

Access answers to NCERT Solutions for Class 10 English Chapter 9 Madam Rides the Bus

Question 1:

What was Valli's favourite pastime?

Answer:

Valli's favourite pastime was standing in the front doorway of her house and watching what was happening in the street outside.

Question 2:

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

Answer:

The sight of the bus that travelled between her village and the nearest town, filled with a new set of passengers each time it passed through the street near her house was a source of unending joy for Valli. Her strongest desire was to take a ride on the bus someday.

Question 3:

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

Answer:

Valli found out that the bus journey to the town from her village was six miles and took forty-five minutes approximately. The fare for a one-way journey cost 30 paise. She listened to the conversations carefully between her neighbours and the people who regularly took the bus trip and asked a few questions to gain some information and small details about the bus journey.

Question 4:

What do you think Valli was planning to do?

Answer:

Valli was planning to travel on the bus and go to the town and return home on the same bus. She heard the onward journey fare was thirty paise that took forty five minutes approximately to reach the town. In this way, she planned that she would stay in her seat and pay another thirty paise for the return trip. This meant that she could take the one-o'clock afternoon bus, reach the town at 1.45 P.M. and return home by 2.45 P.M.

Question 1.

Why does the conductor call Valli 'madam'?

Answer:

The conductor called Valli 'madam' because she behaved like a woman. She declined his help and was very quick in her answers to the conductor's questions. This made the conductor call her madam.

Question 2.

Why does Valli stand up on the seat?

(or)

What does she see now?

Answer:

Valli wanted to look outside the bus. She found her view blocked by the canvas blind that covered the lower part of the window. In order to have a better view she stood up on the seat and peered over the blind. She saw a canal, palm trees, grassland, mountains, green fields and the sky.

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

Answer:

Valli replied that there was nobody in the bus who was a child. She told her that she had paid her fare of 30 paise like

Question 4.

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

Answer:

Valli did not want to make friends with the elderly woman because she looked quite repulsive. She had big earholes and was wearing ugly earrings. Apart from this, she was chewing betel and her mouth was also filled with betel juice.

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

Ans: Valli was a young girl and was very curious about things around her. The bus was the most fascinating thing she saw on the streets and wanted to travel by it one day. She saved every coin that she was given, and she controlled her

urge of buying candies, toys, and joyrides. It was difficult for her but her desire to travel in a bus outweighed all these desires.

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

Ans: It was exciting for Valli to observe the world outside her window. One particular incident on the road made her laugh. There was a young cow whose tail was high in the air and was running right in the middle of the road. The honk from the bus frightened the animal further and it started running faster right in front of the bus. Valli found it extremely amusing and funny and even had tears in her eyes while laughing at the absurdness of the cow.

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

Ans: Valli planned to go back by the same bus. She did not get off the bus since she heard the bus travellers talk about it. She handed another thirty paise to the conductor. She had no work in the town and just wanted to ride the bus and have fun.

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

Ans: Valli had self-esteem and pride. When she entered the bus, she refused help from the conductor and acted like an adult. Even though she was thirsty and wanted to get a drink from the stall, she did not because she was short of the amount. She just had enough for the ride and did not want a stranger to help her.

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

Solution : Valli's deepest desire was to ride on the bus she saw everyday. The sentences in the story which depict this are as follows:

"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."

2. How did Valli plan her bus ride? What did she find out about the bus, and how did she save up the fare?

Solution : Valli planned that she would take the one o'clock afternoon bus, reach the town at one forty-five, and be back home by about two forty-five. She found out that the town was six miles from her village. The fare was thirty paise one way. The trip to the town took forty-five minutes. On reaching the town, if she stayed in her seat and paid another thirty paise, she could return home on the same bus. She had carefully saved whatever stray coins came her way, resisting every temptation to buy peppermints, toys, balloons, and the like, and finally she had saved sixty paise.

3. 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.

- (i) "Stop the bus! Stop the bus!" And a tiny hand was raised _____.
- (ii) "Yes, I _____ go to town," said Valli, still standing outside the bus.
- (iii) "There's nobody here _____," she said haughtily. "I've paid my thirty paise like everyone else."
- (iv) "Never mind," she said, "I can _____. You don't have to help me. 'I'm not a child, I tell you,'" she said, _____.
- (v) "You needn't bother about me. I _____," Valli said, turning her face toward the window and staring out.
- (vi) Then she turned to the conductor and said, "Well, sir, I hope _____."

Solution :

- (i) "Stop the bus! Stop the bus!" And a tiny hand was raised **commandingly**.
- (ii) "Yes, I **simply have to** go to town," said Valli, still standing outside the bus.
- (iii) "There's nobody here **who's a child**" she said haughtily. "I've paid my thirty paise like everyone else."
- (iv) "Never mind," she said, "I can **get on by myself**. You don't have to help me. 'I'm not a child, I tell you,'" she said, irritably.
- (v) "You needn't bother about me. I **can take care of myself**" Valli said, turning her face toward the window and staring out.

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

For Valli, the bus journey probably symbolised the adult world. Like anyone else, she spent her money to buy the ticket. She would have attained a great sense of pride and satisfaction in doing so. Therefore, though a child, Valli wanted to be treated as a grown-up on the bus. She had a great sense of self respect which prevented her from taking anyone's help. She felt she was able to take care of herself very well, and was easily irritated when anyone treated her as a child.

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

Solution : When the conductor stretched out his hand to help her get on the bus, Valli said commandingly that she could get on by herself, and that she did not require his help. She did not act like a child, but as a grown-up girl and therefore, the conductor called her 'madam'. When the elderly man called her a child and asked her to sit down on her seat, she replied that nobody was a child on the bus. She kept stressing on the fact that she had paid her fare like everybody else and therefore, she should not be treated differently.

Question 5:

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

Answer:

Valli thoroughly enjoyed her bus ride to the town. The following lines from the text are a proof that exhibit her excitement:

- "Valli devoured everything with her eyes."
- "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. 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!"
- "Everyone laughed, and gradually Valli too joined in the laughter."

- “Suddenly Valli clapped her hands with glee. A young cow, tail high in the air, was running very fast, right in the middle of the road, right in front of the bus.”
- “Somehow this was very funny to Valli. She laughed and laughed until there were tears in her eyes.”
- “Valli wasn’t bored in the slightest and greeted everything with the same excitement she’d felt the first time.”

Question 6:

Why does Valli refuse to look out of the window on her way back?

Answer:

Valli refused to look out of the window on her way back to her village because she was upset on seeing the dead body of the cow that was running towards the bus while she was going to town. The poor animal was hit by some fast-moving vehicle on the road. She was overcome with sadness and extremely frightened to look outside the bus window as the memory of the cow was haunting her.

Question 7:

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

Answer:

When Valli’s mother casually mentioned that there are certain things that happen around them without their knowledge, Valli instantly agreed to her mother’s words and said, “I was just agreeing with what you said about things happening without our knowledge.” She was happy about her adventurous bus trip to the town which she had taken without the knowledge of her parents.

Question 8:

The author describes the things that Valli sees from an eight-year-old’s point of view. Can you find evidence from the text for this statement?

Answer:

Yes, the author had described various things from an eight-year-old’s point of view. Some of these include – ‘she was fascinated by the bus’ and ‘watching the bus fill with a new set of people each time was a source of unending joy for her’. The author described the colour and look of the new bus as ‘its outside painted a gleaming white with some green stripes along the sides. Inside, the

overhead bars shone like silver.’ Through this description, the author wanted to express how a child would be attracted towards the colour of the bus. ‘The seats were soft and luxurious’. This description implies that the author wanted to show the excitement of a child to travel in the luxury of a bus for the first time. ‘The blue sky’ and ‘acres and acres of green field’, show the zeal and enthusiasm of a child. Further, when Valli sees the cow running in front of the bus, this fascinated her too whereas the sight of a dead cow brought tears in her eyes. The memory of the cow haunted her and she refused to look outside the window on her return journey. These were some of the lines which beautifully described the typical reactions and behaviour of an eight-year-old child in an ideal manner.

Question 1:

This story has a lot of people talking in it. The conductor jokes and laughs with Valli, some passengers try to show their concern for her, and her mother and her aunt spend time chatting.

Read the conversations carefully. Then think of similar people, or similar situations that you have experienced. Mimic a person or persons who spoke to you, saying what they said, along with your replies.

Answer:

Activity to be done by yourself.

(Note: Students can write this answer as per their personal experiences.)

Writing (Page 128)

Write a page — about three paragraphs — on one of the following topics.

Question 1.

Have you ever planned something entirely on your own, without taking grown ups into your confidence? What did you plan and how? Did you carry out your plan?

Answer:

It was during my summer vacations. I wanted to plan a special birthday for my mother. So, I roped in my younger sister in my plan to celebrate her birthday. We saved our pocket money and didn't go for our weekly outings for some time. In this way, we were able to save five hundred rupees for the birthday party. Now, we had to arrange everything without our mother's knowledge. On her birthday we pretended as if we didn't remember her birthday at all. Instead we requested our father to take her to the market. In the meantime, we arranged everything like cake, decorations, flowers and even invited two of

her best friends. When she came back she was surprised. It was the best birthday she ever had in her life.

Question 2.

Have you made a journey that was unforgettable in some way? What made it memorable?

Answer:

I have gone on many trips and excursions, but one journey which I can't forget is my trip to Hemkund and Badrinath. The scenery over there was mesmerising and as you leave Delhi, you enjoy cool fresh air and see breath taking lush green fields. The bus ride takes you on winding narrow roads, with river flowing on one side and mountains on the other side. To reach Hemkund Sahib, one has to travel 14 kms by foot. Everywhere there are crowds of devotees, chanting holy names and moving up the hill. When I reached the shrine, it was enveloped in clouds. The water in the holy tank was ice cold. The moment you step in it your tiredness vanishes. After that we went to Badrinath by bus. It was also a very nice place. There were many hot springs over there.

Question 3.

Are you concerned about traffic and road safety? What are your concerns? How would you make road travel safer and more enjoyable?

Answer:

India has a wide network of roads. Everyday crores of Indians travel on these road by bus, car, cycle, cycle rickshaw, scooter, moped, truck, etc. Even pedestrians use these roads. As people don't follow road safety rules, every year many people lose their lives due to fatal road accidents. It is also seen that 90 per cent of these fatal accidents involve youngsters who like to drive at very high speed, don't wear helmets and seat belt, talk on mobiles while driving or love to do stunts inspired by movies. Despite many directions issued by the traffic police all their advice falls on deaf year. It is our duty to follow all the rules and regulations and to keep safety measures in our mind while driving. Safe driving is best driving and the rules are framed keeping our security in mind:
