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PROSE





Madam Rides the Bus

— Vallikkannan



'Madam Rides the Bus' is a story about an eight-year-old girl named Valli. She longs to take her first bus journey to the nearest town all alone. She saves money for the same. One afternoon, her mother goes to take a nap; she gets out of the house to take the bus journey. On the way, she sees beautiful scenes and merchandise at shops in the town. While returning, she comes across some harsh realities of life that makes her wiser.

Topic Notes

-  Characters in Brief
-  Chapter in Detail
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Characters in Brief

Valli

Valliammai or Valli was an eight-year old village girl. She had a wish of going on a bus journey to the nearest town alone. She was a confident girl who planned the journey intelligently. She started by saving money for her bus ride by resisting all sorts of temptations around her. She was a clever girl who could look after herself properly. Her speech exuded confidence for a girl of her age. Although her first journey was filled with excitement, she learned the harsh realities of life during it.

Bus Conductor

The bus conductor was a man of cheerful disposition. He was surprised to see Valli's conduct and her will to travel on the bus alone at the age of eight. He was a helpful person. He was impressed by Valli's confidence and called her 'madam'. He was a soft-natured, polite conductor who knew how to deal with different passengers.

Chapter in Detail

Valli Desires a Bus Ride

Valli was an eight-year old village girl who had no playmate of her age. She used to stand at the doorway of her house and watch the happenings of the street. She experienced many vivid things by looking at the life outside her home. Her favourite time of the day was an hour during mid-day when a bus used to shuttle between her village and the nearest town. She used to get excited by looking at the people in the bus. Looking at the bus for days, she developed a strong desire to ride it.

Example 1. What was Valli's favourite pastime?

[NCERT]

Ans. Valli's favourite pastime was to stand at the doorway of her house and to look at the happenings of the street.

Valli Gathers Information about the Bus Journey

Valli tried to gather information about the bus journey through her neighbours and other people who frequently travelled through that bus. She asked various questions to the people about how to ride the bus. She gathered all the necessary information about the bus ride. She learnt the distance from her village to the nearest town, the fare charged for one-way and that if she took the one O'clock bus, she would be able to return by two forty-five the same day. She calculated the details and made a wise plan as to how to ride the bus.

Example 2. What do you think Valli was planning to do?

[NCERT]

Ans. Valli was planning to go on a bus ride all by herself. She wanted to return by the same bus the same day.

Valli Rides the Bus

One fine spring day, Valli sneaked out of the house in the afternoon when her mother was taking a nap. When she was boarding the bus, the conductor

offered her his hand to help her climb up the bus to which she denied. She showed him the money for the bus fare and stepped onto the bus. Her lady-like gestures and confidence amused the conductor. He jokingly called her 'madam'. Valli got shy as all the other passengers were looking at her. She walked to a vacant seat and sat there.

Example 3. Why does the conductor call Valli 'madam'?

[NCERT]

Ans. The conductor calls Valli 'madam' because he was impressed by the lady-like confidence that she exuded in the bus. She bought herself the bus ticket and answered all the questions of the conductor like a mature woman. She firmly declined any help given by the conductor.

Valli's Excitement in the Bus

The bus was new and it was painted white with green stripes. Valli noticed everything on the bus very carefully. The canvas blind of the window had cut-off half of her outside view, for which she had chosen the window seat. So, to look outside, she stood up on her seat to take a view from the upper half of the window. Although she was just eight-year old, she didn't like it if anyone called her a 'child' or 'madam'. She made that clear to the conductor and all the passengers on the bus. Valli insisted on standing on her seat to take a view of the outside even after a gentleman advised her to sit as she would otherwise get hurt. But when the other passengers started coming in, she sat on her seat fearing to lose her seat.

Valli Views Outside the Bus

When Valli saw outside the bus, she got excited to see the views of trees and fields passing by. She burst out laughing upon a cow that was running with her tail in the air, in the middle of the road and in front of the bus. When the bus reached the town after crossing the railroad, Valli got happy by seeing the 'bright-looking shops' which were laden with a lot of merchandise. When the conductor asked Valli why she wasn't getting off the bus, she replied that she

intended to go back to her village by the same bus. She took out another thirty paise from her pocket and gave it to the conductor as her return ticket.

Example 4. Why didn't Valli want to go to the stall and have a drink? What does this tell you about her? [NCERT]

Ans. Valli didn't want to go to the stall and have a drink because she wanted to save money to buy the ticket for her return journey. This tells us that Valli was a meticulous girl who planned her journey cleverly by retaining herself from all sort of entertainments and temptations.

The Dead Cow Depresses Valli

The conductor asked Valli if her mother would be looking for her. The defiant Valli said that nobody would be looking for her. Valli was equally excited by looking at the same scenes and views on her return journey as at the start of it. However, she was shocked to see that the cow that was running freely in the middle of the road in front of the bus, when it was going to the town, was lying dead at the side of the road now. She was depressed by the scene. She didn't want to look out of the window anymore. Valli remained stuck to her seat the entire journey after that, till the bus reached the village. The sad incident dampened Valli's excitement about her bus ride.

Example 5. Why does Valli refuse to look out of the window on her way back? [NCERT]

Ans. Valli refuses to look out of the window on her way back because she sees the dead body of the same cow that was running in front of the bus on her onward journey. The sight of the dead cow makes her sad and dampens her excitement to look out of the window.

Valli Returns Home

The bus reached Valli's village at three forty. She told the bus conductor that she would again ride the bus. When Valli reached home, she saw her mother talking to one of her aunts. The two ladies were talking casually about the matters of the outside world. Valli's mother was saying that it wasn't possible for the ladies of the house to know the matters of outside and also that it wasn't easy to understand those worldly matters. To this, Valli replied, "Oh, yes". Valli's reaction surprised both her mother and her aunt. When they asked Valli about it, she just smiled mysteriously.

Example 6. Extract Based:

Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

"Day after day she watched the bus, and gradually a tiny wish crept into her head and grew there: she wanted to ride on that bus, even if it was just once. This wish became stronger, until it was an

overwhelming desire. Valli would stare wistfully at the people who got on and off the bus when it stood at the street corner. Their faces would kindle in her longings, dreams, and hopes. If one of her friends happened to ride the bus and tried to describe the sights of the town to her. Valli would be jealous to listen and would shout, in English: "Proud! Proud!"

[CBSE Question Bank 2021]

- (A) Valli would stare wistfully at the people as she:
- had been watching the bus for a long time.
 - was inspired by the people travelling on the bus.
 - had a strong desire to take a ride on the bus.
 - envied the people who could travel on the bus.
- (B) Pick the option that shows the list of words that collocate with 'overwhelming'.
- (e.g. overwhelming desire)
- response
 - lies
 - support
 - majority
 - pets
 - places
- (a) (1), (5) & (6) (b) (1), (3) & (4)
 (c) (2) & (5) (d) (3), (5) & (6)
- (C) 'Valli would be jealous to listen...' This indicates Valli's:
- longing to ride the bus.
 - nature as an envious person.
 - denial to accept her situation.
 - inclination to trouble travellers.
- (D) A part of the extract has been paraphrased. Choose the option that includes the most appropriate solution to the blanks:
- The desire became so (1) that it transformed into an (2) one. Valli would look (3) at people who boarded the bus and got off.
- (1) active (2) overt (3) longingly
 - (1) vigorous (2) overpowering (3) cheerfully
 - (1) staunch (2) overt (3) joyfully
 - (1) vigorous (2) overpowering (3) longingly
- (E) What does the line 'gradually a tiny wish crept into her head and grew there', means?
- The wish developed in her head over a period of time.
 - The wish was a feeling of wanting to prove her strength.
 - The wish was planted in her head by someone's suggestion.
 - The wish was small and was overpowered by a sense of doubt.

Ans. (A) (c) had a strong desire to take a ride on the bus.

Explanation: The term 'wistfully' means 'longing'. Valli desired to take a bus ride. She stared wistfully at the people who rode the bus as it was her 'overwhelming desire'. Hence, (c) is the right answer.

(B) (b) (1), (3) & (4)

Explanation: The word 'overwhelming' collocates with (1) responses, (3) support, and (4) majority. It doesn't collocate with (2) lies, (5) pets and (6) places. Hence, (b) is the right answer.

(C) (a) longing to ride the bus.

Explanation: Valli used to be jealous of people who would ride the bus as she had an overwhelming desire to ride the bus herself.

This shows her longing to ride the bus. Hence, (a) is the right answer.

(D) (d) (1) vigorous (2) overpowering (3) longingly

Explanation: Valli's desire became vigorous, not staunch or active. It transformed into an overpowering one, not overt. Valli would look longingly at people who boarded the bus, not cheerfully or joyfully. Hence, (d) is the correct answer.

(E) (a) The wish developed in her head over a period of time.

Explanation: It is clear from the extract that by looking at the people who boarded the bus, Valli longed for a bus ride. The tiny wish of hers grew into an overwhelming desire over the period of time.



Learnings

- Children are not always as ignorant or vulnerable as adults think them to be. They are full of curiosity to explore life around them.
- They are keen to experience the things that catch their attention.
- One can accomplish his/her dream at any age.
- Death is an integral and inevitable part of life.
- Life doesn't come to a standstill by anybody's death. It goes on endlessly.



Dictionary

| Word | Meaning | Synonyms | Antonyms |
|-------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| Fascinating | extremely interesting | engrossing, captivating | boring, dull |
| Devoured | to eat up greedily or hastily | gobble, gorge | disgorge, nibble |
| Drivel | to talk in foolish way | nonsense, gibberish | sensible, wise |
| Curtly | sharply or shortly | concisely, briefly | comprehensively, elaborately |
| Dampening | to decrease | diminish, reduce | increase, heighten |

OBJECTIVE Types Questions

[1 mark]

Extract Based Questions

1. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

"Yes, I'm travelling alone," she answered curtly. And I've got a ticket too.' 'Yes she's on her way to town,' said the conductor. 'With a thirty paise ticket.' 'Oh, why don't you mind your own business,' said Valli. But she laughed all the same, and the conductor laughed too. But the old woman went on with her drivel. 'Is it proper for such a young person to travel alone? Do you know exactly where you're going in town?

What's the street? What's the house number? 'You needn't bother about me. I can take care of myself,' Valli said, turning her face towards the window and staring out."

[CBSE Question Bank 2021]

(A) Pick the option that matches the expressions with 'mind' correctly.

| Expression | Meaning |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------|
| (1) bring to mind | (I) be receptive to someone's ideas |

| Expression | Meaning |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| (2) be in two minds | (II) think about only one subject |
| (3) have an open mind | (III) recall something |
| (4) put your mind at ease | (IV) undecided |
| | (V) reassure you |
| | (VI) reach a decision |

- (a) (1)-(VI), (2)-(III), (3)-(I), (4)-(IV)
 (b) (1)-(III), (2)-(IV), (3)-(I), (4)-(V)
 (c) (1)-(II), (2)-(VI), (3)-(V), (4)-(I)
 (d) (1)-(VI), (2)-(IV), (3)-(III), (4)-(II)
- (B) Valli told the conductor to mind his own business and laughed as well. This shows that Valli ...
- (a) was not bothered about what the conductor said.
 (b) didn't like the conductor speaking about her.
 (c) disliked what the conductor said but was amused.
 (d) was impressed with what the conductor said.
- (C) The old woman went on with her drivel. Why is the word 'drivel' used here?
 It is used to show that the old woman
- (a) was talking incessantly.
 (b) kept muttering a lot of nonsense.
 (c) was volunteering advice on request.
 (d) spoke non-stop about herself.
- (D) ② The old woman asked her questions:
- (a) due to anxiety about Valli travelling alone.
 (b) out of curiosity and concern for Valli.
 (c) interest in Valli's life and need for travel.
 (d) due to the habit of interfering in Valli's life.
- (E) How do you think Valli felt when the old woman asked her questions?
 Pick the option that best describes her feelings.
- (a) (1) irritated (2) agitated
 (b) (1) concerned (2) upset
 (c) (1) upset (2) agitated
 (d) (1) upset (2) irritated

Ans. (A) (1)-(III), (2)-(IV), (3)-(I), (4)-(V)

Explanation: The phrase 'bring to mind' means to remember something. 'Be in

two minds' means to be undecided. 'Have an open mind' means to be receptive to someone's ideas. 'Put your mind at ease' means reassure someone.

- (B) (c) *disliked what the conductor said but was amused.*

Explanation: Valli got angry and laughed at the conductor as well. This shows that Valli disliked what the conductor said but was also amused by it. Hence, (c) is the right answer.

- (C) (b) *kept muttering a lot of nonsense.*

Explanation: The word 'drivel' means to talk nonsensically. Here, the woman was (b) talking a lot of nonsense. She wasn't (a) talking incessantly, (c) volunteering advice on request or (d) speaking non-stop about herself. Hence, (b) is the right answer.

- (E) (a) (1) *irritated* (2) *agitated*

Explanation: When the woman asked a lot of questions to Valli, she answered curtly. 'Curtly' means to say something in brief. This shows that Valli was getting irritated by the woman's questions. At last, she said "You needn't bother about me. I can take care of myself, agitatedly. Hence, (a) is the right answer.

2. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

THERE was a girl named Valliammai who was called Valli for short. She was eight-year 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.

- (A) Choose the statement that is NOT true about Valli.

- (a) Valli was an eight-year old girl.
 (b) She had a lot of friends to play with.
 (c) Her favourite pastime was to stand in the front doorway of her house.
 (d) Watching the street gave her many unusual experiences.

- (B) 'Watching the street gave her many new unusual experiences.' What was Valli's favourite experience?

- (a) watching the kids play
 (b) watching ladies go to the market

(c) watching the bus pass through her village.

(d) watching the street vendors

(C) Which of the following is Valli's characteristic?

(a) immature (b) inquisitive

(c) timid (d) rude

(D) Pick the word that does NOT relate to 'unusual'.

(a) strange (b) unconventional

(c) outlandish (d) orthodox

(E) Which word is similar to 'playmate'?

(a) chum (b) foe

(c) enemy (d) opponent

Ans. (A) (b) She had a lot of friends to play with

Explanation: It is clear from the extract that (a) Valli was an eight-year old girl, (c) Her favourite pastime was to stand in the front doorway of her house and (d) Watching the street gave her many unusual experiences. But, (b) isn't true as 'there were no playmates of her age on her street.' Hence, (b) is the correct answer.

(B) (c) watching the bus passing through her village.

Explanation: As per the text, Valli's favourite pastime was to (c) watch the bus passing through her village which she could see from the front of her house in the street. Hence (c) is the right answer.

(C) (b) inquisitive

Explanation: It is clear from the extract that Valli was 'curious, another word for inquisitive'. Hence, (b) is the right answer.

(D) (d) orthodox

Explanation: The term 'unusual' means odd or uncommon. Here, options (a), (b), and (c) are all similar to 'unusual' while (d) orthodox means regular or common. Hence, (d) is the right answer.

(E) (a) chum

Explanation: Option (a) chum means a friend while options (b), (c) and (d) mean enemy. Hence, (a) is the right answer.

3. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

The conductor was a jolly sort, fond of joking. "Oh, please don't be angry with me, my fine madam," he said. "Here, have a seat right up

there in front. Everybody move aside please — make way for madam." It was the slack time of day, and there were only six or seven passengers on the bus. They were all looking at Valli and laughing with the conductor. Valli was overcome with shyness. Avoiding everyone's eyes, she walked quickly to an empty seat and sat down.

(A) How was the bus conductor?

(a) chucklesome (b) wicked

(c) rude (d) depressed

(B) ② 'It was the slack time of day, and there were only six or seven passengers on the bus.' Slack time means:

(a) tight schedule with much activity

(b) schedule with no activity

(c) tight schedule with less activity

(d) loose schedule with less activity

(C) What were Valli's emotions when she stepped on the bus?

(a) sad (b) annoyed

(c) shy (d) tensed

(D) Pick the word that does NOT relate to 'overcome'.

(a) conquer (b) flunk

(c) master (d) defeat

(E) Which word is NOT similar to 'jolly'?

(a) jovial (b) happy

(c) cheerful (d) gloomy

Ans. (A) (a) chucklesome

Explanation: It is clear from the extract that 'the conductor was a jolly sort, fond of joking'. Hence, (a) is the right answer.

(C) (c) shy

Explanation: When Valli stepped into the bus, she was (c) shy as 'avoiding everyone's eyes, she walked quickly to an empty seat and sat down.' Hence, (c) is the right answer.

(D) (b) flunk

Explanation: The term 'overcome' means to control. Here, options (a), (c) and (d) means to overcome while (b) flunk means to fail. Hence, (b) is the right answer.

(E) (d) gloomy

Explanation: The term 'jolly' means happy. Options (a), (b) and (c) are all similar to 'jolly' while (d) gloomy means sad. Hence, (d) is the right answer.

SUBJECTIVE Type Questions

Short Answer Type-I Questions (SA-I) [2 marks]

Answer the following questions in 20-30 words:

4. What was the most fascinating thing that Valli saw on the street? [CBSE 2019]

Ans. The most fascinating thing that Valli saw on the street was the bus that travelled between the village and the nearest town. The sight of the bus loaded with passengers was a source of unending joy for Valli.

5. ② How did Valli save money to travel by bus? [CBSE 2013]

6. How did Valli feel about seeing the dead cow on the road? [CBSE 2014]

Ans. When Valli saw the dead cow on the roadside, she became extremely sad and pensive. The dreadful event dampened her enthusiasm so much so that she had no more desire to look out of the window and kept glued to her seat till she reached the village.

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

Ans. On her journey to the city, Valli saw a young cow that was running very fast, right in the middle of the road, in front of the bus. The driver honked to remove the cow to the side of the road but it got scared and hence, ran even faster. The funny sight of the cow made Valli laugh.

8. ② Why didn't she get off the bus at the bus station?

9. During her journey, Valli observed the natural beauty and clapped her hands in happiness on seeing a young cow running very fast. What does this reveal about Valli? [CBSE Question Bank 2021]

Ans. When Valli saw the natural beauty and the running cow during her bus journey, she was bemused. This tells us that even though Valli had planned the journey all alone, she was still a child who got happy looking at the outside world.

10. How did Valliammai gather the information about the bus ride?

Ans. Valli gathered the information by asking various questions to the people who travelled on the bus from the village to the town. She also talked to the neighbours.

11. Why does Valli stand up on the seat? What does she see now? [CBSE 2013]

Ans. The canvas blind of the window has cut-off half of Valli's outside view from the window. So, she stands up on her seat to take a view from the upper half of the window. Now, she can see green fields and canals.

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

Ans. Valli sees that the young cow that was running on her onward journey was lying dead by the roadside. The sight of the dead cow haunts her, dampening her enthusiasm. So, she refuses to look out of the window on her way back.

13. Why does the conductor refer to Valli as 'madam'?

Ans. The conductor is amused to see an eight-year old girl behaving like an adult and in jest, he calls her 'madam'.

Short Answer Type-II Questions (SA-II) [3 marks]

Answer the following questions in 40-50 words:

14. Imagine you come across a little girl travelling alone on a bus. Write down any two questions you would ask her and your reasons for asking them.

Ans. I would ask the girl the following two questions:

- (1) Are you travelling with a family member or are you alone?

Reason: I would want to ensure if the girl is being accompanied by someone who is known to her or if she is travelling all alone.

- (2) Do you know the details of the location that you are visiting?

Reason: I would ask her if she knows the details of the place she wants to visit to ensure she doesn't get lost in the city, especially when she is travelling all alone.

15. ② If you were to advise Valli on any two things she ought to take with her if she was travelling alone for the first time, what would they be and why?

[CBSE Question Bank 2021]

16. Do you think Valli's mother would have taken her for the bus ride if she had requested her to do so? Why/ Why not?

Ans. Yes, I think if Valli would have asked her mother to take her for the bus ride, her mother would have surely taken her for that. It wasn't a long-distance journey or an expensive one. If it was possible for Valli to save the money and gather the details for the bus fare, it would be easier for her mother to do that and a mother would never say 'no' to any small desire of a child.

17. Imagine Valli had to plan a day-long budget trip to a domestic destination for her family all by herself. What things do you think she would keep in mind while planning?

Ans. If Valli had to plan a day-long budget trip to a domestic destination for her family all by herself, she would keep many things in her mind like the details of the journey, bus fare, location of the destination, timings of the bus, etc.

18. ② 'How did Valli save up money for her first journey? Was it easy for her?

19. Give examples from the text to show that Valli was a meticulous planner? [CBSE 2014]

Ans. Valli was a keen observer as well as a meticulous planner. She had collected all the useful information by observing the passengers everyday and by making discreet inquiries about the timings, duration and fare for the ride. She saved every penny to finance her trip and finally accomplished it by the efficient execution of her plans.

Long Answer Type Questions (LA)

[5 marks]

Answer the following questions in 100-120 words:

20. ② Valli sneaked out of the house when her mother was asleep. Her mother didn't get to know that Valli was out for a bus ride all alone.

Imagine yourself as the author of 'Madam

Rides the Bus' and write an imaginary conversation between Valli and her mother on Valli's return to home, regarding her absence from home.

21. ② Travelling teaches us many life lessons and enriches us with experiences. You and your classmate have a discussion on this statement and your love for travel.

Write the dialogue.

You may begin like this...

Friend: I think travelling is one of the best ways to explore not just the world around you but also helps you introspect about life itself.

You:

Friend: Travelling enriches us with so many varied experiences.

You: [CBSE Question Bank 2021]

22. ② After reading the story about Valli; you realise that she had such a small desire and demanded nothing from her mother.

After reflecting on this, you decide to write a diary entry on how you felt about the unreasonable demands you have posed to your parents.

You also realise that life is not all about materialistic possessions.

You may begin like this:

15 August 2020, Saturday 9:00 pm

I feel I have learnt a big lesson in life after reading about Valli. I feel ashamed for the way I have been

23. ② Compare the reactions of Valli while her journey onwards to the town and her return to the village.

24. If you were one of the passengers on the bus in which Valli was travelling, would you appreciate her taking the journey alone or would you discourage her decision?

Imagine yourself as the author of 'Madam Rides the Bus' and write an imaginary conversation between you and Valli to answer the question.

Ans. Valli: (to the bus conductor) Here's your money for the ticket, sir!

Me: Hey you little kid. Where are your parents? Whom are you travelling with?

Valli: Myself. I am a big girl now. I can travel all alone. Also, I have paid for the ticket fare myself.

Me: (shocking) What! Is there no one

accompanying you, dear? Well, this is insane. I know that you are a big girl now, but I believe not as big as to be able to travel alone. You should have taken someone along with you. Do your parents know about this journey?

Valli: No. My mother was asleep. But I will return to the town by the same bus itself. Do not worry about me, sir. I have calculated everything.

Me: What if the tyre of the bus gets punctured and you couldn't get back home in time? What will you do then Valli?

Valli: (*tensed*) Oh yes! You are right. I haven't thought about it at all. I will never travel alone from next time.

Me: Good girl!

25. ② **'Valli calculated everything about her first bus journey. From the bus fare to the timing-everything. She managed the journey easily as the conductor of the bus was helpful.**

Imagine yourself as the author of 'Madam Rides the Bus' and write an imaginary

conversation between Valli and the bus conductor if he were not as helpful as depicted in the text.

26. **An eight-year old girl travelling alone on a bus. Is it right on the girl's part to take this journey? What would have happened if she had informed her mother before leaving?**

Ans. An eight-year old girl travelling alone is quite an unusual scenario. It was not right on Valli's part to take this journey alone. Anything could have gone wrong with her during her journey. The bus might not have returned in time or would have returned the next day. She had not informed her mother about it so, if the bus had been delayed due to unknown reasons, her family wouldn't have known anything about their child. It was really fortunate that she got caring co-passengers and a helpful conductor. If Valli had informed her mother before leaving, either her mother would have refused to let her go alone or she would have accompanied her on the ride.



TOPPER'S CORNER

SUBJECTIVE Type Questions

Short Answer Type Questions (SA-II)

[3 marks]

1. We want to fulfil our desires. Some temptations always come in our way. We have to face them. How did Valli fight the temptations that came in her way and manage to fulfil her desire of enjoying a bus ride ?

Ans. Valli, a little girl, had an overwhelming desire to ride the bus that travelled from her village to the nearest town. She had to resolutely face many temptations to achieve this. She overheard the conversations between her neighbours and the regular bus drivers and gathered details about the trip, she even asked a few discreet questions here and there. She found out the trip one way was thirty paise and this was quite a fortune for her. But, with a determined heart she resisted every temptation in buying toys, peppermints, balloons, etc. She saved every stray coin that came her way thriftily. It had been particularly hard for her when they visited the village fair and she resisted going on the merry-go-round. This way she managed to save sixty paise for the bus ride. She also then made plans to travel on the bus during the afternoon, when her mother would be asleep. Thus, when we set our hearts to achieve our greatest desires, we have the fuel that drives us to accomplish that desire, resisting every temptation we encounter during the journey. This determination and strong will gives us enough strength to resist all challenges and boulders that come our way and help us emerge victorious and self-satisfied.

[CBSE Topper 2017]

Long Answer Type Questions (LA)

[5 marks]

2. Behaviour of the conductor in 'Madam Rides the Bus' is an example of good manners. Mentioning the instances of good manners shown by the conductor in the story, write how you can make your life happy by observing good manners.

Ans. The conductor in 'Madam rides the bus' was well-behaved and had good-manners. He offered help to Valli in order to get in the bus. Clearly, it is a very good habit. Also, he asked her if she knew whether she had to go. It was because if the little girl didn't know whether she had to go, she could be lost in the town. Further, she offered some

soft-drink to Valli in the town, which Valli firmly rejected. In this way the conductor shows many good manners like kindness, helpfulness, worry for child etc. We can also make our life happy by observing good habits. If there are good manners in us everyone would praise us. We could be called good citizens, good friends, good relatives which in turn will give us happiness.

[CBSE Topper 2014]

3. Give examples to show that Valli was a good planner.

Ans.

When the desire to ride the bus became very strong in Valli's mind, she decided to do so. For this, she listened to conversations between neighbours and regular users of the bus. She found out that the town was six miles away from her village, and it takes forty five minutes to reach town. The price for one ticket was 30 paise, and if she got in the same bus and paid another 30 paise, she could return to her street. She calculated that she could take the bus at one, when her mother would take a nap after lunch, and reach back by two forty-five. She saved with determination, the money she got. She calculated and recalculated, planned and re-planned. After all this, she decided to go for a ride in the bus. She also asked discreet questions to people who had travelled in the bus. This shows that Valli was a good planner.

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