An Indian Adventure

Hannah climbed up the steep step onto the ramshackle old bus and squeezed into the seat between her parents. Across the aisle a small child in a tattered t-shirt laughed and pointed.

"Why is he laughing at us?" whispered Hannah.

"Because Dad is too tall to fit onto the bus seat," said Mum.

The engine of the bus spluttered into life and they were jolted this way and that as the bus wove its way through the crowded streets, occasionally thudding down into the potholes which made them jump out of their seats so much that Dad banged his head on the ceiling several times.

Suddenly the bus lurched to a halt and dozens of people poked their heads out of the windows to see what was going on. Hannah stretched as far as she could until she could see two skinny cows lying in the middle of road holding up all the traffic. The bus driver hooted the horn loudly but the cows carried on chewing and refused to move, they even ignored the motorcycles dodging between the cars. Eventually the driver bumped the bus up onto the pavement and drove around them; passers-by ran in all directions and a lady in a bright blue sari snatched up her child and darted into a shop doorway as the bus rattled past.

The traffic thinned as they reached the outskirts of the city and the bus trundled along, stopping now and again to allow passengers to get on and off.

Hannah spotted a lorry lying on its side in the ditch, its cargo spilling all over the road, just before they got to their stop. As they got off the bus she noticed all the people who were sitting on the roof and she waved to them as the bus pulled away.

"Wow!" shouted Hannah as she saw the hanging rope bridge, which spanned the wide, rushing river, "are we going to cross that bridge? It looks so dangerous!"

"Bet it's not as dangerous as that bus!" said Dad as he rubbed the top of his head.

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Section A

Choose the best word or group of words to fit the passage and put a ring around your choice.

Hannah climbed up the steps into the old

1 **bridge** **train** **plane** **bus**

and sat down. The engine started and they were

2 **rocked** **bounced** **jolted** **thrown**

this way and that. Dad banged his

3 **arm** **head** **knee** **elbow**

several times. Suddenly they stopped because

4 **two skinny cows** **a fat donkey** **a large motorbike**

were holding up the traffic. The driver went on the

5 **gutter** **roundabout** **pavement** **path**

to drive round the problem. They finally stopped at the

6 **lorry in the ditch.** **the people on the roof.**

the hanging rope bridge.

Dad rubbed the top of his head as they got off.

Section B

1 Why did a small child laugh at Dad?

2 Why did the lady with the blue sari snatch up her child?

3 Why did Dad rub the top of his head?

4 What was Hannah's reaction to seeing people sitting on top of the bus?

5 Name three dangerous things that are described in this story.

6 Why was the rope bridge dangerous?

7 What is a 'ramshackle old bus'?

Section C

Describe something you have seen that you thought was really dangerous.

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