

Chapter Review

- 'Madam Rides the Bus' is by Vallikkannan, a Tamil writer. The heroine, Valliammai (Valli), is an eight-year-old girl who is eager to ride a bus.
- Valli lived in a village with a bus passing by her house every day. Whenever she saw the bus, she wanted to ride it. She learned from a neighbour that the town was about six miles from her village.
- She saved a few coins in secret. One day she took out her savings and walked to the bus stop, boarding the bus, and the conductor asked her for tickets.
- The bus ride was beautiful. She sat by the window and enjoyed the scenery. She decided to go the full journey up to the town, and ride back in the same bus.
- In the town she did not get down. Her face lit up with joy. On the return journey, she saw a dead cow lying on the road and was shocked. The conductor and passengers understood her shock.
- She was given a place to sit. She was moved at the death of the cow and decided to take care. This shows the sadness of the death that she faced for the first time.
- She came back by the same bus and reached her village. Tired and delighted, she got off and went home as a grown-up person.
- The story shows how a child's wish is fulfilled and how a childlike joy turns to the first experience of death and sorrow, thus a loss of innocence.

Key Terms

Curiosity – A strong desire to know or learn.

Conductor – The person who sells tickets on a bus.

Fare – The money paid to travel.

Stretch – A length of road.

Fatigue – Great tiredness.

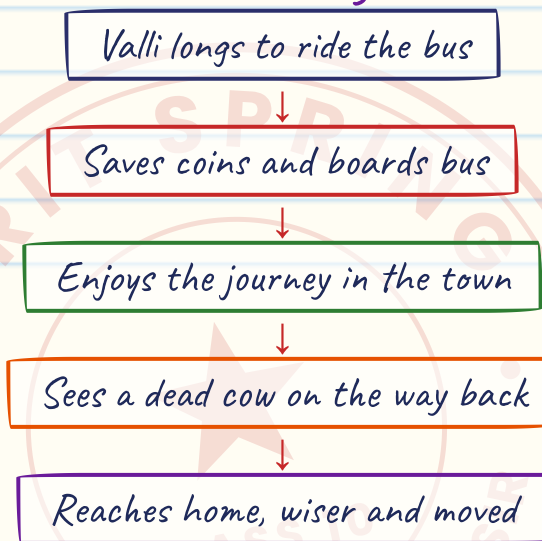
Passenger – Someone who travels in a vehicle.

Haughty – Proud and looking down on others.

Innocence – Lack of experience of the world.

Diagrams / Flowcharts

Valli's Day



Character of Valli

- Curious, imaginative and determined: she plans her trip alone.
- Proud and independent: she behaves like a grown lady ('Madam') and wants respect.
- Sensitive: she cries at the dead cow, showing her tender heart.

Theme

- A child's first experience of the real world, including joy, pride, kindness and death. It is a story about growing up.
- The conductor and the passengers show kindness to a little girl.

Textbook Exercise Questions

Q.1 What did Valli long to do?

Ans. She longed to ride in the bus that passed her village, and visit the town.

Q.2 Why did she pretend to be a grown woman?

Ans. She did not want others to tease her or stop her. She behaved like a lady, 'madam', and was very proud.

Q.3 What did Valli see during her journey?

Ans. She saw trees, fields, the road and the scenery, and a dead cow lying in the road on the return.

Q.4 How did the conductor treat Valli?

Ans. The conductor was kind and amused. He treated her as a lady, and let her enjoy the ride.

Q.5 Why was Valli upset at the end?

Ans. She saw the dead cow and the accident. It was her first experience of death and sorrow.

Q.6 What lesson does the story give?

Ans. Children grow up through experience. Joy and sorrow are both a part of life.

Board Exam Questions (Important)

Q.1 Write a character sketch of Valli.

Ans. Valli is an eight-year-old, curious and clever girl. She is brave enough to travel alone and proud of her independence. She is also tender-hearted and weeps at the sight of the dead cow. Her adventure turns her from a child into a more mature girl.

Q.2 Why did the conductor and passengers let Valli ride?

Ans. They found her innocence and confidence charming. They treated her kindly and did not scold her.

Q.3 Value-based: What does the story teach about growing up?

Ans. Growing up means seeing both beauty and pain. We must learn to face sorrow with understanding and show kindness to the young.

