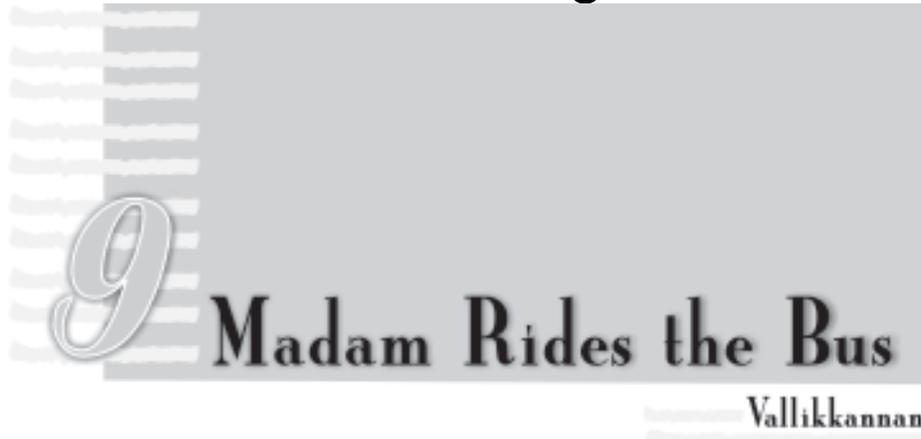


talk
to
me!

LET'S TALK EMPOWERMENT. LET'S TALK ENGLISH

First Flight



1. Watch and listen to the story

Click on the link below to watch a video of the story being read. Note the pronunciations of the words and read along using the subtitles.

[\(29\) Madam Rides the Bus - YouTube](#)

2. Summary

'Madam Rides the Bus', is an insightful story written by Vallikkannan, translated by K.S. Sundaram, and illustrated by the cartoonist R.K. Laxman. It narrates a special day in the life of an eight-year-old girl, Valliammai. The writer paints a picture of a lonely, yet curious little girl who stands at the front door of her house and watches life go by. The daily afternoon bus from the village to the nearby town fascinates her. She develops a strong desire to ride on that bus and see the world outside. She is an unusually self-reliant child who is very clear about what she wants and then makes careful plans to achieve her goals.

Valli spent several months listening to conversations of her neighbors and others, and asking discreet questions. She finally gathered enough information about the bus, its route, distance to the town, and the fare, to plan a bus ride. She controlled her spending and finally saved the sixty paise needed for a round trip to and from the nearest town. Then she was ready for her adventure!

One afternoon, while her mother was napping, she got on the bus by herself. The jovial bus conductor and her co-passengers tried to help and protect her since she was a child travelling alone. However, she resented being called a child and haughtily refused any offer of help.

She devoured all the sights of the landscape with her eyes as the bus rolled into town. Once there, Valli was struck dumb with wonder, and gaped at everything she saw. However, she was a cautious child, and knew that it was not safe for her to wander through the town alone. So she sat on the bus, enjoying the sights, till the bus started its return journey.

Her wonder at the new sights changed to sadness when she saw a young cow lying dead by the side of the road. It was the same cow that had been so full of life, when she was on her way into town. This was her first encounter with death and it saddened her deeply. It made her realize that in the midst of life, there is death.

Valli came back home safely. Though her mother knew that she had not been at home, she did not question her about her whereabouts. Instead, her mother continued her conversation with Valli's Aunt, "So many things in our midst and in the world outside. How can we possibly know about everything?" Valli poked her nose into the conversation and said, "I was just agreeing with what you said about things happening without our knowledge." Then she smiled to herself. Her excursion remained a secret!

3. Vocabulary

1. **Sensitive** – kind and understanding; easily upset; needs to be dealt with carefully
The teacher should always be **sensitive** to the needs of her or his students.
He was very **sensitive** about his disability and refused to come out in front of people.
The stolen briefcase contained some very **sensitive** government documents.
2. **Induction** – formal introduction, training
Neeraj will have to go through an **induction** course before he starts working on his new job.

3. **Mystery** – strange or unknown
How the money was stolen from an office full of people, remains a **mystery**.
4. **Curious** – interested; strange and unusual
Babies are **curious** about everything around them.
There was a **curious** looking woman standing near the entrance to the school.
5. **Pastime** – an activity that is done for enjoyment
Her favourite **pastime** is solving Sudoku puzzles.
6. **Playmates** – a friend, especially another child, who a child often plays with
The little girl had many **playmates** in the neighbourhood.
7. **Elaborate** – containing a lot of careful detail or many detailed parts; to add more information to or explain something that you have said
She had an **elaborate** hairstyle with lots of plaits and curls.
He refused to **elaborate** further on the reasons for his leaving the city.
8. **Experiences** – some things that happen to you that affects how you feel
The soldier told us in great detail, about his **experiences** during the war.
9. **Fascinating** – extremely interesting.
The school children found the fireworks the most fascinating part of the Annual Day celebrations.
10. **Unending** – without limit or end
Her grandchildren were a source of **unending** joy for her.
11. **Gradually** – slowly over a period of time or a distance
I **gradually** realised that he was making up the whole story, and not telling the truth.
12. **Crept** – moved slowly, quietly, and carefully, usually in order to avoid being noticed
The cat **crept** into the room and lay down on the carpet near the fire.

13. **Overwhelming** – feeling strong emotion.
All the praise he received for his performance in the school play, was **overwhelming** for him.
14. **Desire** – want something strongly
Her parents gave her everything that she could possibly **desire**.
15. **Wistfully** – longingly
The beggar looked **wistfully** at the food from far away.
16. **Kindle** – set alight (a fire); cause feelings
It is difficult to **kindle** a fire with wet wood.
Her teacher's encouragement **kindled** a desire in her to do even better.
17. **Longings** – feelings of wanting something or someone very much
The young widow's longings for a home and family of her own, grew with time.
18. **Jealous** – unhappy and angry because someone has something that you want
Deepa was always **jealous** of her sister, Pia, because Pia was so much prettier than her.
19. **Slang expression** – informal words, often used within a close group
He uses a lot of American **slang expressions** like 'dude' or 'chill' that I do not understand.
20. **Disapproval** – feeling of not being approved
Deepak had worked hard on his project so his teacher's **disapproval** was extremely disappointing.
21. **Conversations** – talks between two or more people
Her parents would listen to all her **conversations** with her friends.
22. **Discreet** – careful and wise in one's speech or actions, especially in order to keep something confidential or to avoid embarrassment.
Please be **discreet** and do not reveal the secret that I shared with you.
23. **Various** – many
A multiplex hall gives you a choice of **various** movies.

24. **Fare** – money paid for a journey on public transport
The railway **fare** from Delhi to Chennai has been raised again.
25. **Scarcely** – almost not; only just
She was **scarcely** able to move her arm after she broke it in a fall.
26. **Fortune** – good luck, a large amount of money or assets
It is our good **fortune** that we have an excellent maths teacher.
Rahul inherited a huge **fortune** from his father but wasted it in just a few years.
27. **Recalculated** – to calculate again, usually using different numbers or data
She **recalculated** the price of the book after giving a ten percent discount.
28. **Replanned** – formed a new plan, planned again
She **replanned** her party for the following month because of the lockdown.
29. **Spring** – the season between winter and summer; a piece of curved or bent metal that can be pressed into a smaller space but then returns to its usual shape; a place where water naturally flows out from the ground; to move quickly and suddenly towards a particular place; to appear suddenly
We all went for a picnic in the park as it was a fine **spring** day.
The **spring** in the sofa has been spoilt by the children jumping on it.
We took a bath in the fresh **spring** water bubbling out of the mountain side.
As soon as we receive the go-ahead from our teacher to start our dance practice, we should **spring** into action.
Weeds appear to **spring** up everywhere in the flower bed.
30. **Commandingly** – with authority
Virat Kohli **commandingly** took control of the batting in the second innings.
31. **Crawl** – to move slowly or with difficulty; move forward on the hands and knees or by dragging the body close to the ground.
The traffic was **crawling** because one lane was closed.
The child learned to **crawl** at a very fast pace.

32. **Stretched** – caused something to reach, often as far as possible, in a particular direction
He **stretched** out his hand to pull her up into the train.
33. **Jolly** – happy and smiling
Her friend was a **jolly** person, always cracking jokes.
34. **Slack time** – a time when there is not much work
In his **slack time**, the shopkeeper counted the cash.
35. **Overcome** – unable to act or think in the usual way; to defeat or deal with
When she saw a strange man standing at the door of her room, she was **overcome** with fear.
He was ready to **overcome** every difficulty in order to reach his goal.
36. **Shyness** – being nervous or uncomfortable with other people
Rupa could not talk in class because of her **shyness**.
37. **Avoiding** – staying away from someone or something
Gopal has been **avoiding** his best friend, Mahesh, as they have had a fight.
38. **Gleaming** – shining
The hotel's **gleaming** lights are visible from my house.
39. **Stripes** – strips on the surface of something that are a different colour from the surrounding surface
Zebras have black and white **stripes**.



Black Stripes on the side of a school bus

40. **Overhead** – situated above the level of the head
The conductor requested the passengers to put their luggage in the **overhead** racks.
41. **Windshield** – the window at the front of a car, truck, bus, etc.
A big stone hit the **windshield** of the bus and cracked it.



The Windshield of a bus

42. **Luxurious** – extremely comfortable or elegant, normally very expensive
Since he is very rich, he can indulge in **luxurious** holidays.
43. **Devoured** – ate something eagerly and in large amounts so that nothing is left; to destroy something completely; to read books or literature quickly and eagerly; here, looked at something eagerly as if eating it up with her eyes
The lions hungrily **devoured** the deer.
The flames of the fire quickly **devoured** the house.
She was very fond of reading and **devoured** all the books on the bookshelf.
44. **Canvas** – strong, rough cloth used for making tents, sails, bags, strong clothes, etc.; it is also used by artists to paint on, usually using oil paints
The classes were held under **canvas** tents while the school building was being repaired.
45. **Blind** – sightless; a screen for a window
There was a **blind** beggar begging on the pavement outside the shop.
The **blinds** in my house are very colourful.

46. **Peered** – looked carefully or with difficulty
When no one opened the door, he **peered** through the window to see if anyone was home.
47. **Ditch** – a long, narrow open hole that is dug into the ground, usually at the side of a road or field, used especially for supplying or removing water or for dividing land
Many passengers were injured when the bus driver lost control of the bus and it fell into a **ditch** beside the road.



A ditch at the side of a road

48. **Acres** – units for measuring area, one acre is equal to 4,047 square metres or 4,840 square yards
He is a rich landowner and has a large 100 **acres** farm in Punjab.
49. **Startled** – surprised and slightly frightened
She was **startled** when the cat suddenly jumped on to her lap.
50. **Concerned** – worried; involved in something or affected by it
I am very **concerned** about your health because you have lost a lot of weight and you are looking very pale.
Her job is **concerned** with computers.
51. **Annoyed** – angry
Gita's mother was very **annoyed** with her for coming home so late.
52. **Haughtily** – proudly
The commander **haughtily** ordered the soldiers to stand to attention.
53. **Chimed in** – to interrupt a conversation
While the meeting was ongoing, he **chimed in** every now and then with his opinion.

54. **Mimicking** – copying
He was **mimicking** Salman Khan's dancing to entertain the guests.
55. **Punched** – to hit someone with the fist, here, to press a button or a key on a machine to make a hole or enter data
Bunty **punched** Madhav hard in the stomach.
The ticket may be invalid if the conductor has not **punched** it.
56. **Comfortable** – relaxed and free from pain
I don't feel **comfortable** wearing tight clothes.
57. **Irritably** – in a way that shows that you become annoyed very easily
The teacher tapped her fingers **irritably** on the desk, waiting for him to answer the question.
58. **Absolutely** – completely
I trusted my friend **absolutely**, and lent him my phone to use for his online classes.
59. **Repulsive** – causing strong dislike
I find snakes **repulsive** creatures.
60. **Betel nut** – the nut of a tree that grows in Asia, it is chewed by itself, or in a *paan*
Regular chewing of the **betel nut** has been linked to cancer of the mouth and oesophagus, and tooth decay. The WHO has classified **betel nut** as a carcinogen (i.e., something that can cause cancer) and created an action plan to reduce its use.



Betel nuts

61. **Chewing** – biting food into smaller, softer pieces so that it can be swallowed
Doctors tell us that we should be **chewing** our food thirty two times before we swallow it.

62. **Threatening** – showing the possibility that something unwanted or unpleasant will happen
He has been receiving **threatening** phone calls from the criminals in the neighbourhood.
63. **Spill** - to cause a liquid to flow or fall over the edge of a container or beyond the limits of something
Please be careful and don't **spill** the hot tea over yourself.
64. **Sociable** – of a friendly nature
Surita is very **sociable** and has many friends.
65. **Curtly** – showing disapproval
The principal **curtly** dismissed Arun's plea for extending his leave.
66. **Mind your own business** – rudely tell someone that you do not want them to ask about, or interfere
When I asked Suresh how he would go home, he told me to **mind my own business**.
67. **Drivel** – silly nonsense
The politician's speech was nothing but meaningless **drivel**.
68. **Staring** – looking at something for a long time with the eyes wide open, especially when surprised, frightened, or thinking
The child was **staring** in fright at the masked man with a gun in his hand.
69. **Painstakingly** – done with great care and thoroughly, with great attention
The police **painstakingly** collected evidence against the criminals.
70. **Thriftyly** – spend money carefully
The daily wage earner knew how to run her house **thriftyly**.
71. **Stray** – homeless; to get away from the main route or subject matter
I rescued a **stray** dog during the storm.
It is hard to concentrate on my teacher's lectures; she keeps **straying** from the subject.

72. **Resisting** – stopping yourself from doing something that you want to do; fighting against something or someone that is attacking you; to refuse to accept or be changed by something
She kept **resisting** the temptation to eat another chocolate.
The girl continued fighting and **resisting** her attacker.
The Principal continued **resisting** the suggestion that the exams should be postponed.
73. **Temptation** – the wish to do or eat something that you know you should not do or eat
The money lying on the road was too great a **temptation** for him, and he picked it up and kept it.
74. **Resolutely** – in a determined way
She **resolutely** studied every day for the medical entrance examination.
75. **Stifled** – suppressed
She **stifled** a scream when she saw the robber enter her home.
76. **Merry-go-round** – a large machine at a fair that turns round and has wooden or plastic animals or vehicles on which children ride
The **merry-go-round** went round faster and the children on it screamed with delight.



A Merry-go-round

77. **Difficulty** – not being easy to do or understand
The students finished the exercise with a lot of **difficulty**.
78. **Nap** – a short sleep, especially during the day
His grandmother usually takes a short **nap** after lunch.
79. **Excursion** – trip
The school **excursion** to Manali will take place in April.

80. **Ventured out** – went out cautiously; courageously; risked
I **ventured** out on the rainy and windy day to buy some groceries.
81. **Rolled on** – moved forward; rotated; revolved
The truck **rolled on** at high speed down the highway.
82. **Cutting across** – going straight from one side of an area to another instead of going around
The men were **cutting across** the field to reach the house as fast as possible to put out the fire.
83. **Bare** – empty; without any clothes or covering; only the most basic or important
The cupboard was **bare** and there was nothing in it.
Please do not walk around in your **bare** feet here as there are broken glass pieces on the floor.
The police shared just the **bare** facts of the accident with us.
84. **Landscape** – a large area of countryside, scenery
The **landscape** was filled with many colourful mustard fields.
85. **Hamlet** – a small village
The small **hamlet** near the sea was badly damaged by the floods.
86. **Wayside** – by the side of the road
Coconut vendors on the **wayside** do good business.
87. **On the point of** – about to do something very soon
She was **on the point of** giving up hope, when her appointment letter arrived.
88. **Gobbling** – eating quickly and noisily
She was **gobbling** the food so fast, that it made her sick.
89. **Pedestrian** – a person who is walking, especially in an area where vehicles go; not interesting
In Delhi, a large number of **pedestrians** are hit by cars everyday.
His speech was long and **pedestrian**.

90. **Obstacles** – difficulties
We must overcome the **obstacles** in our way, rather than being fearful of them.
91. **Helpless** – unable to do anything to help yourself or anyone else
The doctors felt so **helpless**, because they could do nothing to cure the heart patient.
92. **Glee** – happiness, excitement, or pleasure
The children opened their presents with **glee**.
93. **Sounded** – made a noise
The alarm **sounded** suddenly and we all rushed out of the office.
94. **Honked** – made a short, loud noise, or sounded a horn to make such a noise
The cars behind us **honked** loudly when our car stopped suddenly in the middle of the road.
95. **Galloped** – ran fast so that all four feet came off the ground together in each act of forward movement; a person riding a horse that was running in this way
The cow **galloped** towards us with her head down and horns pointing at us.
The horse riders **galloped** across the field.
96. **Railroad crossing** – A railroad crossing is a place where a railroad track crosses a road at the same level
The van was hit by a train at a **railroad crossing**.



A Rail-road crossing

97. **Speck** – tiny spot
Even a **speck** of dust on the furniture upsets my mother.
98. **Tremendous** – very great in amount or level, or extremely good
The neighbours made a **tremendous** amount of noise last night.
It's **tremendous** that she won the competition.
99. **Roar and rattle** – loud noise that shakes things up
The bus sped past our car with a loud **roar and rattle**.
100. **Traversed** – travelled
During the trek, they must have **traversed** at least 50 miles.
101. **Well-laid-out** – arranged nicely
The college campus is **well-laid-out**, and kept very neat and clean.
102. **Thoroughfare** – a broad busy public road
The main **thoroughfare** of the town is well-lit.
103. **Glittering** – shining
The bride wore a **glittering** diamond necklace for her wedding.
104. **Display** – to put things out so they can be seen easily
The window **displays** in the malls are awesome.
105. **Merchandise** – things for sale
The entire **merchandise** in the shop is on sale at discounted prices.
106. **Struck dumb** – to be so surprised by something that you cannot say anything
We were **struck dumb** when she announced that she was leaving her job.
107. **Gaped** – stared open mouthed
She **gaped** in astonishment at the performer juggling bottles expertly.
108. **Sights** – places of interest, especially to a visitor
We travelled all over Delhi looking at all the **sights**.

109. **Amused** – showing that you think something is funny
The children were really **amused** by the funny story that the teacher told them.
110. **Stall** – a large table or a small shop with an open front from which goods are sold in a public place; delay or put off action
There were many **stalls** selling colourful sweets at the fair.
I tried to **stall** the teacher for a few minutes, while all the students rushed back to their seats in class.
111. **Treat** – to buy or pay for something for another person; behave towards or deal with; to give medical care; a special or enjoyable experience
I am taking my friends out for a **treat**.
She did not **treat** her servants well.
The doctor could not **treat** her injuries at his clinic; so he sent her to a hospital.
The trip to Ramesh's village was a special **treat**.
112. **Firmly** – in a way that is unlikely to change; in a way that it will not move, come loose, or fall over; in a solid and strong way
The government is **firmly** committed to providing medical care to all the poor.
Hold the ladder **firmly** while I climb up to change the light bulb.
He shook my hand **firmly** before leaving the room.
113. **Shrugged** – raise one's shoulders slightly to express doubt, indifference, dismiss something as unimportant
The lazy child **shrugged** his shoulders and said that he could do nothing to improve his marks.
114. **Not in the slightest** – not at all
The fact that he would be fasting the next day did **not** worry him **in the slightest**.
115. **Greeted** – welcomed someone, or some event with words or action
The wedding guests were **greeted** by the bride's father at the door of the hall.
Everybody **greeted** the election results with great joy.

116. **Charm** – attraction; lucky object
The town had an old world **charm** that attracted a lot of tourists.
This coin is my lucky **charm** and I always keep it with me.
117. **Frightening** – making you feel fear
The ghost story was so **frightening** that I could not sleep the whole night.
118. **Spreadeagled** – spread out
He and his dog lay **spreadeagled** on the grass.
119. **Fixed stare** – to look for a long time with the eyes wide open and not moving, especially when surprised, frightened, or thinking
She was so shocked at what he was saying, that she looked at him with a **fixed stare**.
120. **Lifeless** – dead; showing little interest or energy; not filled with or used by people
The **lifeless** body of the dog lay in the middle of the street.
His acting in the movie was quite **lifeless**.
The house is absolutely empty and **lifeless**.
121. **Haunted** – a place inhabited by a ghost; bad memory that returns repeatedly
My grandmother tells me that her neighbour's house is haunted.
He is **haunted** by the memory of the accident in which his father died.
122. **Dampening** – to reduce
The persistent rain was **dampening** the mood of the spectators who had come to watch the cricket match.
123. **Enthusiasm** – energetic interest, eagerness
I enjoy teaching children as I love their **enthusiasm** and curiosity.
124. **Glued to her seat** – unable to move from her seat
We all sat **glued to our seats** as he told us the frightening story of his escape from a burning car.
125. **Chatterbox** – a person who talks too much
The girl sitting next to me on the train was a real **chatterbox** and talked throughout the journey.

126. **Casually** – without interest; not formal or suitable for a special or formal occasion; happens by chance; not fixed or regular work
Rita **casually** answered all the questions her friends asked her about her struggle with a chain snatcher.
He came to office dressed **casually** in jeans.
I met him **casually** in the park.
127. **Midst** – in the middle of a group of people or things or events
I could not spot him in the **midst** of the huge crowd of people.
128. **Breathed** – said something very quietly; moved air into and out of the lungs
Gaurav **breathed** the secret quietly into Rakesh's ear.
She felt better after she **breathed** some fresh air.
129. **Chit of a girl** – a young and silly girl, not to be taken seriously
The adults always dismissed Gita's suggestions because they felt that she was just a **chit of a girl**.
130. **Pokes her nose** – interfering, takes interest in something that is of not of concern to her
He **pokes his nose** in everyone's affairs and so people avoid him.

4. Questions

I. Activity

1. **Look at the words and phrases given below. Then put a tick against the ones you think you will find in the text.**

___ **a set of passengers** ___ **get on the bus**

___ **get off the bus** ___ **platform**

___ **Tickets, please** ___ **a roar and a rattle**

___ **a row of seats** ___ **slowing down to a crawl**

___ **blowing a whistle**

2. ***You must have travelled by bus more than once. What can you see from a fast-moving bus? Given below are some suggestions. Speak briefly about some of these scenes, or about other such scenes that you have seen; or write a sentence or two about them.***

<i>rivers</i>	<i>green fields</i>	<i>hills</i>
<i>roadside shops</i>	<i>market places</i>	<i>railway tracks</i>
<i>moving trains</i>	<i>vehicles on the road</i>	<i>trees</i>
<i>a crowd</i>	<i>clothes in shops</i>	<i>animals</i>

II. Oral Comprehension Check

1. **What was Valli's favourite pastime?**

What was a source of unending joy for Valli? What was her strongest desire?
2. **What did Valli find out about the bus journey? How did she find out these details?**
3. **What do you think Valli was planning to do?**
4. **Why does the conductor call Valli 'madam'?**
5. **Why does Valli stand up on the seat? What does she see now?**
6. **What does Valli tell the elderly man when he calls her a child?**
7. **Why didn't Valli want to make friends with the elderly woman?**
8. **How did Valli save up money for her first journey? Was it easy for her?**
9. **What did Valli see on her way that made her laugh?**

10. Why didn't she get off the bus at the bus station?
11. Why didn't Valli want to go to the stall and have a drink?
What does this tell you about her?

III. Thinking about the Text

1. What was Valli's deepest desire? Find the words and phrases in the story that tell you this.
2. How did Valli plan her bus ride? What did she find out about the bus, and how did she save up the fare?
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 who's _____," she said haughtily. "I've paid my thirty paise like everyone else."
 - (iv) "Never mind," she said, "I can get _____. 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 _____."
4. Why does the conductor refer to Valli as 'madam'?
5. Find the lines in the text which tell you that Valli was enjoying her ride on the bus.
6. Why does Valli refuse to look out of the window on her way back?

7. What does Valli mean when she says, “I was just agreeing with what you said about things happening without our knowledge.”
8. The author describes the things that Valli sees from an eight years old’s point of view. Can you find evidence from the text for this statement?

5. Speaking

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.

6. Writing

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

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?
2. Have you made a journey that was unforgettable in some way? What made it memorable?
3. Are you concerned about traffic and road safety? What are your concerns? How would you make road travel safer and more enjoyable?

In this Lesson

WHAT WE HAVE DONE

Related the story of Valli's first bus ride.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

1. The students should be given two or three days to collect old (used) tickets from their friends, relatives and acquaintances – they could be bus tickets, train tickets, plane tickets, cinema tickets, tickets to cultural events, etc. By the time they finish the lesson they should be able to get a good collection in place. Get them to make a collage using as many as possible of the tickets collected, on a sheet of poster paper. This can then form the basis for many interesting activities – classification according to type of tickets (for what?) or price (how much?), etc.; the most desirable tickets, the tickets no one wants, etc. — let students think of more ways to classify them. Get students to write a paragraph with the collage as a base, and their imagination as guide.
2. You can also ask the students do the following.
 - (i) In the story Valli has to save money and make plans to be able to ride the bus. In pairs, discuss how you spent your pocket money last month. Did you spend it on yourself, or on someone dear to you?
 - (ii) Valli's enthusiasm is dampened and the memory of the dead cow haunts her.
In groups, discuss an incident which may have troubled or discouraged you.