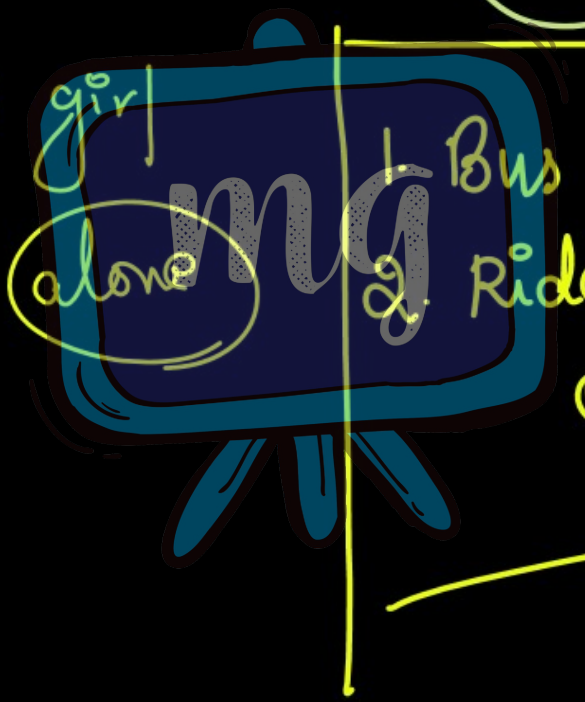
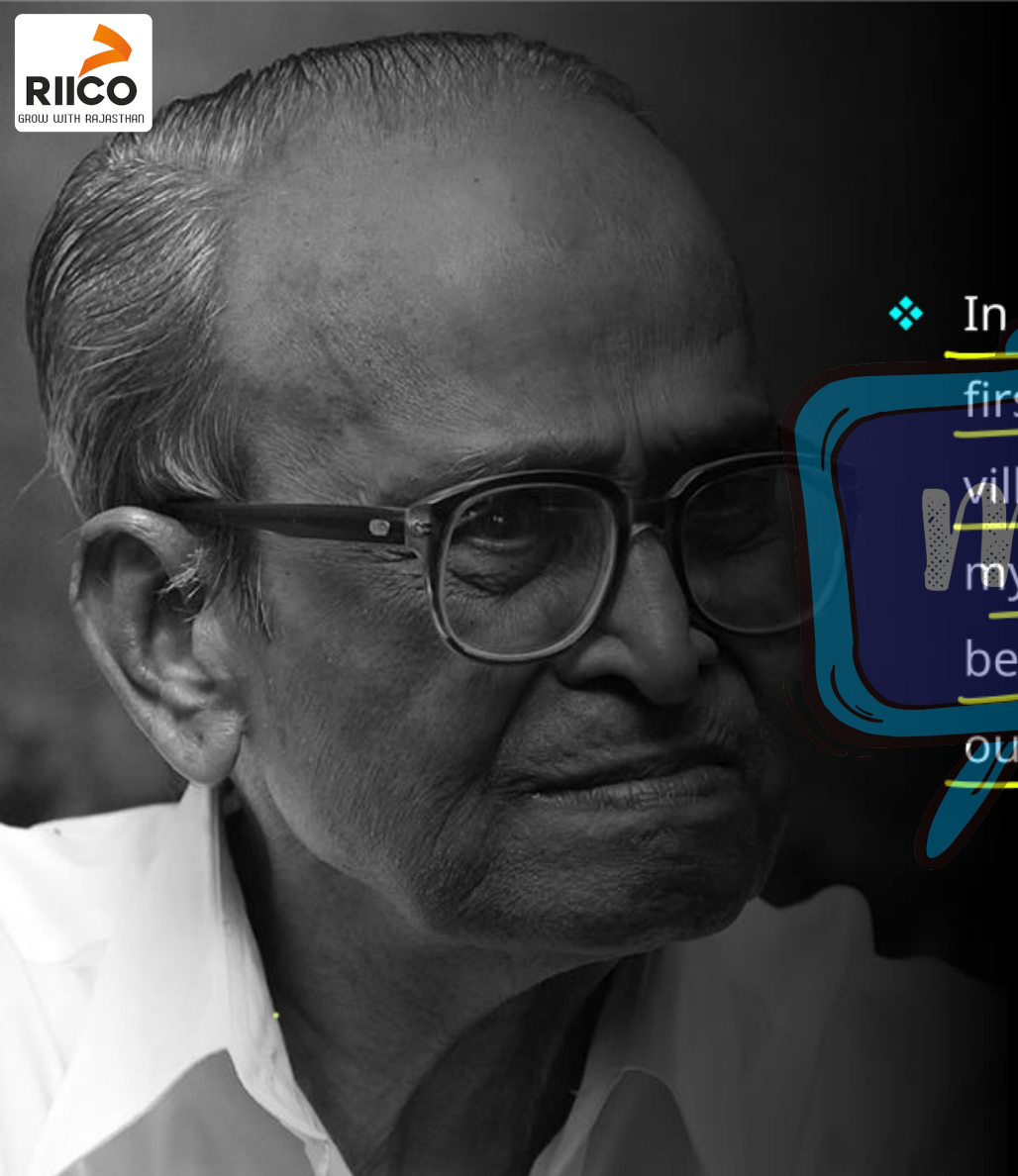

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Madam Rides the Bus

8 y/o girl

1. Bus ride alone
2. Ride - during the experiences





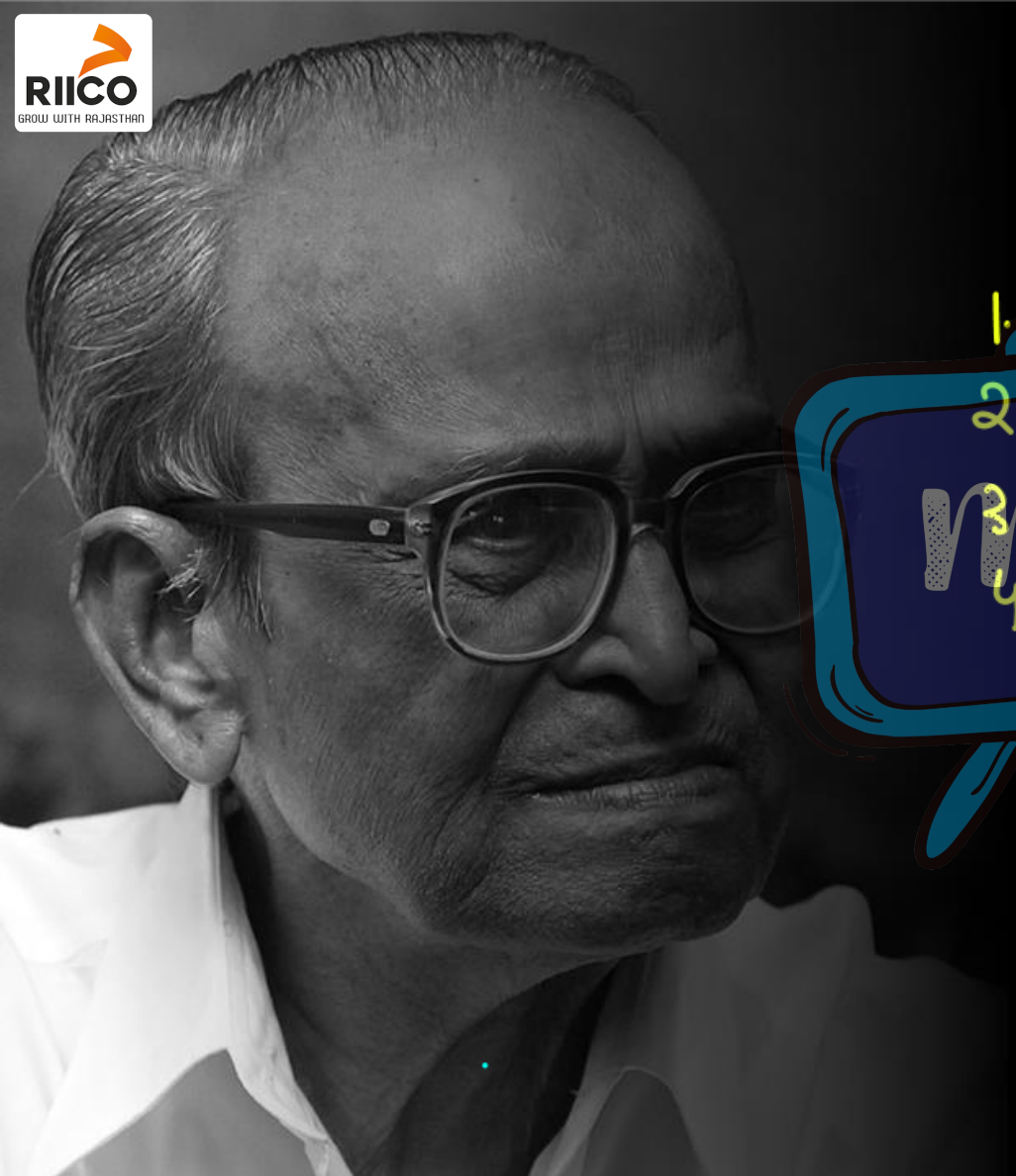
MADAM RIDES THE BUS

- In this sensitive story, an eight-year old girl's first bus journey into the world outside her village is also her introduction into the mystery of life and death. She sees the gap between our knowing that there is death, and our understanding of it.

~ Vallikkannan

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Valli

MADAM RIDES THE BUS

1. Valli's Big Wish
2. Valli's First Bus Ride
3. Valli's Reaching Town
4. The Journey Home and Secret Return

Life and Death

MADAM RIDES THE BUS

1

Valli's Big Wish

8 y/o
bus
hourly
village —— town

Eight-year-old Valliammai, called Valli, lived in a quiet village with no playmates her age. To pass the time, she loved standing in her front doorway, watching the bustling street outside.

The highlight of her day was watching the hourly bus that traveled between her village and the nearest town.

MADAM RIDES THE BUS

favourite pass time

↓

desire

Seeing the bus filled with different passengers brought her endless joy, eventually turning into an overwhelming desire to ride it just once. Whenever friends tried describing the town's sights, a jealous Valli would proudly shout, "Proud! proud!" using it as slang even without knowing its exact meaning.

Determined, Valli spent months secretly listening to neighbors and asking discreet questions to gather crucial travel details :

MADAM RIDES THE BUS

6 mile

30 p → 30p

45 min → 45 min

1:00

1:45

2:00

2:45

Distance : The town was six miles away.

Fare : Thirty paise for a one-way ticket (a small fortune to Valli).

Duration : The trip took forty-five minutes each way.

Schedule : Catching the one-o'clock afternoon bus meant she could reach the town by one forty-five and return home by two forty-five.

MADAM RIDES THE BUS

Constantly calculating and planning, Valli set her heart on making this secret journey happen.

- Bustling – हलचल भरा
- Hourly – प्रति घंटे का
- Jealous – ईर्ष्यालु
- Proud – घमंडी
- Calculating – गणना करना
- Overwhelming – अत्यधिक
- Crucial – महत्वपूर्ण
- Duration – अवधि
- Discreet – गोपनीय

MADAM RIDES THE BUS

2

Valli's First Bus Ride

One lovely spring day, eight-year-old Valli proudly stopped the afternoon bus by shouting loudly and showing her saved coins. She refused the conductor's help to get on.

Amused by her confidence, the cheerful conductor playfully called her "madam" and gave her a front seat, while the few passengers laughed a little.

MADAM RIDES THE BUS

Inside, Valli looked at the shiny white inside, silver bars, and soft seats.

Because a cloth curtain blocked her view, she bravely stood up on her seat to look outside at the beautiful scenery of canals, palm trees, and endless green fields.

MADAM RIDES THE BUS

Her independence quickly led to playful teasing and small arguments :

The Concerned Man : An older passenger told her to sit down for safety, but proud Valli snapped back that she was not a child and had paid her fare.

The Teasing Conductor : The conductor joked and called her a "grown-up madam," which made her glare at him angrily until she demanded her ticket and finally joined in the laughter.

MADAM RIDES THE BUS

from village to the town

The Repulsive Woman : An older woman sat next to her and asked too many personal questions about traveling alone. Valli thought she looked gross because of her ugly earrings and the way she chewed betel nuts, so she rudely told her to mind her own business and turned back to look out the window.

- Amused – मनोरंजित
- Conductor – परिचालक
- Playfully – चंचल रूप से
- Independence – स्वतंत्रता
- Scenery – दृश्य
- Safety – सुरक्षा
- Snapped – झिड़कना
- Glare – घूरना
- Repulsive – प्रतिकारक

डरावनी

MADAM RIDES THE BUS 3

Valli's Reaching Town

60 p

30 p

30 p

1 pm to 4 pm Nap नींद

Thinking back on how hard she worked to get ready, Valli remembered saving sixty paise by not buying treats like peppermints, toys, balloons, or even a ride on the merry-go-round at the village fair. She carried out her plan easily by sneaking out while her mother took her usual afternoon nap between one and four o'clock.

MADAM RIDES THE BUS



As the bus kept moving, Valli liked looking at the changing scenery and started laughing happily with tears in her eyes when she saw something funny: a young cow running wildly right in front of the bus with its tail high up, not caring at all about the driver's loud honking. After passing a train track and a busy shopping street full of bright, shiny displays, the bus at last arrived in town.

MADAM RIDES THE BUS

When all the other passengers stepped down, Valli stayed in her seat and gave the conductor another thirty paise for her ticket back, which surprised him. The amused conductor kindly offered to buy her a cold drink or let her explore the town, but a careful Valli firmly said no to everything, explaining she was scared to go by herself and only wanted the bus ride, so they both waited for the trip home.

MADAM RIDES THE BUS

- Peppermints – पुदीने की गोली
- Merry-go-round – चकरी झूला
- Sneaking – चुपके से
- Wildly – अनियंत्रित
- Honking - हॉर्न बजाना
- Displays – प्रदर्शन
- Surprised – चकित
- Explaining – समझाना
- Careful – सतर्क

Realisation of life and death - how a lively animal can suddenly die

The Journey Home and Secret Return

When the conductor asked if her mother would worry, Valli confidently answered that nobody would be looking for her.

On the way back, her excitement suddenly vanished when she saw a young cow lying dead on the side of the road, hit by a fast car, it was the exact same lively animal that had run in front of their bus earlier.

MADAM RIDES THE BUS

डरावनी नज़र

2:45

3:40

village

Bothered by the scary sight of its dead legs and blood, a sad Valli lost all desire to look out the window for the rest of the ride.

The bus got back to her village at three-forty, and she cheerfully thanked the smiling conductor, who told her she could come back anytime with her ticket money.

MADAM RIDES THE BUS

Running straight home, she slipped inside without being noticed and found her talkative aunt from South Street chatting with her mother about how much happens in the world that people do not understand.

When Valli quietly agreed with them, her aunt brushed her off as just a "little girl" sticking her nose into grown-up conversations, which made Valli smile secretly to herself while keeping her incredible secret adventure completely safe.

MADAM RIDES THE BUS

- Confidently – आत्मविश्वास से
- Vanished – गायब
- Bothered – परेशान
- Cheerfully – प्रसन्नता से
- Slipped – फिसलना
- Talkative – बातूनी
- Chatting – बातें करना
- Incredible – अविश्वसनीय
- Adventure – साहसिक यात्रा

Part	Summary
1.	desire, calculation, playmates, proud — — —
2.	ride, conductor, 3 incidents, cow
3.	return, town
4.	death of cow, mother + aunt conversation.



MADAM RIDES THE BUS

1. How much money did Valli save for her bus journey?

(a) Thirty paise

(b) Sixty paise

(c) Ninety paise

(d) One rupee

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MADAM RIDES THE BUS

2. What funny sight made Valli laugh until there were tears in her eyes during her trip to town?

(a) A dog chasing a cat on the street

(b) The conductor wearing a funny hat

(c) A young cow running wildly right in front of the bus

(d) An elderly man trying to catch the bus

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MADAM RIDES THE BUS

3. What did Valli find when she finally arrived back home?

(a) Her mother was searching everywhere for her outside.

(b) Her talkative aunt from South Street was chatting with her mother.

(c) The conductor had come to her house to check on her.

(d) Her mother was fast asleep in the front doorway.


mg