Dele groaned and got out of bed. There was no clock on the mantel piece and the room was still dark, but he knew that he was already late for work, probably by an hour. He was a commercial bus driver and had to get started as early as 5.00a.m. and go almost non-stop till about 9.00 p.m. to be able to make the daily returns that the bus owner demanded.

On the previous day, he had attended an all-night party – a late uncle’s burial ceremony – where he had drunk himself almost senseless before crawling home in the early hours of the morning. Now, he got up shakily, splashed water on his face and hurried off to work, but not before carefully fastening on his upper left arm the amulet he had always worn for protection against accidents. A similar amulet hung concealed under the steering column of his bus. On his way, still feeling groggy, he caught his left toe against a stump and had some misgiving. It was a bad sign, and he was supposed to go back home and then set out again. But there was no time for that now, so he hurried on.

At the bus station, Dele quickly loaded his bus and sped off without any of the necessary checks on the vehicle. He had to make up for lost time. It was the rush hour, so the bus was overloaded as it often was, with many passengers hanging on to the doors. The tyres were threadbare, the brakes were faulty and the road was wet, but, still feeling a little sleepy, Dele sped on. Many passengers protested about his reckless driving, but he would not listen. After all, didn’t he have protection against accident?

As the vehicle took the last turn before its destination, Dele saw a broken-down truck blocking his side of the road. Under normal circumstances, he could have brought the bus safely to a halt, bur the circumstances were far from normal. The careering bus hit the parked vehicle, swerved wildly across the road and plunged into a ditch.

Dele’s surprise before he sank into oblivion was the failure of his supposedly protective amulets.

What started out as a typical day would soon turn into one of the most unusual days Harry ever had. His mom came in and woke him up at 7:00 so he could get ready for school. Breakfast was the same cereal he ate every day along with his banana and glass of juice. As he left, he grabbed his homework and backpack. He reminded his mom that he had a baseball game that night. He was on the bus when they began. He was involved in a conversation with his friends when, out of nowhere, he began to hiccup. He excused himself and thought that would be the end of it. Instead, it was only the beginning. He hiccupped again and again until, finally, one of his friends said, “Okay, Harry enough. You’re starting to bother me and everyone else on the bus.” The problem was they weren’t small inaudible hiccups. No, they were loud enough for everyone to hear. They also got to be painful. The hiccups persisted throughout the day. This had never happened to Harry before. His teacher tried to be understanding and suggested he get some water. When that didn’t work, one of the students tried to startle him as a way to stop the hiccups. Another student suggested he breathe into a bag. None of these remedies worked. Harry continued to hiccup. When they got to be too loud, everyone decided he should go see the nurse. His classmates did not want to be rude, but no one wanted to sit with him at lunch, so he sat at a table by himself. Harry thought the hiccups might go away when he started playing baseball. But, instead, he hiccupped and struck out. The coach told Harry it probably would be better if he sat out the rest of the game. That night when he tried to do his homework, all he could do was hiccup. What if he had the hiccups for the rest of his life? Upset and worn out, Harry went to bed. The last thing he remembered was hiccupping. The next morning when he woke up he opened his eyes and inhaled. All was normal. Harry was happy to be quiet that day.

Reviving the practice of using elements of popular music in classical composition, an approach that had been in hibernation in the United States during the 1960s, composer Philip Glass (born 1937) embraced the ethos of popular music in his compositions. Glass based two symphonies on music by rock musicians David Bowie and Brian Eno, but the symphonies' sound is distinctively his. Popular elements do not appear out of place in Glass's classical music, which from its early days has shared certain harmonies and rhythms with rock music. Yet this use of popular elements has not made Glass a composer of popular music. His music is not a version of popular music packaged to attract classical listeners; it is high art for listeners steeped in rock rather than the classics.

One day in 1924, five men who were camping in the Cascade Mountains of Washington saw a group of huge apelike creatures coming out of the woods. They hurried back to their cabin and locked themselves inside. While they were in, the creatures attacked them by throwing rocks against the walls of the cabin. After several hours, these strange hairy giants went back into the woods.

After this incident the men returned to the town and told the people of their adventure. However, only a few people accepted their story. These were the people who remembered hearing tales about footprints of an animal that walked like a human being.

The five men, however, were not the first people to have seen these creatures called Bigfoot. Long before their experience, local Native Americans were certain that a race of apelike animals had been living in the *neighboring*mountain for centuries. They called these creatures Sasquatch.

In 1958, workmen, who were building a road through the jungles of Northern California often found huge footprints in the earth around their camp.

Then in 1967, Roger Patterson, a man who was interested in finding Bigfoot went into the northern California jungles with a friend. While riding, they were suddenly thrown off from their horses. Patterson saw a tall apelike animal standing not far away. He managed to shoot seven rolls of film of the hairy creature before the animal disappeared in the hushes. when Patterson's film was shown to the public, not many people believed his story.

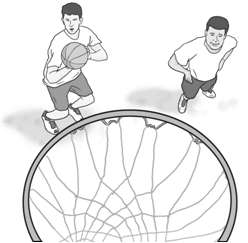
In another incident, Richard Brown, a music teacher and also an experience hunter spotted a similar creature. He saw the animal clearly through the telescopic lens of his rifle. He said the creature looked more like a human than an animal.

Later many other people also found deep footprints in the same area. In spite of regular reports of sightings and footprints, most experts still do not believe that Bigfoot really exists.

On Saturday, December 12th, from 10 A.M. until 4 P.M., Carverton Middle School will be holding a music festival in the school gymnasium. The special event will feature a variety of professional musicians and singers.

| **Task** | **Time** | **Date** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Make posters | 1 P.M.–4 P.M. | December 5th |
| Set up gym | 11 A.M.–4 P.M. | December 11th |
| Help performers | 9 A.M.–4 P.M. | December 12th |
| Welcome guests | 10 A.M.–2 P.M. | December 12th |
| Clean up gym | 4 P.M.–7 P.M. | December 12th |

Interested students should speak with Ms. Braxton, the music teacher. Students who would like to help at the festival must have written permission from a parent or guardian.

1. "Did you see that?" Joe said to his friend Bill.
2. "You're a great shooter!"
3. Bill caught the basketball and bounced it before
4. throwing it again. The ball flew into the net.
5. "Bill, you never miss!" Joe said admiringly.
6. "Unless I'm in a real game," Bill complained.
7. "Then I miss all the time."
8. Joe knew that Bill was right. Bill performed much
9. better when he was having fun with Joe in the school
10. yard than he did when he was playing for the school
11. team in front of a large crowd.
12. "Maybe you just need to practice more," Joe suggested.
13. "But I practice all the time with you!" Bill objected.
14. He shook his head. "I just can't play well when people are
15. watching me."
16. "You play well when I'm watching," Joe pointed out.
17. "That's because I've known you since we were five
18. years old," Bill said with a smile. "I'm just not
19. comfortable playing when other people are around."
20. Joe nodded and understood, but he also had an idea.
21. The next day Joe and Bill met in the school yard again
22. to practice. After a few minutes, Joe excused himself.
23. "Practice without me," Joe said to his friend. "I'll be
24. back in a minute."
25. Joe hurried through the school building, gathering
26. together whomever he could find—two students, a math
27. 
28. teacher, two secretaries, and a janitor. When Joe explained
29. why he needed them, everyone was happy to help.
30. Joe reminded the group to stay quiet as they all went
31. toward the school's basketball court. As Joe had hoped,
32. Bill was still practicing basketball. He made five
33. baskets in a row without noticing the silent people
34. standing behind him.
35. "Hey, Bill!" Joe called out finally.
36. Bill turned. A look of surprise came over his face.
37. "I just wanted to show you that you could play well
38. with people watching you," Joe said. "Now you'll have
39. nothing to worry about for the next game!"
40. When another old cave is discovered in the south of
41. France, it is not usually news. Rather, it
42. is an ordinary event. Such discoveries are so frequent
43. these days that hardly anybody pays heed to them.
44. However, when the Lascaux cave complex was
45. discovered in 1940, the world was amazed. Painted
46. directly on its walls were hundreds of scenes showing
47. how people lived thousands of years ago. The scenes
48. show people hunting animals, such as bison or wild
49. cats. Other images depict birds and, most noticeably,
50. horses, which appear in more than 300 wall images,
51. by far outnumbering all other animals.
52. Early artists drawing these animals accomplished
53. a monumental and difficult task. They did not limit
54. themselves to the easily accessible walls but carried
55. their painting materials to spaces that required climbing
56. steep walls or crawling into narrow passages in the
57. Lascaux complex. Unfortunately, the paintings have
58. been exposed to the destructive action of water and
59. temperature changes, which easily wear the images
60. away. Because the Lascaux caves have many
61. entrances, air movement has also damaged the
62. images inside. Although they are not out in the
63. open air, where natural light would have destroyed
64. them long ago, many of the images have deteriorated
65. and are barely recognizable. To prevent further
66. damage, the site was closed to tourists in 1963,
67. 23 years after it was discovered.

