A passenger said these words when Valli refused to talk to the old woman. It showed that they found her behaviour proud or arrogant.

44. "Hey lady, haven't you laughed enough?" – Who is the lady? Why is she laughing?

The conductor calls Valli "lady" jokingly. She is laughing at the sight of a cow running in front of the bus.

45. "So many things in our midst and in the world outside. How can we do know about everything?" – Explain.

This means life is full of unseen or unknown things. We can't know everything that happens around us, just like Valli's mother didn't know her daughter went on a bus ride.

46. "A tiny wish crept in her head and grew there, she wanted to ride on that bus, even if just once. This wish became stronger and stronger" – Who said this and why?

The narrator says this to show how Valli's simple wish to ride the bus became her strongest desire.

47. "Won't your mother be looking for you?" – Who asked this question to whom? Why does she say so?

The conductor asked this question to Valli when she refused to get down and have a drink. He was concerned for her safety and thought her mother might worry.

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