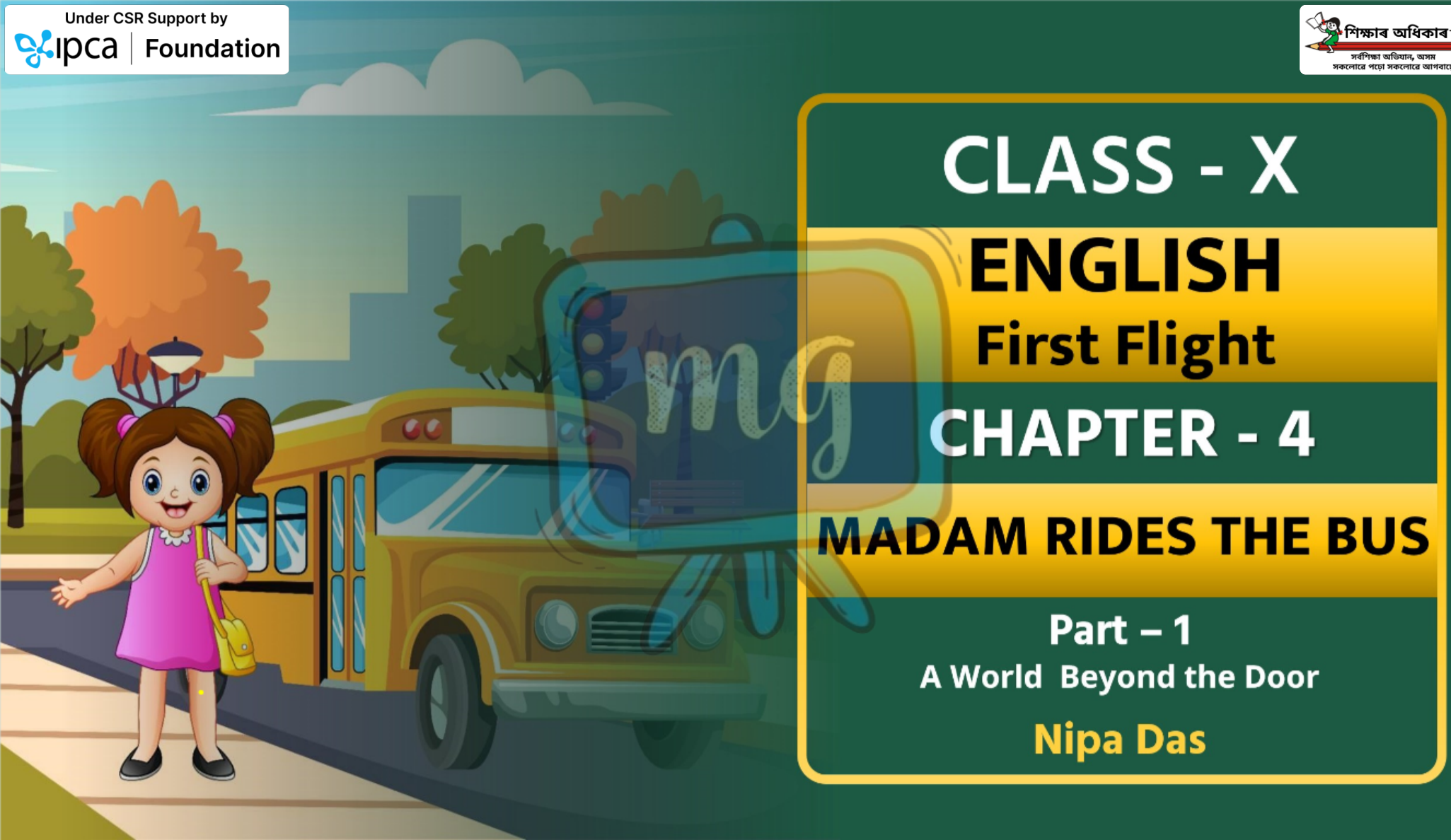
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সকলোৱে পঢ়ো সকলোৱে আগবাঢ়ো



CLASS - X

ENGLISH

First Flight

CHAPTER - 4

MADAM RIDES THE BUS

Part – 1

A World Beyond the Door

Nipa Das

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Vallikannan, is the pseudonym of R. S. Krishnasamy (12 November 1920 – 9 November 2006), a Tamil writer, journalist, critic, and translator from Tamil Nadu, India.

Through Valli in "Madam Rides the Bus", Vallikannan depicts the curious nature of the children.

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BEFORE YOU READ

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

Sensitive : সংবেদনশীল Gap : ব্যৱধান

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I

THERE was a girl named Valliammai who was called Valli for short. She was eight years old and very curious about things.



Curious : কৌতূহলী

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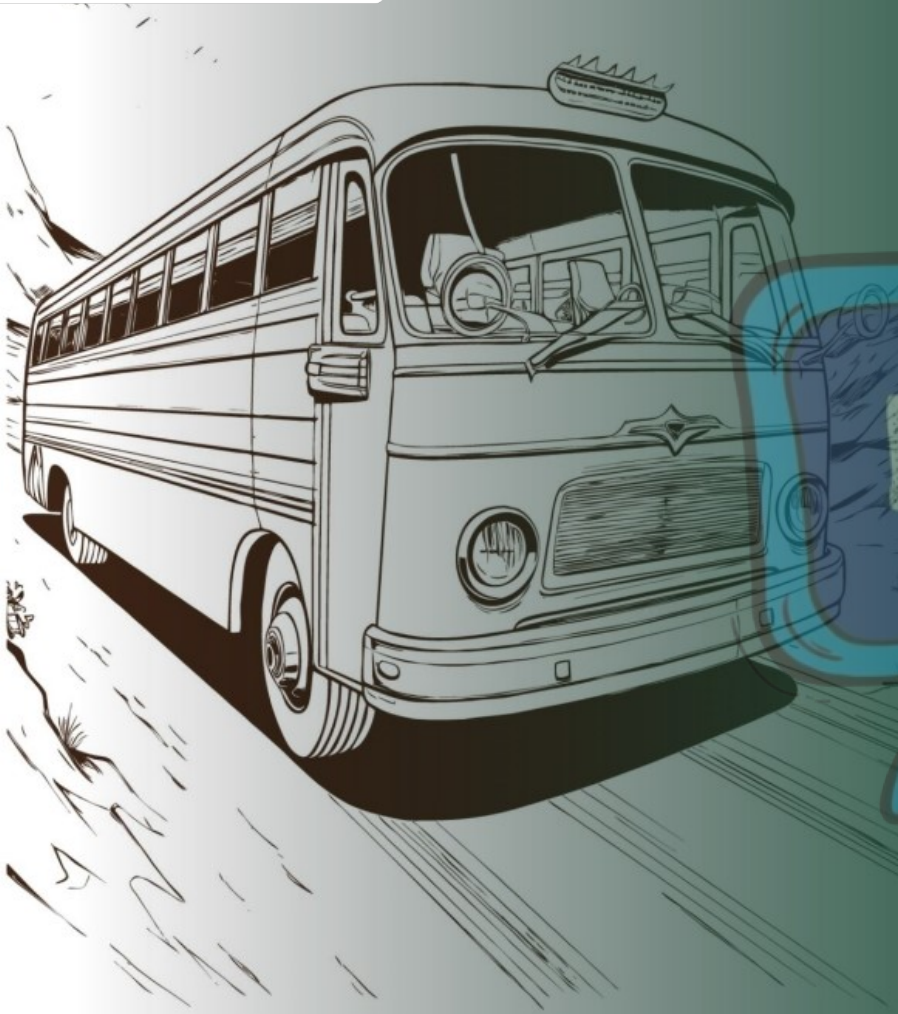
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Her favourite pastime was standing in the front doorway of her house, watching what was happening in the street outside.

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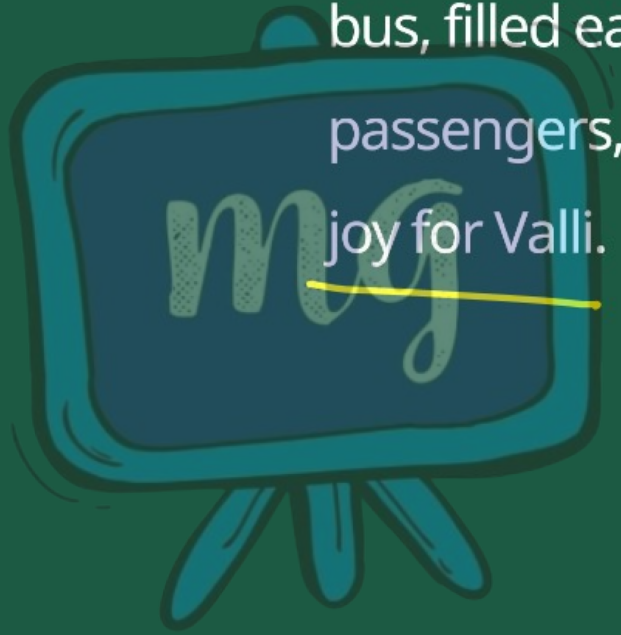
Watching the street gave her many new unusual experiences. The most fascinating thing of all was the bus that travelled between her village and the nearest town. It passed through her street each hour, once going to the town

Unusual	:	অস্বাভাৱিক/অনন্য
Fascinating	:	আকৰ্ষণীয়

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and once coming back. The sight of the bus, filled each time with a new set of passengers, was a source of unending joy for Valli.



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Day after day she watched the bus, and gradually a tiny wish crept into her head and grew there: she wanted to ride on that bus, even if just once. This wish became stronger and stronger, until it was an overwhelming desire.

Crept into	:	অহা
Overwhelming	:	প্ৰৱল
Desire	:	আকাংক্ষা

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Valli would stare wistfully at the people who got on or off the bus when it stopped at the street corner. Their faces would kindle in her longings, dreams, and hopes. If one of her friends happened to ride the bus and tried to describe the sights

Wistfully	:	আগ্রহেৰে
Kindle	:	জাগ্রত কৰা
Longings	:	আকাংক্ষা

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of the town to her, Valli would be too jealous to listen and would shout, in English: “Proud! proud!” Neither she nor her friends really understood the meaning of the word, but they used it often as a slang expression of disapproval. Over many days and months Valli listened carefully to

Slang Expression	:	অনানুষ্ঠানিক ভাষা
Disapproval	:	প্রত্যাখ্যান

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conversations between her neighbours and people who regularly used the bus, and she also asked a few discreet questions here and there. This way she picked up various small details about the bus journey. The town was six miles

Conversations	:	কথা-বার্তা
Discreet	:	সাৱধান

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from her village. The fare was thirty paise one way "which is almost nothing at all," she heard one well-dressed man say, but to Valli, who scarcely saw that much money from one month to the next, it seemed a fortune. The trip to the town took

Scarcely	:	খুব কমেই
Fortune	:	সৌভাগ্য

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forty-five minutes. On reaching town, if she stayed in her seat and paid another thirty paise, she could return home on the same bus. This meant that she could take the one-o'clock afternoon bus, reach the town at one forty-five, and be back home by about two forty-five...

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On and on went her thoughts as she calculated and recalculated, planned and replanned.



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ASSESSMENT

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1 What was Valli's favorite pastime?

- A ✓ Watching people on the street.
- B Playing with her friends.
- C Going to the town.
- D Helping with household chores.

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2 What does the word "wistfully" convey about Valli's feelings towards the bus?

A She was angry.

B She was sad.

C She was indifferent.

D She was excited.

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3 How would you describe Valli's character based on the given passage?

A Lazy and indifferent.

B Curious and determined.

C Shy and timid.

D Greedy and selfish.