

# Man on the bus

## Short story



**Khevna Pankaj, AGS Gur, XII**

It was a normal day for Sasha. As usual, she boarded the bus home, scanning the familiar faces. Her eyes searched for him—the man in the old, frayed blazer who carried a suitcase with the school's logo stamped on the side. He was a fixture on her daily commute, as much a part of her routine as the ride itself. Every day, he'd greet the passengers with the same warmth and light-hearted jokes. But today was different. He wasn't in his usual seat by the window. Instead, he sat hunched in the last row. The spark in his eyes was missing. The air around him felt heavier. Sasha chose a seat near the front, stealing glances through the reflection in the bus window. Fi-

nally, she stood up and walked toward him. "Hello. How are we today?" she asked softly. He looked up, startled and said, "Great! You?" She tilted her head. "No, not today. How are you really?" "I... I'm fine, really," he said. The smile flickered, and finally collapsed. Sasha sat down beside him. "My son and my ex-wife moved away today," he said quietly, almost as if confessing to a stranger was easier than admitting it to himself. He cleared his throat and shifted. "What's your name?" he asked, trying to change the subject. "Sasha. And yours?" "Dave." "I'm sorry, Dave. I never asked your name before." She paused. "Why did your family move?" Words spilled out like rain from a long-gathered storm. He told her

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about the separation, about the custody battles that drained both his wallet and his spirit. About the landlord's notice that arrived that morning—his rent now in question. About waking up and realising his son wouldn't be just a few miles away anymore.

Dave was alone. A father without a son. A husband without a wife. He had every reason to be bitter. Yet, every day, he chose joy. "I'm sorry, Dave," she whispered. "Looking at you, I never would've guessed the storm you carry. But... Those thirty seconds we share every day? They matter to me. You made this bus feel like more than just a ride home." Dave's eyes brimmed. "You have more than just one child," Sasha said. He swallowed hard. "Sasha, I..." She squeezed his hand. "I know," she said, echoing his own words back to him with a smile. "You're better now." **GT**

**So what did you learn today?**

**A new word: Tilted**  
**Meaning: To move into a sloping position**

## POEM



## Safety is for all!

**Vivaan Chaudhary, AIS Vasundhara 6, VII B**

Step out of the house  
Make sure it is safe  
Lack of safety rules  
Makes for a bad case  
Taking risk is bad  
And unnecessary too  
Know the rules well  
Guide them through

Learn the signals and  
Stop, look, and cross  
Zebra crossing helps  
To take you across  
Attend to the sounds  
Horns, shouts, and all  
Don't play on roads  
Unless you want to fall

Ride your bicycle but  
In a lane that is paved  
Wear bright clothes  
To be seen and safe

Walk on the pavement  
Always use sidewalks  
Eyes on the road  
Do not just gawk

Strap on your seatbelts  
When in a moving car  
Don't stick your hand out  
Unless you want a scar  
Mind the crossroads  
Do not ever rush  
Watch the blind spots  
Vehicles may gush

Be alert on the road  
As accidents hurt  
Don't happen slowly  
But quickly in a spurt  
So, take the dare  
Make everyone aware  
Whether big or small  
Safety is for all.

## It's Me



**KNOW ME**

My name: Ishita Singh  
My Class: I  
My school: AIS VYC Lko  
My birthday: February 20



**MY DREAMS AND GOALS**

Hobby: Colouring and craft making  
I like: Skating  
I dislike: Teasing others  
My role model: My mother  
I want to become: An engineer  
I want to feature in GT because:  
I want to be recognised and appreciated for who I am.

**MY FAVOURITES**

Teacher: Shivani Pathak ma'am  
Subject: EVS  
Friend: Shambhavi  
Game: Football  
Cartoon: Masha & the Bear  
Food: Pizza  
Mall: Lulu Mall  
Book: Jungle book

## Jokey Pokey

**Atharv Singh Chauhan**  
**AIS Vasundhara 1, V A**

Q. Why don't the circus lions eat the clowns?  
A. Because they taste funny!

Q. Which is the laziest mountain to exist?

A. Mt Ever(r)est

Q. Why couldn't the skeleton go to school?  
A. His heart just wasn't in it.

Q. What do you get from a pampered cow?  
A. Spoiled milk!

Best entries for colouring fun  
Dated: April 28, 2025



**Maulik Sharma**

**AIS Vasundhara 6, I C**

**Ribha**

**AIS Pushp Vihar, II B**