

CLASS – 10

ENGLISH

First Flight

CH-7 : Madam Rides the Bus

Part – 6

Thinking about the text

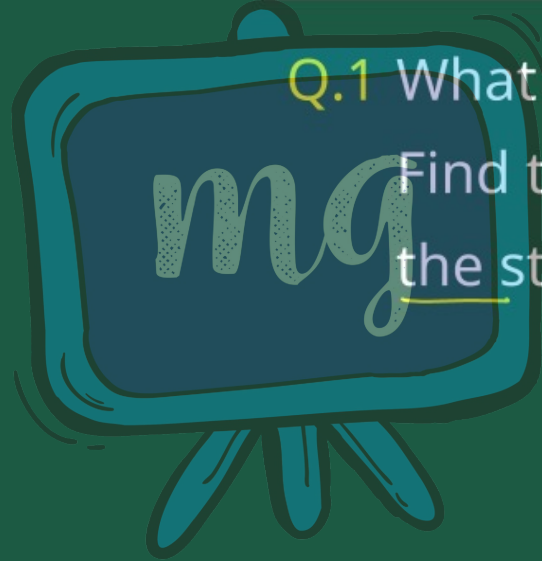
KOMAL JETWANI



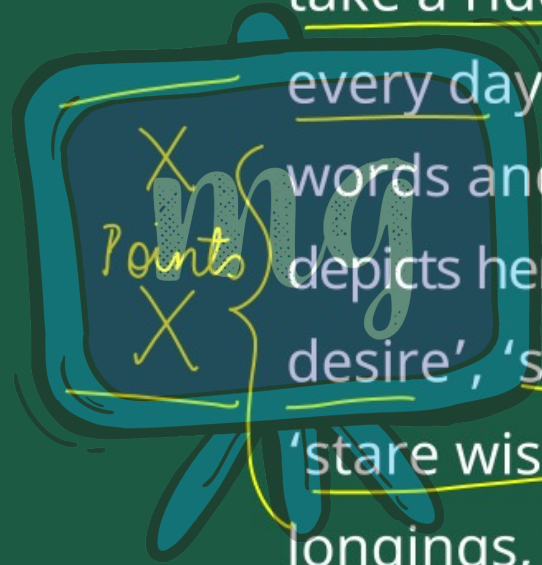
THINKING ABOUT THE TEXT

Q.1 What was Valli's deepest desire?

Find the words and phrases in
the story that tell you this.



Answer: Valli's deepest desire was to take a ride on the bus that she saw every day from her house. The words and phrases in the story that depicts her desire are 'an overwhelming desire', 'source of unending joy', 'stare wistfully', and 'kindle in her longings, dreams and hopes'.

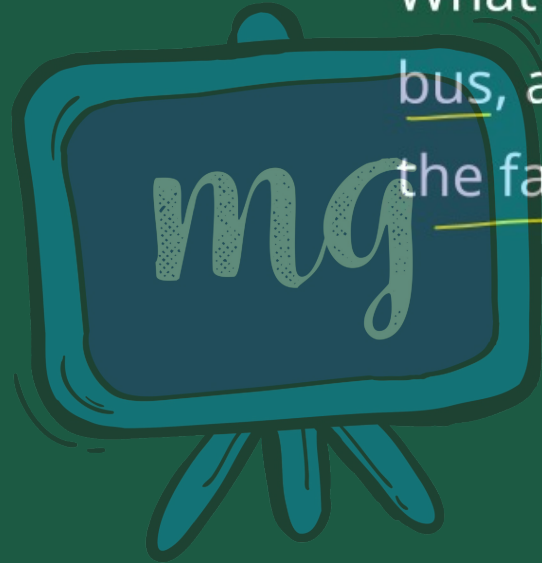


Q.2 How did Valli plan her bus ride?

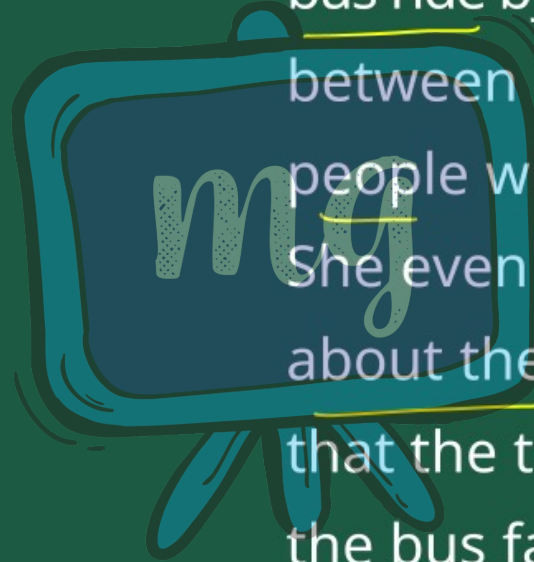
What did she find out about the

bus, and how did she save up

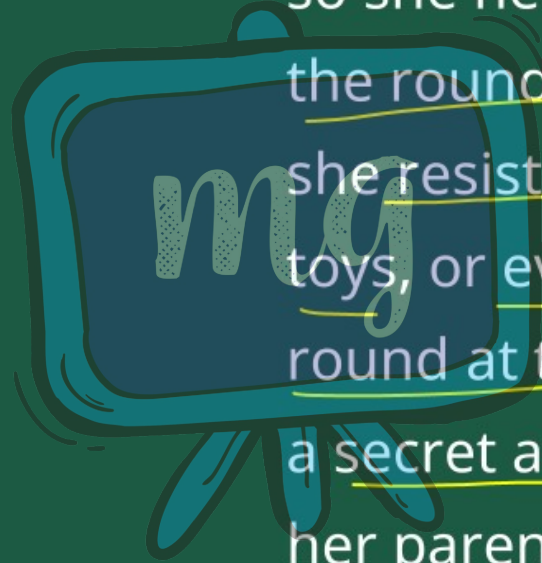
the fare?



Answer: Valli carefully planned her bus ride by listening to conversations between her neighbours and the people who regularly used the bus. She even asked discreet questions about the bus service. She learned that the town was six miles away, the bus fare was thirty paise one way, and it took forty-five minutes to travel. Valli decided to stay on the

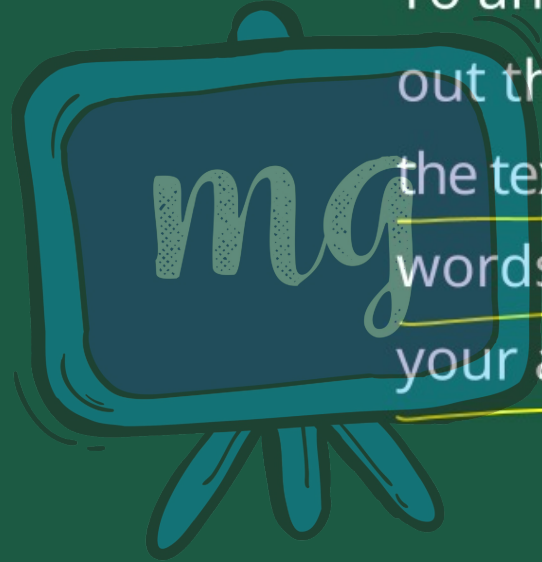


bus and return without getting off,
so she needed to save sixty paise for
the round trip. To save this amount,
she resisted buying peppermints,
toys, or even a ride on the merry-go-
round at the village fair. Her trip was
a secret adventure planned without
her parents' knowledge.

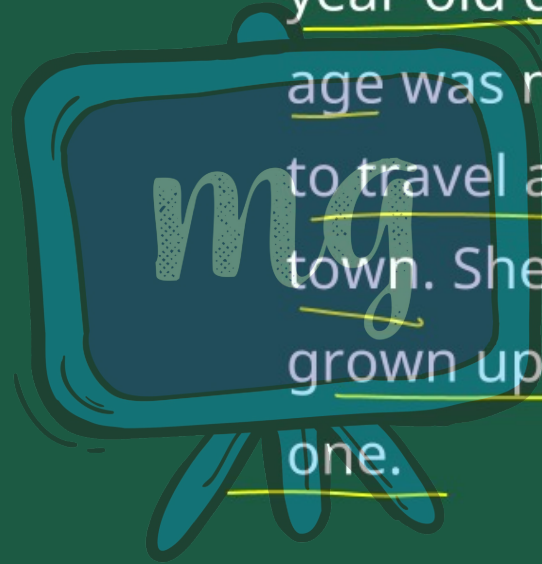


Q.3 What kind of a person is Valli?

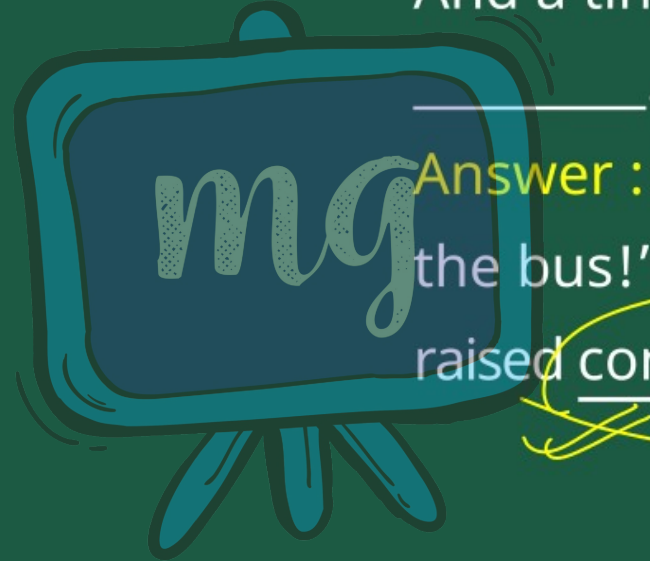
To answer this question, pick out the following sentences from the text and fill in the blanks. The words you fill in are the clues to your answer.



Answer: Valli was a confident eight-year-old girl who believed that her age was not a limiting factor for her to travel alone in the bus to the town. She considered herself to be a grown up person and also acted like one.

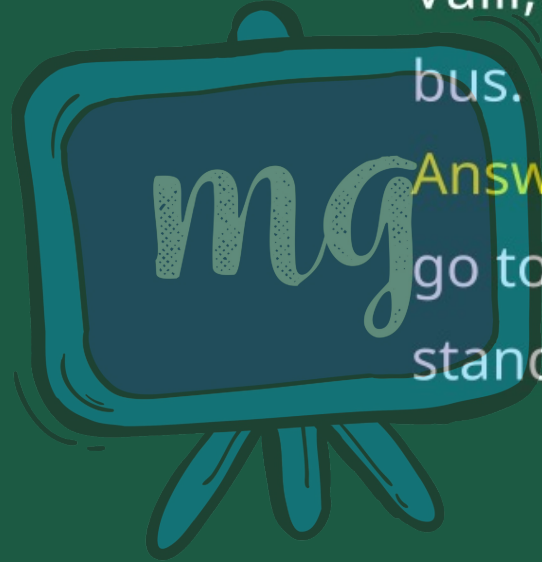


(i) "Stop the bus! Stop the bus!"
And a tiny hand was raised



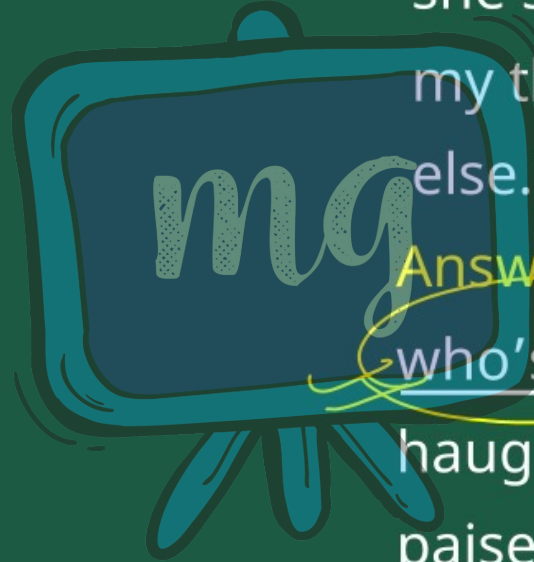
Answer : "Stop the bus! Stop
the bus!" And a tiny hand was
raised commandingly.

(ii) "Yes, I go to town," said Valli, still standing outside the bus.



Answer : "Yes, I simply have to go to town," said Valli, still standing outside the bus.

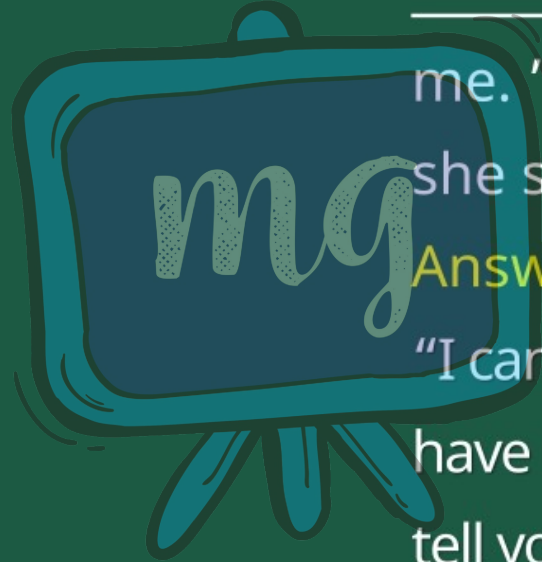
(iii) "There's nobody here _____," she said haughtily. "I've paid my thirty paise like everyone else."



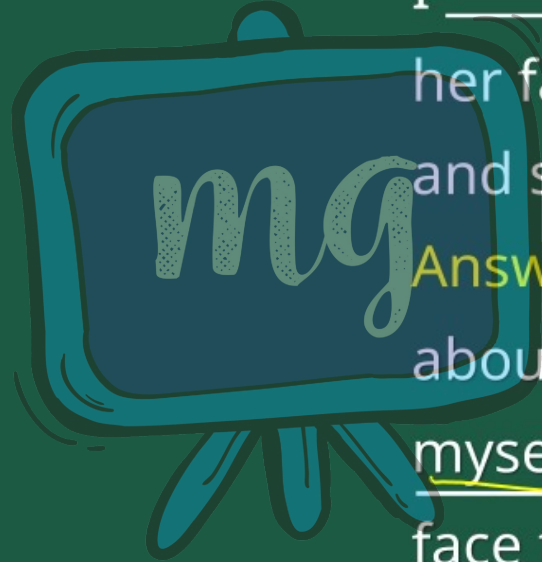
Answer: "There's nobody here who's a child," she said haughtily. "I've paid my thirty paise like everyone else."

(iv) "Never mind," she said, "I can _____. You don't have to help me. "I'm not a child, I tell you," she said, _____.

Answer : "Never mind," she said, "I can get on by myself. You don't have to help me. "I'm not a child, I tell you," she said irritably.

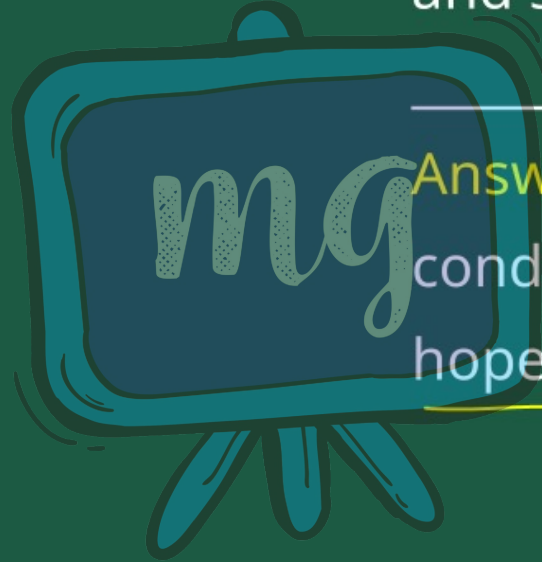


(v) "You needn't bother about me. I _____," Valli said, turning her face toward the window and staring out.



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

(vi) Then she turned to the conductor and said, "Well, sir, I hope _____."

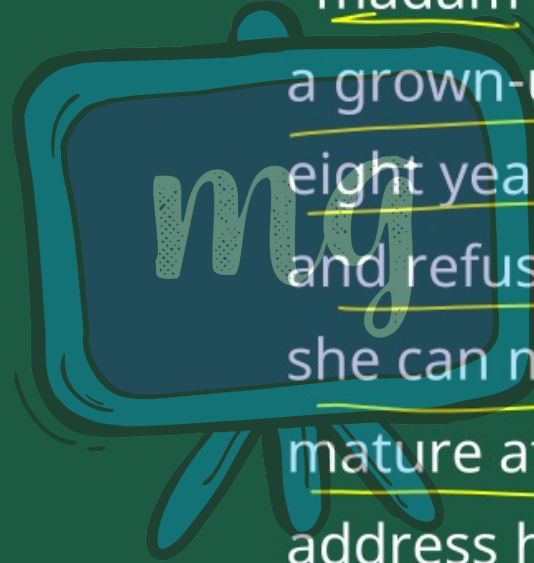


Answer : Then she turned to the conductor and said, "Well, sir, I hope to see you again."

Q.4 Why does the conductor refer to
* Valli as 'madam'?



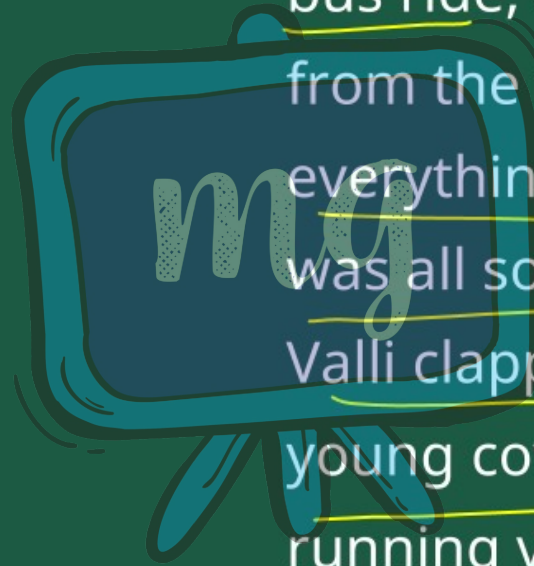
Answer: The conductor calls Valli "madam" because she behaves like a grown-up. Although she is only eight years old, she acts confidently and refuses his help, insisting that she can manage on her own. Her mature attitude leads him to address her as "madam."



Q.5 Find the lines in the text which
tell you that Valli was enjoying
her ride on the bus.

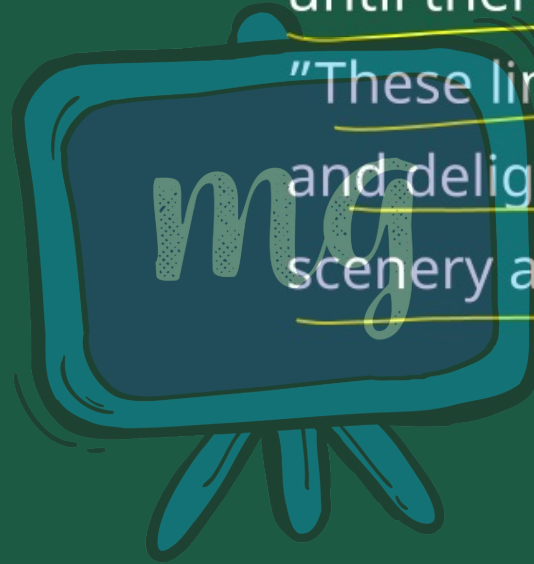


Answer: Valli thoroughly enjoys her bus ride, as shown by these lines from the text: "Valli devoured everything with her eyes." "Oh, it was all so wonderful!" "Suddenly, Valli clapped her hands with glee. A young cow, tail high in the air, was running very fast, right in the middle of the road, right in front of the bus." Somehow, this was very funny



to Valli. She laughed and laughed
until there were tears in her eyes.

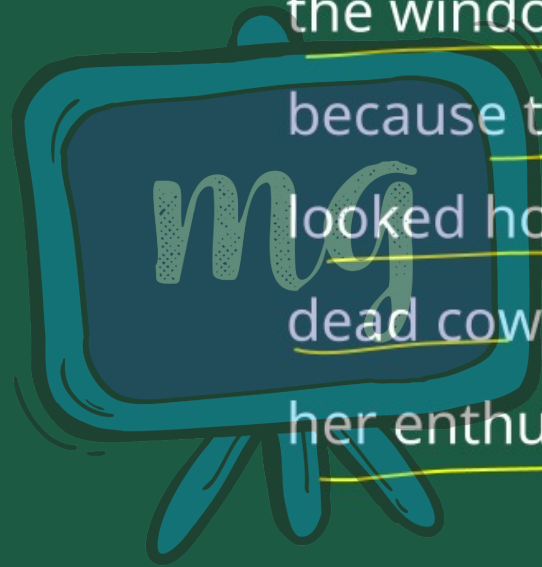
"These lines reflect her excitement
and delight as she observes the
scenery and experiences the ride.



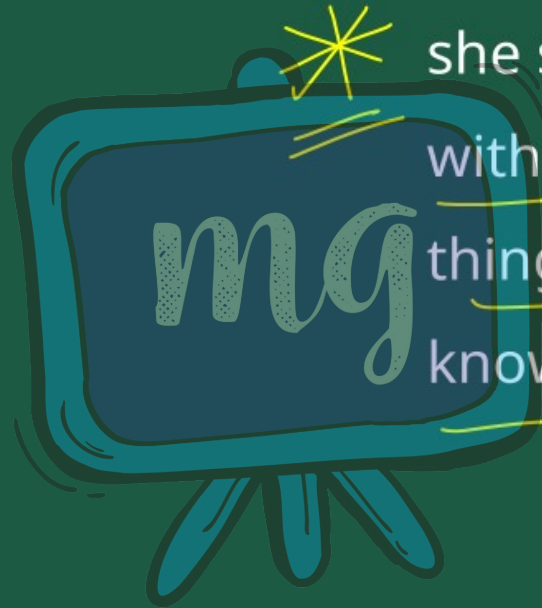
Q.6 Why does Valli refuse to look out
of the window on her way back?



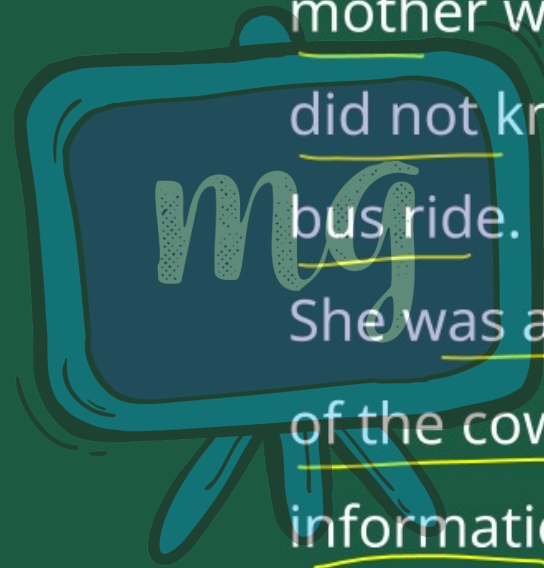
Answer : Valli refuses to look out of the window on her way back. It is because the beautiful ^{Cow} creature now looked horrible. The memory of the dead cow haunted her. It dampened her enthusiasm about life.



Q.7 What does Valli mean when she says, "I was just agreeing with what you said about things happening without our knowledge."



Answer: She meant to say that her mother was ignorant about her and did not know anything about her bus ride.

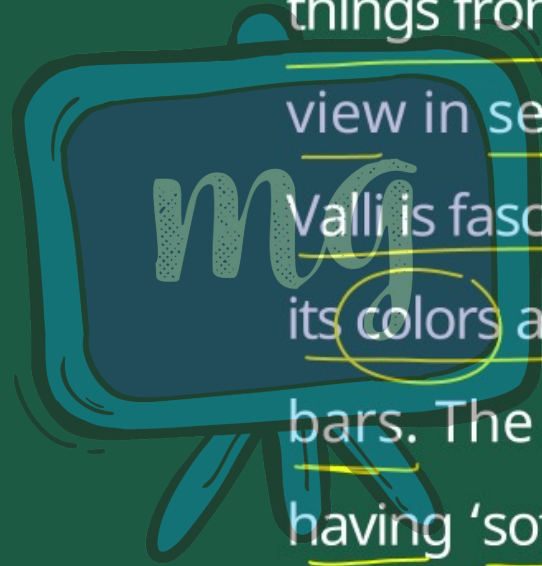


She was also referring to the death of the cow. She was now having the information about the mystery of life and death apart from the understanding of it.

Q.8 The author describes the things that Valli sees from an eight-year-old's point of view. Can you find evidence from the text for this statement?



Answer: Yes, the author describes things from an eight-year-old's point of view in several ways. For instance: Valli is fascinated by the bus, enjoying its colors and the shiny, silver overhead bars. The description of the bus as having 'soft and luxurious' seats reflects how a child would appreciate and be excited by such comforts.



Her delight at seeing the 'blue sky' and 'acres of green fields' shows her childlike enthusiasm and wonder. Valli is thrilled by a cow running in front of the bus and is deeply affected by the sight of a dead cow, which makes her cry and avoid looking out the window on the way back. These observations capture the typical reactions and excitement of a young child.

