

CLASS – 10

ENGLISH

First Flight

CH-7 : Madam Rides the Bus

Part – 4

A Glimpse of Reality

ARPITA SHARMA



OVERVIEW

1. A World Beyond the door

2. A Courageous step

3. The Magic of Discovery

4. The Return to Home

IV

"Won't your mother be looking for you?" the conductor asked when he gave the girl her ticket.

"No, no one will be looking for me," she said.

The bus started, and again there were the same wonderful sights. Valli wasn't bored in the slightest and greeted everything with the

same excitement she'd felt the first time. But suddenly she saw a young cow lying dead by the roadside, just where it had been struck by some fast-moving vehicle.

"Isn't that the same cow that ran in front of the bus on our trip to town?" she asked the conductor.

The conductor nodded, and she was overcome with sadness.

What had been a lovable, beautiful creature just a little while ago had now suddenly lost its charm and its life and looked so horrible, So frightening as it lay there, legs **spreadeagled**, a fixed stare in its lifeless eyes, blood all over...

✓ **Spreadeagled** : बाहर फैले हुए

The bus moved on. The memory of the dead cow **haunted** her, **dampening** her **enthusiasm**. She no longer wanted to look out the window. She sat thus, **glued to her seat**, until the bus reached her village at three **forty**.

- | | | |
|--------------|---|---------|
| ✓ Haunted | : | डराना |
| ✓ Dampening | : | कम करना |
| ✓ Enthusiasm | : | उत्साह |

She stood up and stretched herself.

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

"Okay, madam," he answered her,
smiling.

"Whenever you feel like a bus ride,
come and join us. And don't forget
to bring your fare."

She laughed and jumped down from
the bus.

Then away she went, running
straight for home.

When she entered her house she
found her mother, awake and talking
to one of Valli's aunts, the one from
South Street.

This aunt was a real **chatterbox**,
never closing her mouth once she
started talking.

Chatterbox : बातुनी

"And where have you been?" said

her aunt when Valli came in. She

spoke very casually, not expecting a

reply. So Valli just smiled, and her

mother and aunt went on with their

conversation.

"Yes, you're right," her mother said.

"So many things in our midst and in

✓ **Midst** : बीच में

the world outside. How can we
possibly know about everything?

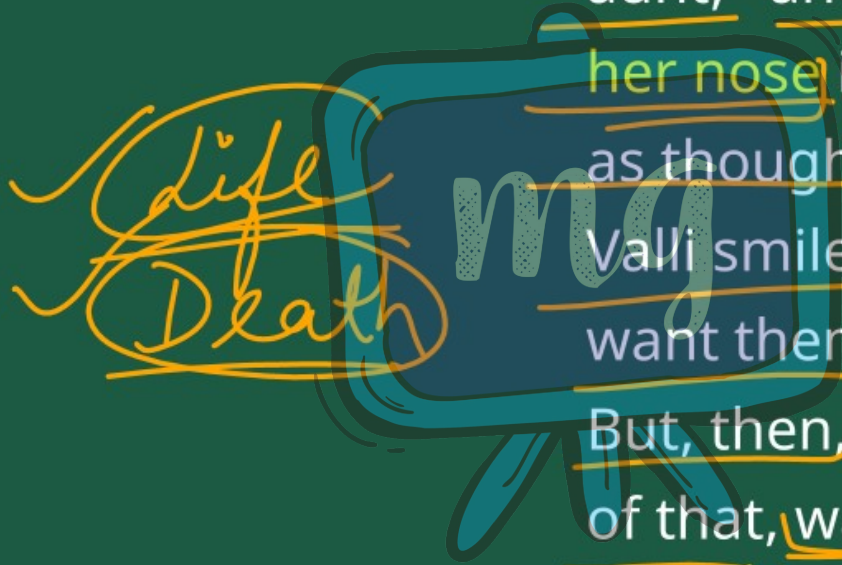
And even when we do know about
something, we often can't
understand it completely, can we?"

"Oh, yes!" breathed Valli.

"What?" asked her mother.

"What's that you say?"

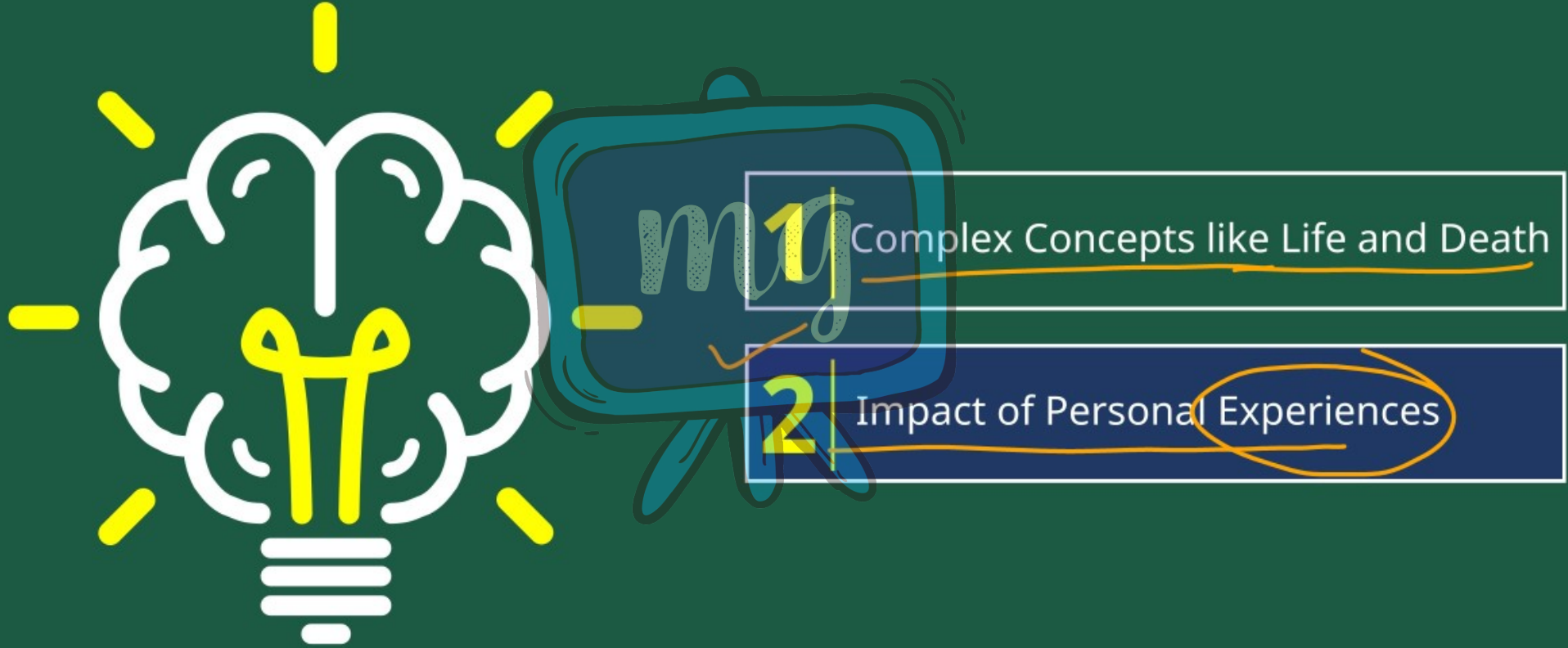
"Oh," said Valli, "I was just
agreeing with what you said about
things happening without our
knowledge."



"Just a **chit** of a girl, she is," said her aunt, "and yet look how she **pokes her nose** into our conversation, just as though she were a grown lady." Valli smiled to herself. She didn't want them to understand her smile. But, then, there wasn't much chance of that, was there?

- ✓ Chit : छोटी
- ✓ Poke the nose : बीच में बोलना

LEARNING OUTCOMES



ASSESSMENT



1

What was Valli's main reason for taking the bus to town?

A

To visit her aunt.

B

To buy something from the market.

C

To experience the bus journey.

D

To escape from her mother.

ASSESSMENT



2

How did Valli feel about the old woman sitting next to her?

- A She liked her company.
- B She found her annoying.
- C She felt indifferent towards her.
- D She admired the old woman.

ASSESSMENT



3

What did Valli's mother say about the world and its mysteries?

- A We know everything about the world.
- B The world is a simple place.
- C There is much we don't know about the world.
- D The world is full of surprises.