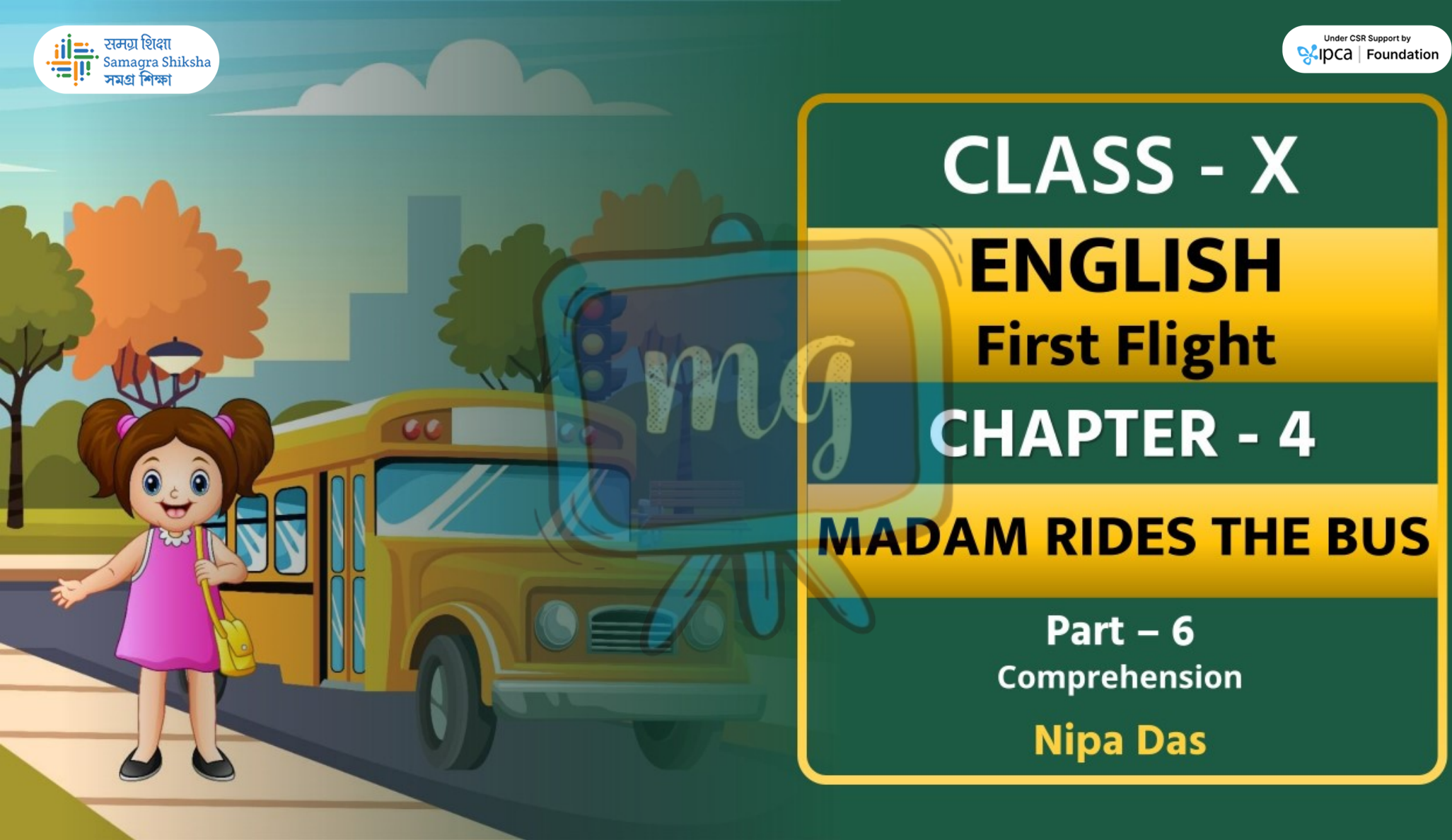
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CLASS - X

ENGLISH

First Flight

CHAPTER - 4

MADAM RIDES THE BUS

Part – 6

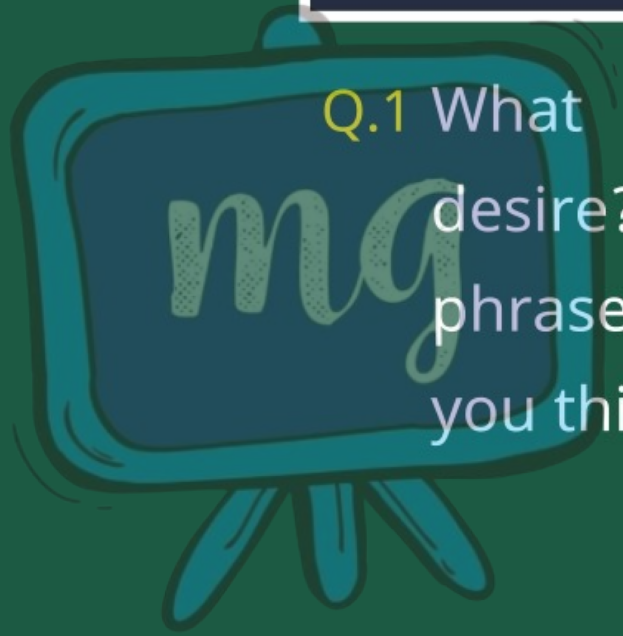
Comprehension

Nipa Das

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THINKING ABOUT THE TEXT



Q.1 What was Valli's deepest desire? Find words and phrases in the story that tell you this.

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Answer : Valli's deepest desire was to ride on the bus she saw everyday. The words and phrases are: Overwhelming desire; wistfully, calculated and recalculated, planned and replanned.

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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?



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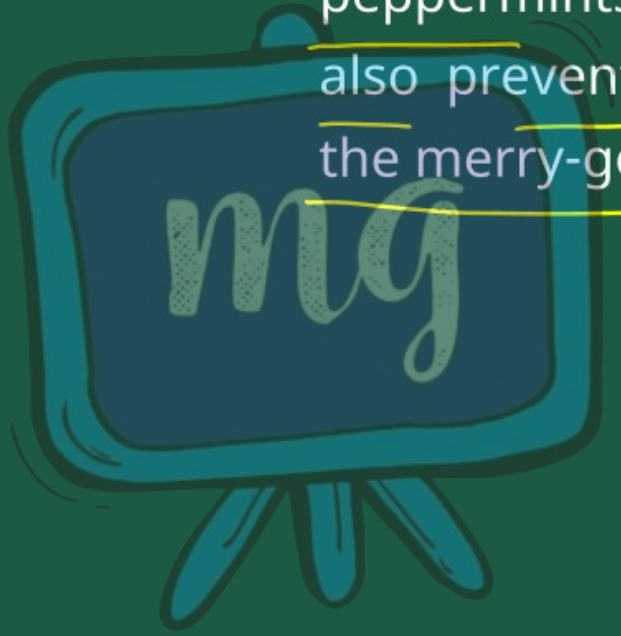
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Answer: Valli was planning to go to the town and then return back by the same bus. The fare was 30 paise one way and the ride took forty five minutes. She gathered this information by listening to the passengers' and the neighbours' conversation and occasionally by questioning them.

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In order to save money she did not buy peppermints, toys, balloons etc. She also prevented herself from riding on the merry-go-round.



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Q.2 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.

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I. 'Stop the bus! Stop the bus!'
And a tiny hand was raised.



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I. 'Stop the bus! Stop the bus!'
And a tiny hand was raised.

Answer: Commandingly.



II. 'Yes, I..... go to town', said Valli, still standing outside the bus.

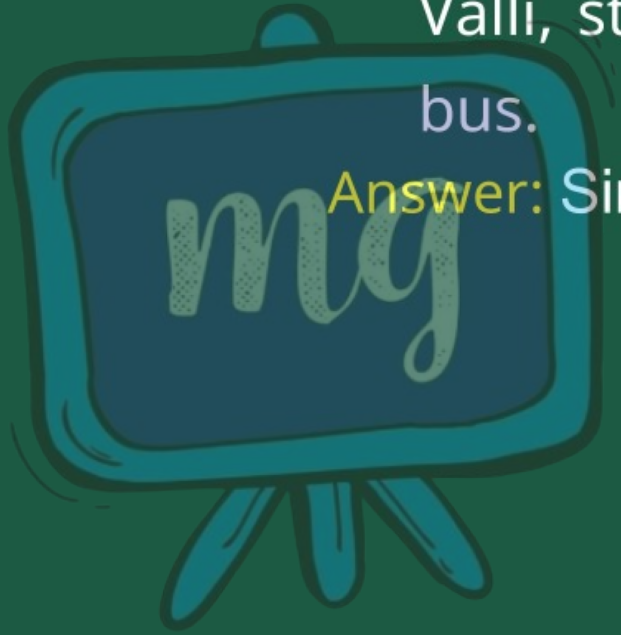


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II. 'Yes, I..... go to town', said Valli, still standing outside the bus.

Answer: Simply have to.



III. 'There's nobody here.... paise like everyone else.'

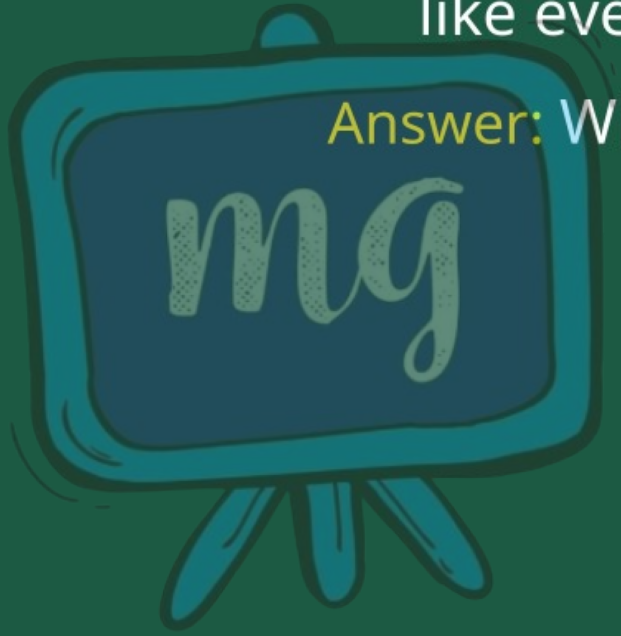


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III. 'There's nobody here.... paise like everyone else.'

Answer: Who's a child?

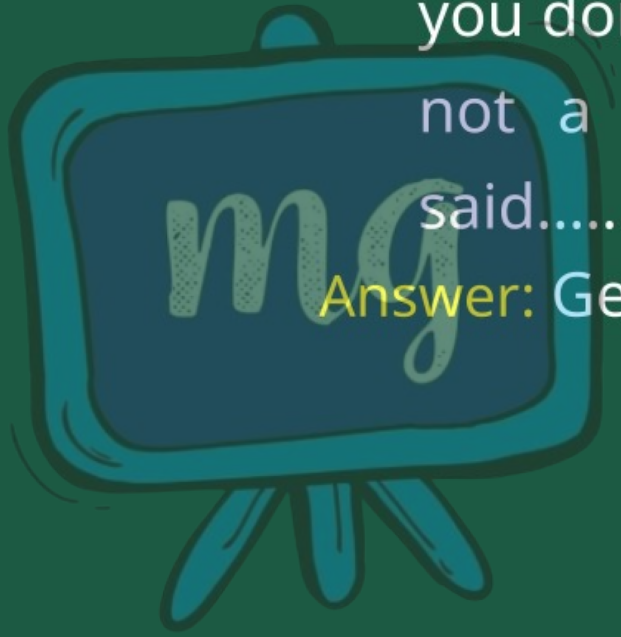


IV. 'Never mind', she said. I can... you don't have to help me. I'm not a child, I tell you', she said.....



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: Get on by myself.



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



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Answer: The conductor refers to Valli as 'madam' because she behaves like a grown up lady.



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



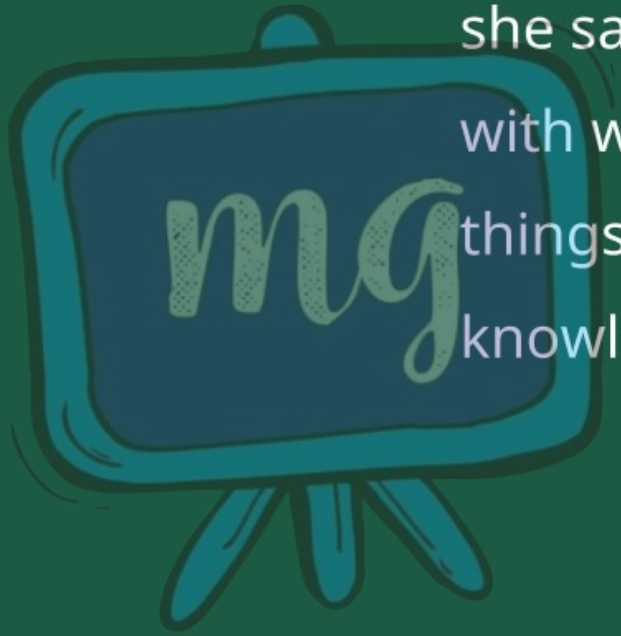
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Answer: The lines are:

1) Valli clapped her hands with glee.
2) She laughed and laughed.
3) Struck dumb with wonder, Valli gaped at everything.

Q.6 What does Valli mean when she says, "I was just agreeing with what you said about things happening without our knowledge."



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Answer: She meant to say that her mother was totally ignorant about her bus journey.

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