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Class-X

English

First Flight

Chapter-7



Vallikkannan

Madam Rides the Bus

Part - 2

Neha Rajvanshi

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Gleaming : चमकदार

"May we start now, madam?" the conductor asked, smiling. Then he blew his whistle twice, and the bus moved forward with a roar.



It was a new bus, its outside painted a gleaming white with some green stripes along the sides.

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Luxurious : आरामदायक





Inside, the overhead bars shone like silver. Directly in front of Valli, above the windshield, there was a beautiful clock. The seats were soft and luxurious.

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Devoured : तेजी से पढ़ना
Peered : ध्यान से देखना



Valli devoured everything with her eyes. But when she started to look outside, she found her view cut off by a canvas blind that covered the lower part of her window. So she stood up on the seat and peered over the blind.

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The bus was now going along the bank of a canal. The road was very narrow. On one side there was the canal and, beyond it, palm trees, grassland, distant mountains, and the blue, blue sky.

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Ditch : सड़क के किनारे बनी हुई खाई

Startled : चौंकना



On the other side was a deep ditch and then acres and acres of green fields — green, green, green, as far as the eye could see. Oh, it was all so wonderful! Suddenly she was startled by a voice. "Listen, child," said the voice, "you shouldn't stand like that. Sit down."

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Concerned : चिन्तित
Annoyed : क्रोधित
Attention : ध्यान
Haughtily : गर्व से

Sitting down, she looked to see who had spoken. It was an elderly man who had honestly been concerned for her, but she was annoyed by his attention.

"There's nobody here who's a child," she said haughtily.

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Chimed in : बीच में बोलना

Mere : केवल /मात्र

"I've paid my thirty paise like everyone else."

The conductor chimed in. "Oh, sir, but this is a very grown-up madam. Do you think a mere girl could pay her own fare and travel to the city all alone?"

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Mimicking : नकल करना

Valli shot an angry glance at the conductor and said, "I am not a madam. Please remember that. And you've not yet given me my ticket."

"I'll remember," the conductor said, mimicking her tone. Everyone laughed, and gradually Valli too joined in the laughter.

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The conductor punched a ticket and handed it to her. "Just sit back and make yourself comfortable. Why should you stand when you've paid for a seat?"

"Because I want to," she answered, standing up again.

Irritably : क्रोध से



"But if you stand on the seat, you may fall and hurt yourself when the bus makes a sharp turn or hits a bump. That's why we want you to sit down, child."

"I'm not a child, I tell you," she said irritably. "I'm eight years old."

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"Of course, of course. How stupid of me! Eight years — my!"

The bus stopped, some new passengers got on, and the conductor got busy for a time. Afraid of losing her seat, Valli finally sat down.

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Absolutely : पूरी तरह से

Repulsive : अप्रिय



An elderly woman came and sat beside her. "Are you all alone, dear?" she asked Valli as the bus started again.

Valli found the woman absolutely repulsive — such big holes she had in her ear lobes, and such ugly earrings in them!

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Sociable : मिलनसार

Curtly : रुखेपन से





And she could smell the betel nut the woman was chewing and see the betel juice that was threatening to spill over her lips at any moment. Ugh! — who could be sociable with such a person?

"Yes, I'm travelling alone," she answered curtly. "And I've got a ticket too."

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"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.

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Drivel : बेकार की बात

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?"

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Bother : चिंता करना

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