

NCERT Solutions.

Q1. What was Valli's favourite pastime?

Ans- Valli was eight years old and a very enthusiastic girl. Her favourite pastime was standing in the front doorway of her house and looking at the street outside, because she had no playmates of her age.

Q2. What was the source of unending joy for Valli? What was her strongest desire?

Ans- The passing of the bus that travelled between her village and the nearest town, filled each time with a new set of passengers was a source of unending joy for Valli. Her strongest desire was to ride the bus.

Q3. What did Valli find out about the bus journey? How did she find these details?

Ans- Valli found out that the bus journey to the town took 45 minutes and the one-way fare cost 30 paise. She found out these details by listening carefully to the conversations between her neighbours and people who regularly travelled by the bus, and asked a few useful questions here and there. This way she gathered various small details about the bus journey.

Q4. What do you think Valli was planning to do?

Ans- Valli was planning to go to the town and then return back by the same bus. The fare was 30 paise from one way and the ride took 45 minutes. In this way, she planned that she would be back by 2:45 p.m. if she took the bus at 1:00 p.m.

Q5. Why does the conductor call Valli 'madam'?

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

Q6. Why does Valli stand up on the seat? What does she see now?

Ans- Valli stood up on the seat because she

wanted to look outside the bus. She found her view cut off by the blind canvas 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. As the bus was going along the bank of a canal she saw a canal. palm trees. grassland, mountains, green fields and the sky.

Q7. What does Valli tell the elderly man when he calls her a child?

Ans- Valli told the elderly man that there was nobody in the bus who was a child as she was annoyed by his attention. She also replied that she had paid her 30 paise fare like other passengers.

Q8. Why didn't Valli want to make friends with the elderly woman?

Ans- Valli did not want to make friends with the elderly woman because she looked quite uncivilised by appearance. She had big ear holes with ugly earrings. Apart from this, she was chewing betel and her mouth was also filled with betel juice that was threatening to spill over her lips at any moment.

Q9. How did Valli save money for her first journey? Was it easy for her?

Ans- Valli saved up the money for her first journey by resisting her temptation to buy peppermints, toys, balloons etc. It had been very difficult for her. Even at the village fair, she resisted the temptation to be on the merry-go-round. Thus, she had been able to save sixty paise for her first bus journey.

Q10. What did Valli see on her way that made her laugh?

Ans- Valli saw a young cow, running very fast right in the middle of the road in front of the bus. The driver repeatedly blew the horn so that the cow moved away. But the cow got scared and instead of leaving the road she kept on galloping in front of the bus which made Valli laugh heartily.

Q11. Why didn't she get off the bus at the station?

Ans- Valli didn't get off the bus at the station because she was afraid of getting lost and also she had to go back on that same bus. She found that the bus was new and luxurious. She took out another thirty paise from her pocket and handed the coins to the conductor.

Q12. Why didn't Valli want to go to the stall and have a drink? What does this tell you about her?

Ans- Valli didn't want to go to the stall and have a drink because she had saved only sixty paise for the trip. She had no spare money except the fare of the bus and she had to come back by the same bus at any cost. So when the conductor suggested her to get down and have a drink. This shows that despite being a little girl she had a lot of control on herself.

Short Answer Questions:-

Q1. What kind of a person was Valli ?

Ans- Valli was a curious, keen observer who had strong will power and determination. She was bold, brave, and self respected.

Q2. What did Valli find when she entered her house after the ride from the bus?

Ans- When Valli entered the house she found that her mother was talking to one of her aunts. Her aunt was a chatterbox who lived at South Street. She never closed her mouth once she started talking.

Q3. Why did Valli clap her hands with glee?

Ans- Valli clapped her hands with joy because she saw a young cow with her tail high in the air, was running very fast, right in the middle of the road in front of the bus.

Q4. Why did Valli want to ride on the bus ?

Ans- Valli used to watch the bus on its hourly rounds through her street everyday. The sight of the bus filled with new passengers everytime gave her unending joy. She was curious and wished to ride it once. So, she wanted to ride on the bus to enjoy it.

Q5. What did Valli's mother say about the things happening without her knowledge?

Ans- Valli's mother said that so many things happen amidst us and in the world outside.

The things are unpredictable. So it is not possible to know everyone to understand it completely.

Q6. Why didn't she get off the bus at the bus station?

Ans- When the bus stopped at the stoppage, Valli did not get off. The conductor asked her to get off. But she refused to do so. She even refused to see the sights and the cold drink as she was afraid to move alone.

Long Answer questions :-

Q1. Write down the character sketch of Valli?

Ans- Valli was an eight years old girl, who was clever, sensitive, self respecting and fun loving. Her favourite pastime was standing in the front doorway of her house and looking at the street outside, because she had no playmates of her age. She saved sixty paise for her first bus journey by resisting her temptation to buy peppermints, toys, balloons etc. Even at the village fair, she resisted the temptation to be on the merry-go-round. She behaved like a grownup child and was very careful in her first journey. She enjoyed the landscape looking outside the window of the bus. She was filled with grief and pain to see the cow lying on the roadside smeared with blood.

Q2. What was Valli's obsession? How did she plan and save money for her first bus journey?

or

How did Valli plan for her first bus journey ?

Ans- Valli always became over excited when she saw the sight of the bus travelling from her village to the nearest town. Therefore, a tiny wish crept into her head. She wanted to ride a bus once in her life. To execute her plan, first she started listening to the conversation of her neighbours and people who regularly used the bus. She found out after a lot of questioning from the bus rider that both ways fare was sixty paise. It took forty-five minutes to reach the town, which was six miles from her village. After gathering all the necessary details she started saving money thriftily. She had to resist the temptation of buying peppermint

toys, balloons and having a ride on the merry-go-round. After saving money she planned her journey between one to four o'clock when her mother took a nap in the afternoon. All such elaborate planning led Valli to have enjoyable and smooth her first bus journey.

Comprehension Questions:-

A. Read the given passage and answer the questions that follow:

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 just once. This wish became stronger and stronger, until it was an overwhelming desire. Valli would stare wistfully at the people who got on or off the bus when it stopped at the street corner. Their faces would kindle in her longings, dreams, and hopes. If one of her friends happened to ride the bus and tried to describe the sights of the town to her, Valli would be too jealous to listen and would shout, in English: "Proud I proud !" Neither she nor her friends really understood the meaning of the word, but they used it often as a slang expression of disapproval.

Q1. From which lesson this extract has been taken?

Ans- Madam Rides The Bus

Q2. Who is 'She'? Where did she watch the bus?

Ans- She is the little girl 'Valli'. She watched the bus pass through her street every hour.

Q3. What was Valli's 'tiny wish' ?

Ans- Valli's 'tiny wish' was to ride on a bus.

Q4. What would excite Valli's wish?

Ans- Valli became excited when she saw the passengers sitting in the bus and enjoying the bus ride.

Q5. Find a word from the passage that means 'slowly'.

Ans- gradually

B. Over many days and months Valli listened carefully to conversations between her neighbours and people who regularly used the bus, and she also

asked a few discreet questions here and there. This way she picked up various small details about the bus journey. The town was six miles from her village. The fare was thirty paise one way-"which is almost nothing at all," she heard one well-dressed man say, but to Valli, who scarcely saw that much money from one month to the next, it seemed a fortune. The trip to the town took forty-five minutes. On reaching town, if she stayed in her seat and paid another thirty paise, she could return home on the same bus. This meant that she could take the one-o'clock afternoon bus, reach the town at one forty-five, and be back home by about two forty-five...

Q1. From which lesson this extract has been taken?

Ans- Madam Rides The Bus

Q2. When did Valli make her plan to ride on the bus ?

Ans- Valli made her plan to ride the bus when she had known that the trip to the town would take forty-five minutes.

Q3. What conclusion was made by Valli on the basis of information?

Ans- The town was six miles from her village and the fare was thirty paise one way.

Q4. What were the sources of information for her?

Ans- Neighbours and people who regularly travelled by bus were the sources of information.

Q5. Find a word from the passage that means 'a talk between two or more people'.

Ans- conversations

C. 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. The bus slowed to a crawl, and the driver sounded his horn loudly again and again. But the more he honked, the more frightened the animal became and the faster it galloped-always right in front of the bus.

Somehow this was very funny to Valli. She laughed and laughed until there were tears in her eyes. "

Hey, lady, haven't you laughed enough?" called the conductor. "Better save some for tomorrow."

Q1. How did the cow behave when the driver honked repeatedly?

Ans- The cow got frightened listening to the sound of the horn and ran faster. it galloped right in front of the bus.

Q2. What did the conductor advise Valli ?

Ans- The conductor advised Valli not to laugh too much.

Q3. Why did the bus slow down?

Ans- The bus slowed down because a young cow with her tail high in the air, was running very fast, right in the middle of the road in front of the bus.

Q4. Why did Valli clap her hands with joy?

Ans- Valli clapped her hands with joy because she saw a young cow with her tail high in the air, was running very fast, right in the middle of the road in front of the bus.

Q5. Find a word from the passage that means 'happiness'.

Ans- Glee

MCQ

Q1. What amused Valli the most?

- the sight of buffalo running in front of the bus.
- the sight of people running in front of the bus.
- the sight of a dog running in front of the bus.
- the sight of a cow running in front of the bus.

Q2. What did Valli wish?

- bus ride
- truck ride
- car ride
- cycle ride

Q3. What can you tell about the conductor from the text?

- he was funny
- he was grumpy
- he was quiet
- he was talkative

Q4. What saddened Valli ?

- the dead cow
- car accident
- the handicapped passenger
- all of the above

Q5. What does it tell you about Valli when she refused the conductor's treat?

- responsible
- stubborn
- rude
- disrespectful

Q6. Who is the author of the lesson Madam Rides The Bus?

- Gavin maxwell.
- Vallikkannan
- Paulo Coehlo
- Arop kumar Datta

Q7. What did the old man say to Valli that annoyed her?

- he shouted at her
- he asked why she's alone
- he merely asked her to sit
- he asked her to keep quiet

Q8. What did she have to resist on village fair day to save for a ride?

- balloons
- merry go round
- toys
- Peppermint

Q9. How many times did the bus cross her street per hour?

- 1 times
- 2 times
- 4 times
- 6 times

Q10. What was Valli's age?

- 7 years
- 8 years
- 9 years
- 10 years

Answer Key

- d. the sight of a cow running in front of the bus.
- a. bus ride
- a. he was funny
- a. the dead cow.
- a. responsible
- b. Vallikkannan
- c. he merely asked her to sit
- b. merry go round
- b. 2 times
- b. 8 years

The Tale of Custard the Dragon

-Ogden Nash

NCERT Solutions:-

Q1. Who are the characters in this poem? List them with their pet names?

Ans- The characters in 'The Tale of Custard the Dragon' are Belinda, a little girl, and her pets, a little black kitten, a little grey mouse, a little yellow dog, a little pet dragon and a pirate.

Q2. Why did Custard cry for a nice safe cage? Why is the dragon called 'cowardly dragon'?

Ans- Custard cried for a nice safe cage because it was a coward. As everyone in the house was brave except Custard. Belinda was as brave as a barrel of bears. Ink and Blink are described as very brave as they could chase lions down the stairs and Mustard was as fierce as a tiger in rage.

Q3. "Belinda tickled him, she tickled him unmerciful..." Why?

Ans- Belinda tickled him, she tickled him unmerciful,"This line is of fifth stanza, which means that Belinda tickled Custard dragon unmercifully because it was always very scared and cried for a nice safe cage. She rubbed her fingers creating a tingling sensation that would disturb the dragon and everyone would laugh at it cowardice.

Short Answer Questions:-

Q1. Where did Belinda live?

Ans- Belinda lived in a little white house with her four pets and a wagon. She had a black kitten named Ink, a grey mouse named Blink, a yellow dog named Mustard, and a coward dragon named Custard.

Q2. What kind of poem is "The Tale of Custard the Dragon"?

Ans- 'The Tale of Custard the Dragon' is written in a ballad form. A ballad is a song or poem which tells the story of courage, heroism and bravery.

Q3- Who is Belinda?

Ans- Belinda is a little girl who lived in a little

white house with her four pets. They are a kitten, mouse, dog and a dragon and also had a little red wagon.

Q4. Why did everyone in the little white house make fun of the dragon?

Ans- Everyone in the little white house made fun of the dragon because he always cried for a safe cage whereas others used to boast about their bravery.

Q5. How does Ogden Nash describe Belinda and her animal's bravery?

Ans- The poet Ogden Nash describes Belinda and her animal's bravery when he says Belinda was as brave as a barrel full of bears. Ink and Blink followed lions down the stairs. Mustard was as brave as a tiger in rage.

Q6- Why did Belinda cry for help?

Ans- Belinda cried for help when she saw a pirate inside her house. She turned pale with fear.

Q7. How does the pirate look like in the poem ?

Ans- The pirate held a pistol in his left hand and another in his right hand- He had a black beard and one leg was made of wood.

Q8. How did the Custard face the pirate?

Ans- Custard jumped in front of the pirate to fight him. The pirate fired two bullets at him but missed both of them. Then Custard gobbled the whole of the pirate and left no trace of him.

Q9. Who among them was actually brave?

Ans- Custard, the dragon, was the only one who was actually brave. The others were all cowards. When they saw a pirate they disappeared it was only Custard who faced bravely and swallowed him up.

Q10. How did they express their admiration for Custard after the death of the pirate?

Ans- First they became very happy. Belinda embraced him, Mustard licked him. Ink and Blink jumped around, surrounding him.

Reference to context questions:-

A. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

Belinda lived in a little white house.
With a little black kitten and a little grey mouse,
And a little yellow dog and a little red wagon,
And a realio, trulio, little pet dragon.

Q1. From which poem this extract has been taken?

Ans- The Tale of Custard the Dragon

Q2. Who is the poet of the poem 'The Tale of Custard the Dragon'?

Ans- Ogden Nash

Q3. Who is Belinda ?

Ans- Belinda is a little girl.

Q4. How many pets Belinda has?

Ans- Belinda has four pets.

Q5. Where did Belinda live?

Ans- Belinda lived in a little house.

B. Now the name of the little black kitten was Ink.

And the little grey mouse, she called him Blink.

And the little yellow dog was as sharp as Mustard.

But the dragon was a coward, and she called him Custard.

Q1. From which poem this extract has been taken?

Ans- The Tale of Custard the Dragon

Q2. Who is the poet of the poem 'The Tale of Custard the Dragon'?

Ans- Ogden Nash

Q3. What was the name of Belinda's pet ?

Ans- Ink, Blink, Mustard, Custard.

Q4. Who was the sharpest of all?

Ans- Mustard was the sharpest of all .

Q5. Who was Custard?

Ans- Custard was a dragon.

C. Custard the dragon had big sharp teeth,

And spikes on top of him and scales underneath.

Mouth like a fireplace, chimney for a nose,
And realio, trulio daggers on his toes.

Q1. From which poem this extract has been taken?

Ans- The Tale of Custard the Dragon

Q2. Who is the poet of the poem 'The Tale of Custard the Dragon'?

Ans- Ogden Nash

Q3. Who was the dragon?

Ans- Custard was the pet dragon.

Q4. What was on the top of his nose?

Ans- Spikes were on the top of his nose.

Q5. How did his mouth and nose look like?

Ans- His mouth looks like a fireplace and nose is like a chimney.

MCQ

Q1. Who is the poet of 'The Tale of Custard The Dragon'?

- a. Robert Frost b. Leslie Norris
c. Ogden Nash d. Carl Sandburg

Q2. Who is Belinda ?

- a. little boy b. little girl.
c. yellow dog d. grey mouse

Q3. What's the name of four pets of Belinda?

- a. kitten, mouse, dog, dragon
b. dragon, donkey, horse, mouse
c. mouse, kitten, dog, hen
d. dragon, donkey, horse, mouse

Q4. Whom did Belinda call a coward ?

- a. custard b. mouse
c. dog d. kitten

Q5. Whose mouth and nose is compared with 'fireplace' and 'chimney'?

- a. custard b. mouse
c. dog d. kitten

Q6. What did the dragon cry for?

- a. because he was hurt
b. for a new mouse
c. for a nice safe cage
d. none of these

- Q7. Who was Mustard ?**
a. Belinda's little yellow rat
b. Belinda's little yellow mouse
c. Belinda's little yellow dog
d. Belinda's little grey dragon
- Q8. Where did Belinda live?**
a. in a little white house
b. in a little yellow house
c. in a little grey house
d. in a little pink house
- Q9. What was the name of the black kitten?**
a. Custard b. Ink
c. Blink d. Mustard
- Q10. What did custard do to the pirate?**
a. scared him away
b. ate him
c. held him hostage
d. none of these

Answer Key

1. c. Ogden Nash
2. b. little girl.
3. a. kitten, mouse, dog, dragon
4. a. custard
5. a. custard
6. c. for a nice safe cage
7. c. Belinda's little yellow dog
8. a. in a little white house
9. b. Ink
10. b. ate him