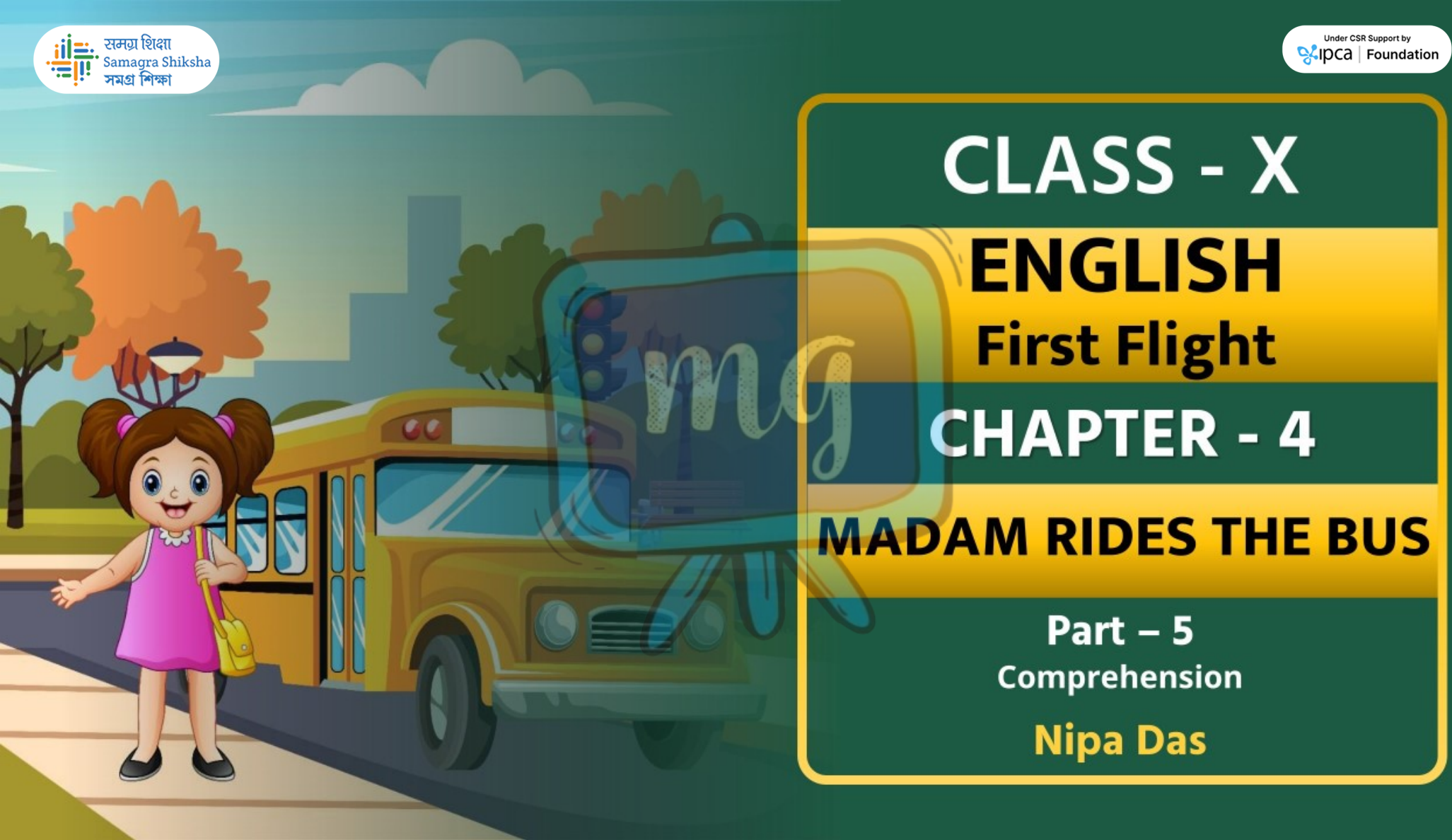
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CLASS - X

ENGLISH

First Flight

CHAPTER - 4

MADAM RIDES THE BUS

Part – 5

Comprehension

Nipa Das

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COMPREHENSION



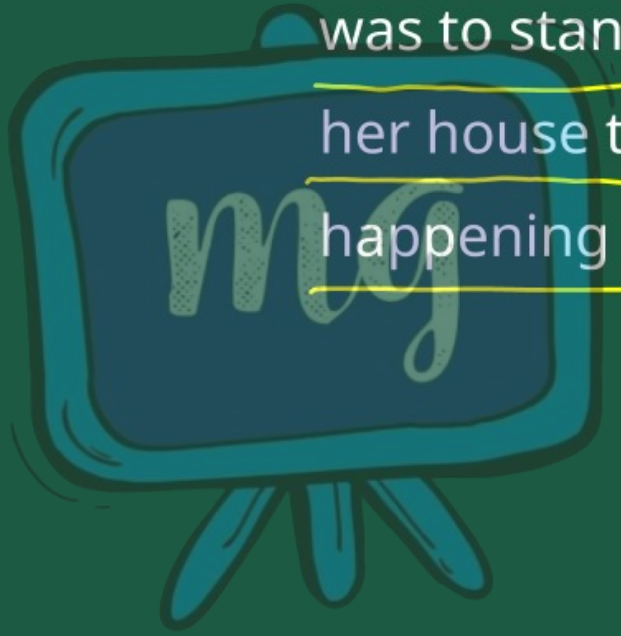
I

Q.1 What was Valli's favourite pastime?

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Answer : Valli's favourite pastime was to stand in the front doorway of her house to watch what was happening in the street outside.



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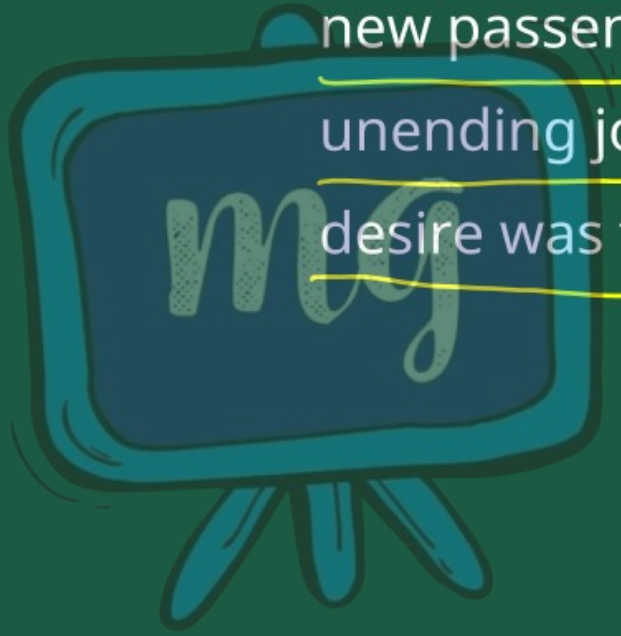
Q.2 What was a source of unending joy for Valli? What was her strongest desire?



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Answer : The sight of the bus with new passengers was a source of unending joy for Valli. Her strongest desire was to ride on that bus.



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Q.3 What did Valli find out about the bus journey? How did she find out these details?



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Answer : Valli found out that the town was six miles from the village. The fare was thirty paise one way. It took forty five minutes to reach town and the same bus would bring you back.

She found out these details after listening to the conversations of her neighbours about their bus rides.

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She also asked a few discreet questions here and there.



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Q.4 What do you think Valli was planning to do?



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Answer : Valli was planning to ride on the bus and to go to the town and return home on the same bus. She could take the one-o' clock afternoon bus that took 45 minutes to reach the town. In this way, she planned to stay in her seat and would be back home by about two forty-five.

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II

Q.1 Why does the conductor call Valli 'madam'?



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Answer : The conductor called Valli 'madam' because she behaved like a grown-up woman. She was quick in her answers to the conductor's questions. Also she spoke with great confidence. The bus conductor was a jolly person. So he addressed her as 'madam' as a joke.

Q.2 Why does Valli stand up on the seat? What does she see now?



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Answer: Valli was captivated by the view of the beautiful scenery outside the bus and was trying hard to look outside. Unfortunately, a canvas blind covered the lower part of her window so she stood up to on her seat and peered over. Now she was able to see that the bus was moving on a very narrow road. It had a canal on one side, beyond which palm trees, mountains and blue sky could be seen. On the other side there was a deep ditch followed by greenery.

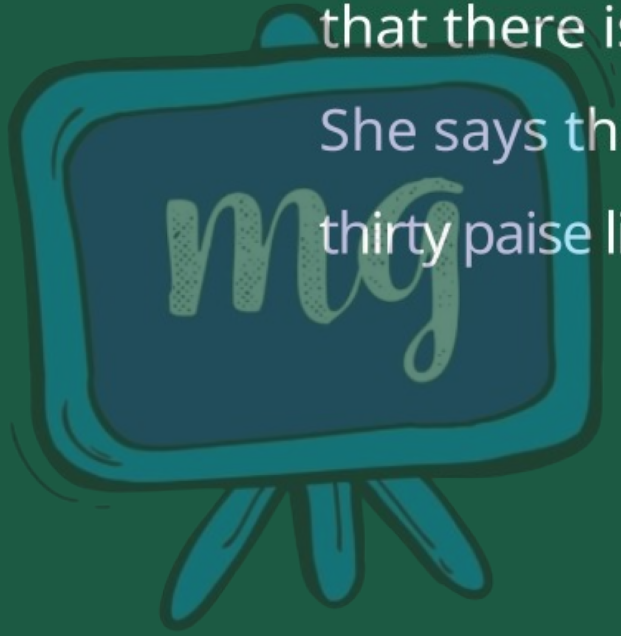
Q.3 What does Valli tell the elderly man when he calls her a child?



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Answer : Valli tells the elderly man that there is nobody who is a child. She says that she has paid her fare of thirty paise like everyone else.



Q.4 Why didn't Valli want to make friends with the elderly woman?



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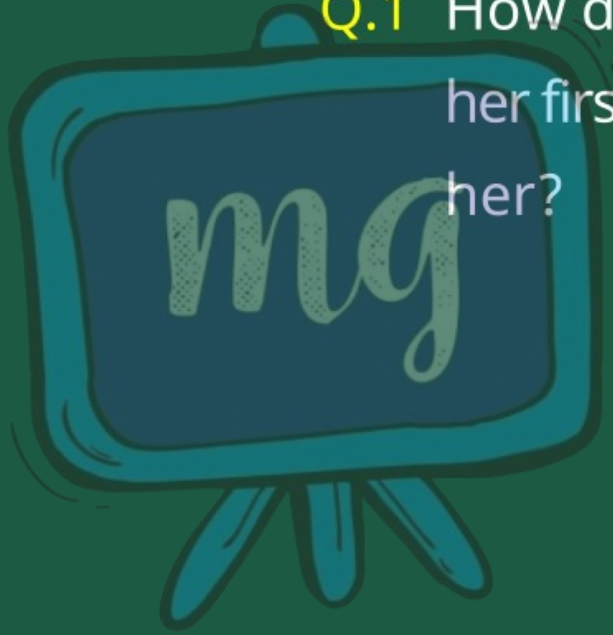
Answer : The elderly woman looked repulsive to her and smelled foul. She had big earlobes with bigger holes and wore ugly earrings. Besides, she was also chewing betel nut, and her mouth was also filled with betel juice that was likely to spill all over her lips. Seeing all this, Valli did not want to make friends with that woman.

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III

Q.1 How did Valli save up money for her first journey? Was it easy for her?



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Answer : Valli resisted every temptation for peppermints, toys, ballons to merry-go-round at the village fair to save up money for her first journey. It had been really difficult for her as she had to control her urges and resist the temptation. After making a lot of sacrifices, she was able to save sixty paise for her first dream bus journey.

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Q.2 What did Valli see on her way that made her laugh?



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Answer : Valli saw a cow, running very fast right in the middle of the road in front of the bus with her raised tail. The driver loudly honked the horn repeatedly. But the more he honked, the more frightened the animal became and galloped as fast as possible. This scene appeared funny to her and made her laugh.

Q.3 Why didn't she get off the bus at the bus station?



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Answer : Valli didn't get off the bus because she only boarded the bus with the intention of taking a ride to nearby town. And she had to go to town and then return by the same bus before her mother woke up from her afternoon nap. Moreover, she was too afraid to have a look at her surroundings as she was all alone.

Q.4 Why didn't Valli want to go to the stall and have a drink? What does this tell you about her?



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Answer : Valli did not want to go to the stall and have a drink. It was because she didn't have the money to waste on anything unnecessary. And when the conductor also offered to get her a drink in case she didn't have money, she still refused. It tells that she was a wise and independent girl who didn't want to rely on anyone for her needs.