

MADAM RIDES THE BUS

Setting: A lively English classroom. **Teacher:** Mr. Achari 🧑🏫 **Students:** Priya 🧒, Rahul 🧒, Sneha 🧒, and Amit 🧒.

Mr. Achari 🧑🏫: Good morning, class! Today, we are going to explore a beautiful story called "**Madam Rides the Bus.**" It's about an 8-year-old girl named **Valli** and her first adventure into the world outside her village. 🌍

Priya 🧒: Sir, why is an 8-year-old riding a bus alone? Isn't that dangerous?

Mr. Achari 🧑🏫: That is exactly what makes Valli special, Priya! Valli was a very **curious** girl. Her favourite pastime was standing in her doorway and watching the street. Her strongest desire—her "overwhelming wish"—was to ride the bus that travelled between her village and the nearest town. 🚌

Rahul 🧒: But Sir, she's just a kid. Did she just board the bus? How did she pay for the ticket?

Mr. Achari 🧑🏫: Great question, Rahul. She didn't just hop on. She was a **planner**! 📝

1. She listened carefully to conversations between her neighbours and regular bus passengers.
2. She found out the details: The town was six miles away, and the fare was **30 paise** one way.
3. She saved every coin she could, resisting temptations like peppermints, toys, and even a ride on the merry-go-round at the fair. She saved a total of **60 paise** for the round trip. 💰

Sneha 🧒: Wow, she was really determined! But why is the story called "Madam" rides the bus? Did she act like a rich lady?

Mr. Achari 🧑🏫: (Laughs) Not exactly rich, Sneha, but very **proud and mature**. When she finally got on the bus, she refused help from the Conductor. She spoke with such

confidence and acted like a grown-up that the Conductor jokingly started calling her "**Madam.**" She even stood up on her seat to see the view better! 🙄

Amit 🧒 : So, did she have fun? What did she see outside?

Mr. Achari 🧑🏫 : Oh, she loved it at first! She saw palm trees 🌴 , mountains 🏔️ , and the blue sky. But the highlight was a **young cow** running very fast right in front of the bus, with its tail high in the air. Valli laughed until she had tears in her eyes. It was the funniest thing she had ever seen. 🐮 😄

Priya 🧒 : That sounds lovely. But did she get off at the town?

Mr. Achari 🧑🏫 : No, Priya. Remember, she only had money for the ticket. When the bus reached the town, she stayed in her seat and paid another 30 paise to go back home. She was very careful not to get lost.

Rahul 🧒 : So, it was just a happy trip? Or did something else happen?

Mr. Achari 🧑🏫 : This is the turning point of the story. On the way back, Valli saw something terrible. She saw that same young cow lying dead by the roadside; it had been struck by a fast vehicle. 🚗 🚑

Sneha 🧒 : Oh no! That must have been shocking for her.

Mr. Achari 🧑🏫 : It was, Sneha. Valli became very quiet. The memory of the dead cow haunted her. She realized that life is fragile—one moment a creature is lovable and alive, and the next, it is dead and still. She lost her enthusiasm and didn't look out the window anymore. 😞

Amit 🧒 : So, she learned a big lesson about life and death?

Mr. Achari 🧑🏫 : Exactly, Amit. She returned home safely, and her mother didn't even know she had left. Valli smiled to herself, keeping her journey a secret. She had started her journey as a curious child but returned with the **wisdom and maturity** of an adult.

Mr. Achari 🧑🏫 : Does anyone have one final takeaway from Valli's journey?

Priya 🧒 : I think the lesson is that even children can be determined and brave, but experiencing the world also means seeing the sad parts of life, not just the fun parts.

Mr. Achari 🧑🏫: Wonderfully put! Valli's bus ride was a journey from **innocence to experience**. ☀️

Key Points to Remember:

- **Valli's Character:** Curious, mature, determined, and a good planner.
- **The Plan:** Saved 60 paise by resisting toys and candy.
- **The Journey:** Enjoyed the view and the funny cow. The conductor called her "Madam" because of her adult-like behaviour.
- **The Lesson:** Seeing the dead cow made her understand the mystery of life and death.