

Madam Rides the Bus

QUESTION ANSWERS

Q1. What kind of a person was Valli?

Answer:

Valli was a curious, keen observer who had strong willpower and determination. She was bold, brave and self-respective! She had immense self-confidence and wanted to do everything on her own. she was innocent, highly sensitive, intelligent and a very careful planner.

Q2. Why did Valli want to ride on the bus?

Answer:

Valli used to watch the bus on its hourly rounds through her street every day. The sight of the bus filled with new passengers, every time gave her unending joy. She was curious and wished to ride it once. So, she wanted to ride on the bus to enjoy it.

Q3. How did Valli plan for her first journey?

Answer:

Valli made careful and painstaking plans for her first journey. She saved every penny, cut down on her expenses and resisted all the temptations to save sixty paise for the fare. She gathered the information from the passengers and neighbours. She calculated the time required and chose the afternoon, as her mother would take a nap during that time. All this shows that she was a meticulous planner.

Q4. What did Valli do after she got on the bus?

Answer:

She got into the bus and she looked at everything very thoroughly. When she looked outside she found her view cut off by the canvas blind that covered the lower part of her window. So she stood upon the seat and peered over the blind.

Q5. What did Valli see out of the window on her first journey?

Answer:

Valli saw nature's grandeur out of the bus window. She saw the green bank of a canal with palm trees and mountains in the background and the blue sky. On the other side, she saw a deep ditch and green fields. She saw other vehicles, a young cow running in front of the bus. She later saw it dead.

Q6. What did Valli find when she entered her house after the ride from the bus?

Answer:

Valli entered her house after the ride from the bus. Her mother was awake and talking to one of her aunts. She was from South Street and was a real chatterbox. She would never close her mouth once she started talking.

Q7. How did Valli arrange for her bus fare?

Answer:

Valli arranged for her bus fare meticulously. For her first journey outside the village, Valli needed sixty paise for the two-way fare of the bus. She needed some knowledge and ample time. She saved the money herself, collected the information from the passengers and utilized the time of her mother's nap for it.

Q8. What did Valli's mother say about the things happening without her knowledge?

Answer:

Valli's mother said that so many things happen amidst us and in the world outside. We cannot know everything. When we know about something we often cannot understand it completely.

Q9. What was Valli's favourite pastime?

Answer:

Valli was a Tamil girl. She had no playmates. It was her favourite pastime to stand in the doorway of her house. Thus she was able to watch all that was going on there. In a way, she had attained too many unusual experiences.

Q10. What was a source of unending joy for Valli? What was her strongest desire?

Answer:

Valli was deeply attracted to the bus. She had the strongest desire to ride in it. It travelled between her village and the nearest town at an interval of an hour. The sight of the bus and passengers had been the source of unending joy for her.

Q11. What did Valli find out about the bus journey? How did she find out these details?

Answer:

Valli used to look at the faces of the daily travellers on the bus. Very often she listened to the conversations held between her neighbours and the passengers. Sometimes she also asked questions from them.

Q12. What do you think Valli was planning to do?

Answer:

Valli was a clever girl. She was planning to travel in bus. She was calculating the time needed for the trip. The trip of the town took forty-five minutes. It came to her mind to take the afternoon bus of one o'clock. She would return by two forty-five.

Q13. Why does Valli stand up on the seat? What does she see now?

Answer:

Valli stands up on her seat. She has a keen desire to see everything with her own eyes. So she starts to look outside. She sees that the bus is going along the bank of a canal. The road is very narrow. Beyond it were the palm trees, mountains, fields etc.

Q14. What does Valli tell the elderly man when he calls her a child?

Answer:

Valli was a very smart girl. She had a superiority complex in her mind. She did not want herself to be called a child. On hearing herself as a child, she answered that there was no child. She had paid thirty paise like everyone else.

II. Read the extract and answer the following questions.

Question 1.

There was a girl named Valliammai who was called Valli for short. She was eight years old and very curious about things. Her favourite pastime was standing in the front doorway 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 every bit as enjoyable as any of the elaborate games other children played. Watching the street gave her many new unusual experiences.

- (i) What was the short name of the girl?
- (ii) What was Valli's favourite pastime?
- (iii) Why did she spend her time all alone?
- (iv) Pick out the word from the passage that means the same as 'uncommon'.

Answer:

- (i) Valli was the short name of the girl.
- (ii) Valli's favourite pastime was standing in the front doorway of her house.
- (iii) She spent her time all alone because she had no playmates of her own age in her street.
- (iv) 'unusual'.

Question 2.

Over many days and months, Valli listened carefully to conversations between her neighbours and people who regularly used the bus, and she also asked a few discreet questions here and there. This way she picked up various small details about the bus journey. The town was six miles from her village. The fare was thirty paise one way- "which is almost nothing at all," "she heard one well-dressed man say, but to Valli, who scarcely saw that much money from one month to the next, it seemed a fortune. The trip to the town took forty-five minutes. On reaching the town, if she stayed in her seat and paid another thirty paise, she could return home on the same bus. This meant that she could take the one-o'clock afternoon bus, reach the town at one forty-five, and be back home by about two forty-five. On and on went her thoughts as she calculated and recalculated, planned and replanned.

- (i) How did Valli know details about this bus journey?
- (ii) What was the distance of the town from Valli's village?
- (iii) How did she pay for her journey?
- (iv) Pick out the words from the passage that means the same as—'careful questions'.

Answer:

- (i) Valli knew details about the bus journey from the conversations between her neighbours and commuters.
- (ii) The distance of the town from Valli's village was six miles.
- (iii) She paid thirty paise for her bus journey.
- (iv) 'discreet questions'
