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Class-X

English

First Flight

Chapter-7



Vallikkannan

Madam Rides the Bus

Part - 3

Neha Rajvanshi

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Painstaking : परिश्रम के साथ
Thriftily : किफ़ायत से
Stray : अलग-अलग
Resisting : विरोध करना
Temptation : इच्छा



Her first journey — what careful, painstaking, elaborate plans she had had to make for it! She had thriftily saved whatever stray coins came her way, resisting every temptation to buy peppermints, toys, balloons, and the like,

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Resolutely : दृढ़निश्चय से
Stifled : दबा देना



and finally she had saved a total of sixty paise. How difficult it had been, particularly that day at the village fair, but she had resolutely stifled a strong desire to ride the merry-go-round, even though she had the money.

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After she had enough money saved, her next problem was how to slip out of the house without her mother's knowledge. But she managed this without too much difficulty. Every day after lunch her mother would nap from about one to four or so.

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Excursions : मस्ती भरी यात्रा
Ventured : जोखिम भरी यात्रा

Valli always used these hours for her 'excursions' as she stood looking from the doorway of her house or sometimes even ventured out into the village; today, these same hours could be used for her first excursion outside the village.

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Hamlet : छोटा गाँव

Gobbling : तेजी से खाना / निगलना

Pedestrain : पैदल यात्री

The bus rolled on now cutting across a bare landscape, now rushing through a tiny hamlet or past an odd wayside shop. Sometimes the bus seemed on the point of gobbling up another vehicle that was coming towards them or a pedestrian crossing the road.

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Obstacles : बाधा



But lo! somehow it passed on smoothly, leaving all obstacles safely behind. Trees came running towards them but then stopped as the bus reached them and simply stood there helpless for a moment by the side of the road before rushing away in the other direction.

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Suddenly Valli clapped her hands with glee. A young cow, tail high in the air, was running very fast, right in the middle of the road, right in front of the bus. The bus slowed to a crawl, and the driver sounded his horn loudly again and again.

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Galloped : तेज गति

But the more he honked, the more frightened the animal became and the faster it galloped — always right in front of the bus.

Somehow this was very funny to Valli. She laughed and laughed until there were tears in her eyes.

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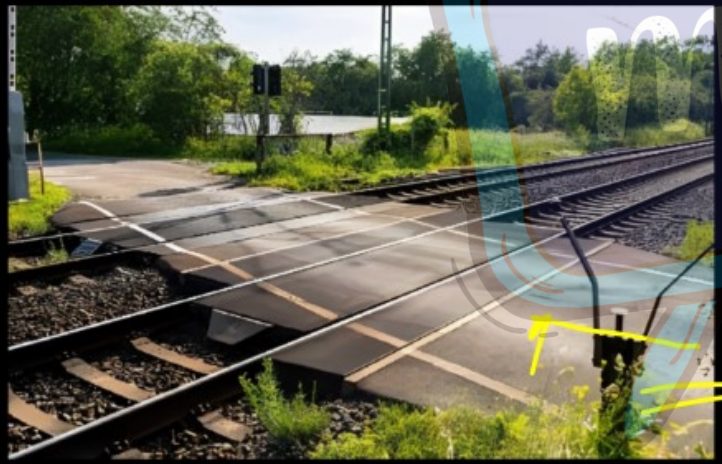
Speck : छोटा बिन्दु



"Hey, lady, haven't you laughed enough?" called, the conductor. "Better save some for tomorrow." At last the cow moved off the road. And soon the bus came to a railroad crossing. A speck of a train could be seen in the distance, growing bigger and bigger as it drew near.

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Tremendous : अत्यधिक
Traversed : पार करना
Thoroughfare : मुख्य सडक

Then it rushed past the crossing gate with a tremendous roar and rattle, shaking the bus. Then the bus went on and passed the train station. From there it traversed a busy, well-laid-out shopping street and, turning, entered a wider thoroughfare.

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Merchandise : बिक्री की वस्तु में

Gaped : मुँह खोल कर एकटक देखना



Such big, bright-looking shops!
What glittering displays of clothes and other merchandise!
Such big crowds!
Struck dumb with wonder, Valli gaped at everything.
Then the bus stopped and everyone got off except Valli.

"Hey, lady," said the conductor, "aren't you ready to get off? This is as far as your thirty paise takes you."

"No," Valli said, "I'm going back on this same bus." She took another thirty paise from her pocket and handed the coins to the conductor.

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"Why, is something the matter?"

"No, nothing's the matter. I just felt like having a bus ride, that's all."

"Don't you want to have a look at the sights, now that you're here?"