

CLASS – 10

ENGLISH

First Flight

CH-7 : Madam Rides the Bus

Part – 2

A Courageous Step

ARPITA SHARMA



OVERVIEW

1. A World Beyond the Door

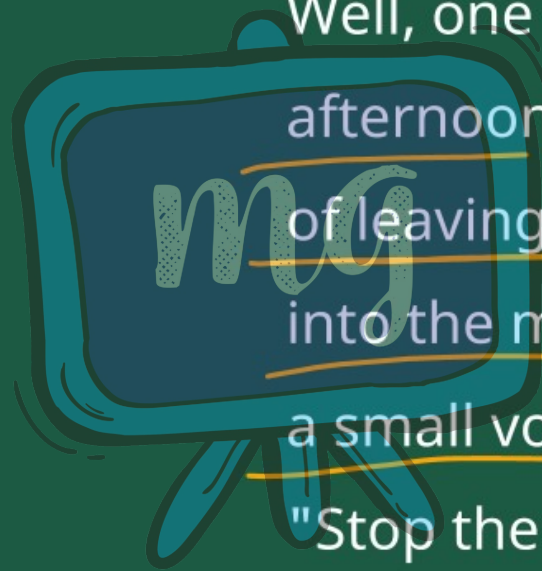
2. A Courageous Step

3. The Magic of Discovery

4. The Return to Home

II

Well, one fine spring day the
afternoon bus was just on the point
of leaving the village and turning
into the main highway when
a small voice was heard shouting:
"Stop the bus! Stop the bus!" And a
tiny hand was raised commandingly.



The bus slowed down to a **crawl**, and

the conductor, **sticking** his head out

the door, said, "Hurry then! Tell

whoever it is to come quickly."

"It's me," shouted Valli. "I'm the

one who has to get on."

- ✓ Crawl : रेंगना
- ✓ Sticking out : बाहर निकालते हुए

By now the bus had come to a stop,
and the conductor said, "Oh, really!
You don't say so!"

"Yes, I simply have to go to town,"
said Valli, still standing outside the
bus, "and here's my money." She
showed him some coins.

"Okay, okay, but first you must get
on the bus," said the conductor, and
he stretched out a hand to help her
up.

"Never mind," she said, "I can get
on by myself. You don't have to help
me."

The conductor was a jolly sort, fond
of joking. "Oh, please don't be angry
with me, my fine madam," he said.

"Here, have a seat right up there in
front. Everybody move aside please
make way for - madam."

Jolly : प्रसन्नचित

It was the **slack time** of day, and there were only six or seven passengers on the bus. They were all looking at Valli and laughing with the conductor. Valli was overcome with **shyness**. Avoiding everyone's eyes, she walked quickly to an empty seat and sat down.

- ✓ **Slack time** : कम काम वाला समय
- ✓ **Shyness** : शर्म

"May we start now, madam?" the conductor asked, smiling. Then he blew his whistle twice, and the bus moved forward with a roar.

It was a new bus, its outside painted a gleaming white with some green stripes along the sides.

Gleaming : चमकदार

Inside, the overhead bars shone like silver. Directly in front of Valli, above the windshield, there was a beautiful clock. The seats were soft and **luxurious**. Valli **devoured** everything with her eyes. But when she started to look outside, she found her view cut off

Luxurious : आरामदायक
Devoured : तेजी से पढ़ना

by a canvas blind that covered the
lower part of her window. So she
stood up on the seat and peered
over the blind.



Peered : ध्यान से देखना

The bus was now going along the bank of a canal. The road was very narrow. On one side there was the canal and beyond it, palm trees, grassland, distant mountains, and the blue, blue sky.



✓ Canal : नहर

On the other side was a deep ditch and then acres and acres of green fields green, green, green, as far as the eye could see. Oh, it was all so wonderful! Suddenly she was startled by a voice. "Listen, child," said the voice, "you shouldn't stand like that. Sit down."

- ✓ Ditch : सड़क के किनारे बनी हुई खाई
- ✓ Startled : चौंकना

Sitting down, she looked to see who
had spoken. It was an elderly man
who had honestly been concerned
for her, but she was annoyed by his
attention.

"There's nobody here who's a
child," she said haughtily.

- | | |
|-------------|-----------|
| ✓ Concerned | : चिन्तित |
| ✓ Annoyed | : क्रोधित |
| ✓ Attention | : ध्यान |
| ✓ Haughtily | : घमंड से |

"I've paid my thirty paise like
everyone else."

The conductor **chimed in**. "Oh, sir,
but this is a very grown-up madam.

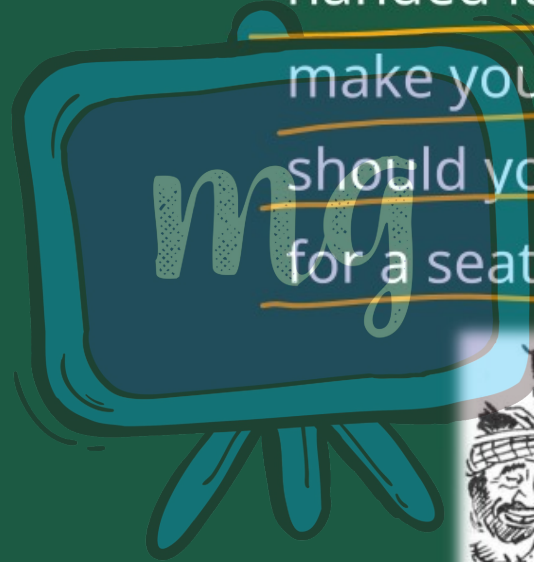
Do you think a **mere** girl could pay
her own fare and travel to the city all
alone?"

✓ Chimed in	: बीच में बोलना
✓ Mere	: केवल/मात्र

Valli shot an angry glance at the conductor and said, "I am not a madam. Please remember that. And you've not yet given me my ticket." "I'll remember," the conductor said, **mimicking** her tone. Everyone laughed, and gradually Valli too joined in the laughter.

Mimicking : नकल करना

The conductor punched a ticket and handed it to her. "Just sit back and make yourself comfortable. Why should you stand when you've paid for a seat?"



"Because I want to," she answered,
standing up again.

"But if you stand on the seat, you
may fall and hurt yourself when the
bus makes a sharp turn or hits a
bump. That's why we want you to sit
down, child."

"I'm not a child, I tell you," she said
irritably. "I'm eight years old."

Irritably : चिड़चिड़ेपन से

"Of course, of course. How stupid of me! Eight years my!" - The bus stopped, some new passengers got on, and the conductor got busy for a time. Afraid of losing her seat, Valli finally sat down.

An elderly woman came and sat beside her. "Are you all alone, dear?" she asked Valli as the bus started again.

Valli found the woman absolutely

repulsive - such big holes she had in

her ear lobes, and such ugly

earrings in them!

And she could smell the betel nut

the woman was chewing and see

✓ **Absolutely** : पूरी तरह से

✓ **Repulsive** : अप्रिय

the betel juice that was threatening
to spill over her lips at any moment.

Ugh! - who could be sociable with
such a person? "Yes, I'm travelling
alone," she answered curtly. "And
I've got a ticket too."

- ✓ Sociable : मिलनसार
- ✓ Curtly : रुखेपन से

"Yes, she's on her way to town,"
said the conductor. "With a thirty-
paise ticket."

"Oh, why don't you mind your own
business," said Valli. But she
laughed all the same, and the
conductor laughed too.

But the old woman went on with
her **drivel**.

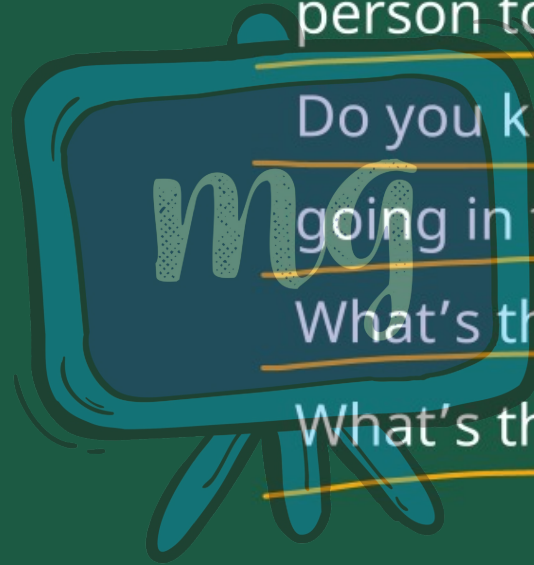
✓ Drivel : बेकार की बात

"Is it proper for such a young
person to travel alone?"

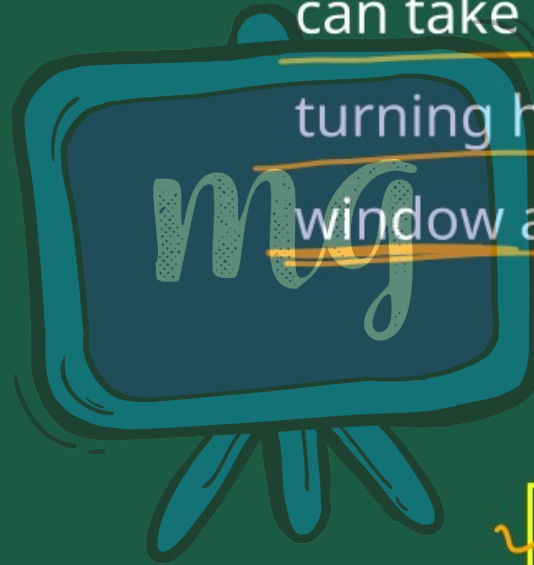
Do you know exactly where you're
going in town?

What's the street?

What's the house number?"



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



✓ **Bother** : चिंता करना

LEARNING OUTCOMES

1 | Independent Decision Making

2 | The Importance and Concept of Budgeting and Savings

ASSESSMENT



1

What was the conductor's initial reaction to Valli wanting to board the bus?

A

He was angry.

B

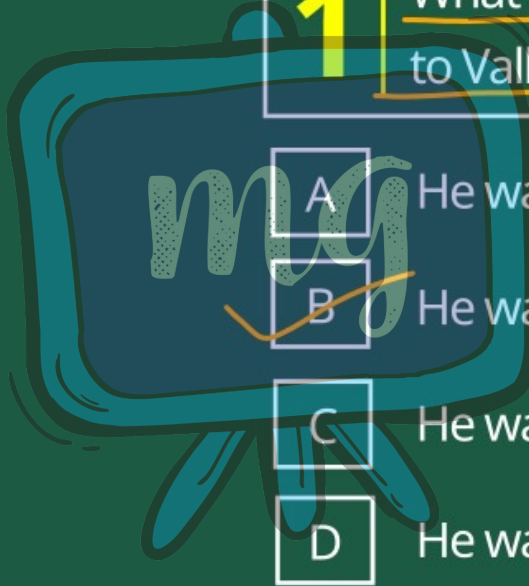
He was surprised.

C

He was indifferent.

D

He was amused.



ASSESSMENT



2

Why couldn't Valli see the scenery properly?

- A The bus was too fast.
- B The canvas blind covered the lower part of the window.
- C The passengers were blocking her view.
- D It was too dark outside.

ASSESSMENT



3

What does the phrase "devoured everything with her eyes" suggest about Valli?

- A She was hungry.
- B She was scared.
- C She was curious and observant.
- D She was bored.

ASSESSMENT



4

What can we infer about Valli's personality from her interaction with the old woman?

- A She is friendly and outgoing.
- B She is impatient and reserved.
- C She is disrespectful and rude.
- D She is polite and respectful.