

“The Bus Driver”

Reading Comprehension – Short Stories

Directions: Read the story. Then answer the questions below.



Dana Miller is a bus driver.

She drives a bus in the city of Philadelphia.

She works the night shift. That means she starts work at 10:00 at night and gets off at 6:00 in the morning.

Dana has been driving a bus for 15 years. She started when she was 23-years-old.

She loves her job most of the time. She gets to see the beautiful city from her seat.

She gets to meet all kinds of people.

There is the guitar player. He **lugs** his heavy guitar on the bus every Friday night. He plays at a night spot downtown.

People call him Get Low. That is because he likes to play the guitar on his knees.

If the bus is not too crowded, Get Low plays in the back of the bus. The bus is seldom crowded at night.

There is the woman who works at the pretzel factory. Each day the “Pretzel Lady” brings Dana a bag of fresh, soft pretzels. They fill the bus with a wonderful smell!

Sometimes Dana’s job is hard. It is hard when Dana sees people down on their luck.

One time, a young woman left her sleeping baby on the bus. There was a note on the baby’s blanket asking for help. Dana had to call the police.

Another time, a teenage boy stole money from Dana on the bus. He had a fake gun. Dana thought it was real. She was very scared.

Occasionally, driving the bus can be scary. But most of the time, driving the bus is great. Dana does not want to work anywhere else.

“How was your night?” Dana’s husband likes to ask when she gets home.

“Good music, good food and a **great view of the city**,” she says.

Questions:

1) Where does Dana drive the bus?

- A. around Philadelphia
- B. to the police station
- C. to pick up guitar players
- D. to pick up school children

2) What shift does Dana work?

- A. _____

3) How old is Dana?

- A. 15
- B. 23
- C. 38
- D. 39

4) How long is Dana's shift?

- A. 6 hours
- B. 8 hours
- C. 10 hours
- D. 12 hours

5) What is one reason Dana loves her job?

- A. She finds sleeping babies.
- B. She gets to call the police.
- C. She gets to sleep during the day.
- D. She gets to meet all kinds of people.

6) Why is the guitar player called Get Low?

- A. He has a low voice.
- B. He likes to play sitting down.
- C. He likes to play on his knees.
- D. It is the name of his favorite song.

7) What does the word **lug** mean?

- A. to throw
- B. to push easily
- C. to carry on one's head
- D. to move something that is hard to move around

8) What night does the guitar player ride the bus?

- A. _____

9) How often does Get Low play guitar on the bus?

▼ Check all that are correct.

- A. every Friday night
- B. when the bus is crowded
- C. most Friday nights
- D. when the bus is not crowded

10) Who gives Dana pretzels?

- A. the guitar player
- B. the young mom
- C. the teenager
- D. the woman who works at the factory

Questions:

11) Why might the young woman have left her baby?

- A. He was cold.
- B. He was sleeping.
- C. She forgot the baby.
- D. She felt she could not take care of him.

12) Who steals money?

- A. _____

13) Why does Dana seem to think people do bad things?

▼ Check all that are correct.

- A. They are bad people.
- B. They want to be bad.
- C. They are down on their luck.
- D. Someone told them to be bad.

14) What is the best synonym for **occasionally** ?

- A. often
- B. sometimes
- C. never
- D. almost always

15) What **great view of the city** does Dana have?

- A. from a tall building
- B. from a mountain top
- C. from the sidewalk
- D. from her bus seat

Do you think Dana has a good job? Explain.
