

CLASS – 10

ENGLISH

First Flight

CH-7 : Madam Rides the Bus

Part – 3

The World Unveiled

KOMAL JETWANI



OVERVIEW

1. A World Beyond the door

2. A Courageous step

3. The Magic of Discovery

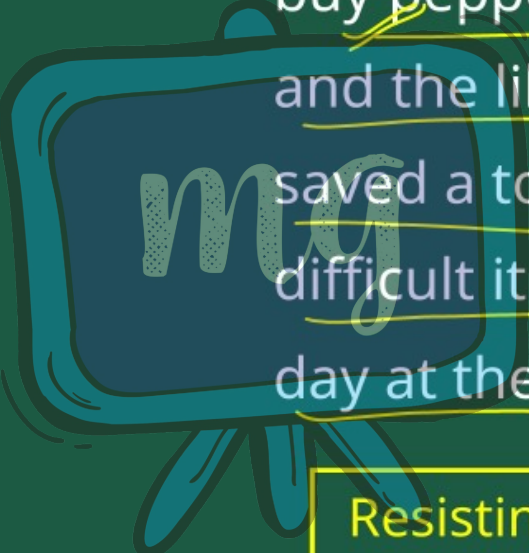
4. The Return to Home

III

Her first journey what - careful,
painstaking, elaborate plans she had
had to make for it! She had thriftily
saved whatever stray coins came her

<u>Painstaking</u>	:	with hard work
<u>Thriftily</u>	:	<u>careful use of money</u>
<u>Stray</u>	:	to go away from aim

way, resisting every temptation to buy peppermints, toys, balloons, and the like, 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



Resisting	:	try to stop
Temptation	:	feeling that you want something

resolutely stifled a strong desire to ride the merry-go-round, even though she had the money.

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

Resolutely Stifled : strongly suppress

without too much difficulty. Every day after lunch her mother would nap from about one to four or so. Valli always used these hours for her 'excursions' as she stood looking from the doorway of her house or sometimes even ventured out into

Excursions : a short journey
Ventured out : to go out

the village; today, these same hours
could be used for her first excursion
outside the village.

The bus rolled on now cutting across
a bare landscape, now rushing
through a tiny hamlet ^{village} or past an odd
wayside shop. Sometimes the bus
seemed on the point of gobbling up

Hamlet : small village

Gobbling : to eat quickly

another vehicle that was coming
towards them or a pedestrian
crossing the road. 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

Pedestrian : travelling on foot

Obstacles : hurdles

and simply stood there helpless for a moment by the side of the road before rushing away in the other direction.

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,

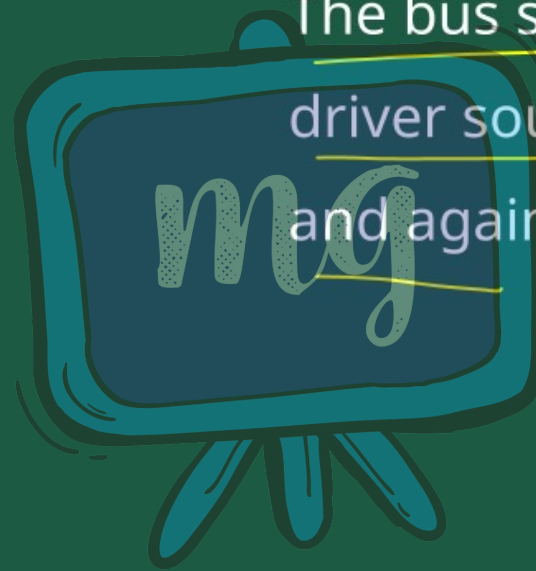


the road, right in front of the bus.

The bus slowed to a crawl, and the

driver sounded his horn loudly again

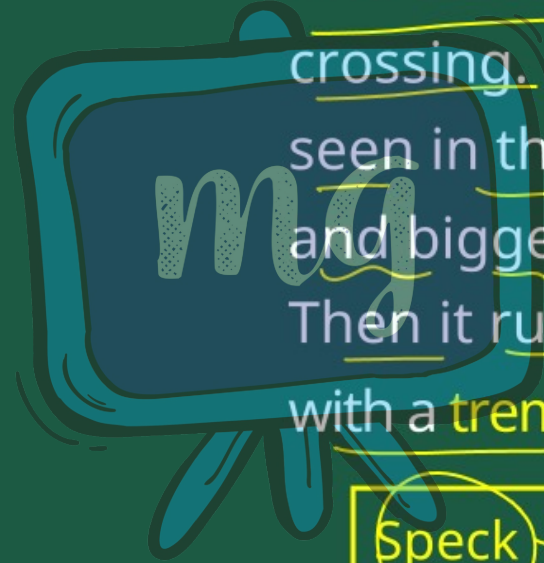
and again. But the more he honked,



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. "Hey, lady, haven't you laughed enough?" called, the conductor. "Better save some for tomorrow."

Galoped : to move very fast

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.
Then it rushed past the crossing gate
with a tremendous roar and rattle,



- Speck → a small point
- Tremendous : very large/great
- Rattle : unsettle

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.

Such big, bright-looking shops!

Traversed : travel

Thoroughfare : main road

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.

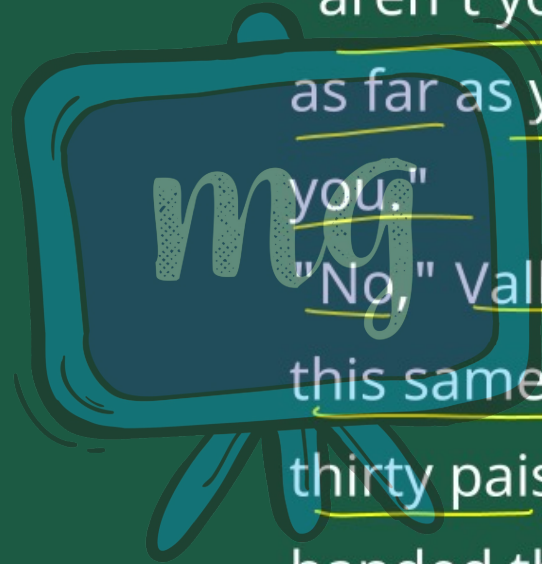
Merchandise : object to be sold

Gaped : to watch with mouth
wide open

"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.

"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?"

"All by myself? Oh, I'd be much too afraid."

Greatly amused by the girl's way of speaking, the conductor said,

Amused : become happy

"But you weren't afraid to come in the bus."

"Nothing to be afraid of about that," she answered.

"Well, then, why not go to that stall over there and have something to drink? Nothing to be afraid of about that either."

"Oh, no, I couldn't do that."

"Well, then, let me bring you a cold drink."

"No, I don't have enough money.
Just give me my ticket, that's all."

"It'll be my treat and not cost you
anything."

"No, no," she said firmly, "please, no."

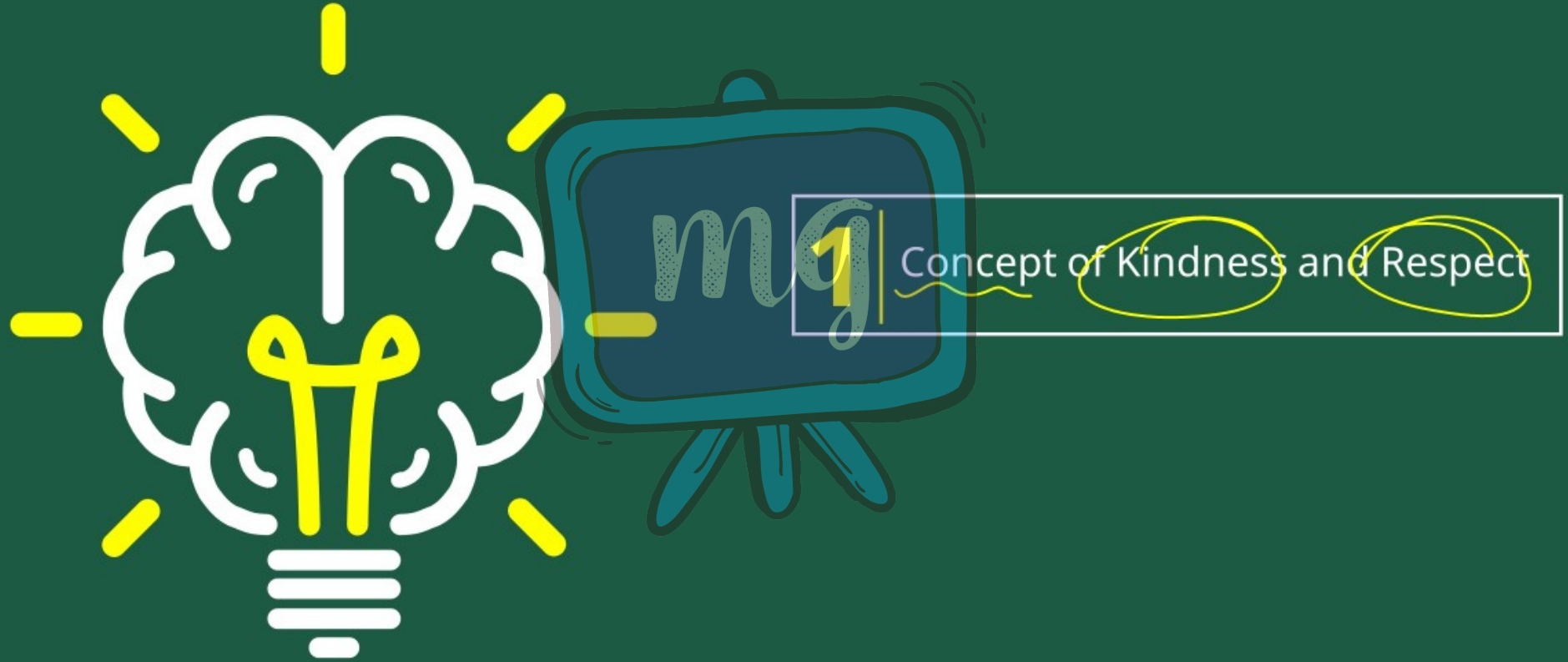
sensible

The conductor **shrugged**, and they
waited until it was time for the bus
to begin the return journey.

Again there weren't many passengers.

Shrugged : lifting shoulder

LEARNING OUTCOMES



ASSESSMENT



1

What was Valli's biggest challenge
before taking the bus journey?

- A Saving enough money.
- B Convincing her mother.
- C Overcoming her fear.
- D Planning the bus route.

ASSESSMENT



2

What did Valli do when everyone else got off the bus in the town?

A

She panicked and cried.

B

She decided to explore the town.

C

She took another ticket for the return journey.

D

She asked the conductor for help.

ASSESSMENT



3

What does the word "thriftily" mean in the context of the story?

- A Spending money carelessly.
- B Saving money carefully.
- C Earning money quickly.
- D Borrowing money easily.

Synonyms

ASSESSMENT



4

Why did Valli refuse the conductor's offer of a drink?

- A She was not ready to take favours from anyone.
- B She was afraid to accept anything from strangers.
- C She wanted to save her money.
- D She was in a hurry to return home.