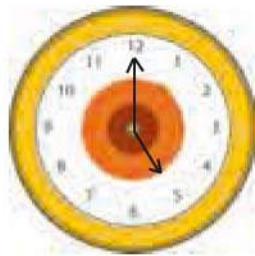


Chapter 7

Riya's Train Got Late

29 May

05:00



I woke up. Our train halted at some platform. I sat and looked outside from the window. There was a clock hanging on the wall. It was 5 o'clock in the morning. Besides it, on the pillar Vadodara junction was written in the circled board. My brother was still sleeping.

There was an instruction on mike that the trains running between Vadodara, Surat, Valsad, Vapi,



Mumbai will be two hours late. Father said “Brush your teeth, meanwhile I am getting tea for you.” We completed all morning activities. At that time father came with tea and mother took out *Thepla*, *Khakhara* and biscuits for breakfast. When we completed our breakfast it was day time.

Still there was time for the train to start. Father said, “Come I will show you the facilities of the railway station.” My brother and I got off from the train.

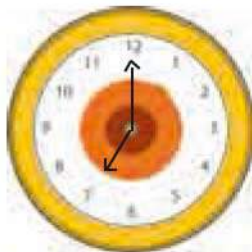


Father showed us the facilities like, ticket window, ticket checker's room, waiting room, parcel room, toilet - bathroom, facility of drinking water, canteen etc on the platform.

We saw many trains at the station from the bridge which was used for crossing one platform to another. We saw the railway staff pouring water from carriages and cleaning the train. Some sweepers were cleaning the railway tracks. We had no idea how time flew during our visit to the station. I came to know more about railway facilities. Indeed it was enjoyable. I took photographs and videos of some facilities from my father's mobile.

- Think, why would Riya's train be two hours late from Vadodara ?

- Which places did Riya visit at the station ?



29 May

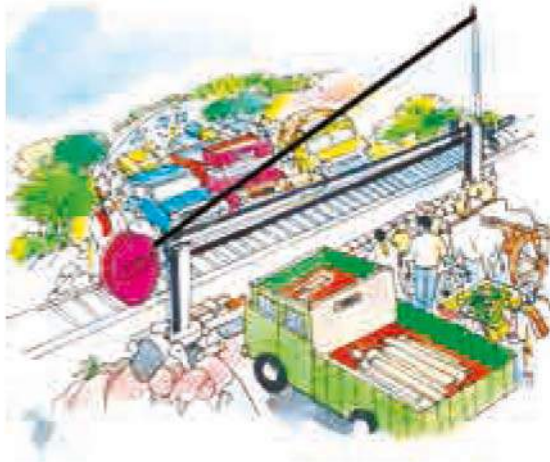
07:00

Now, there was an instruction on mike that our train would leave Vadodara within two minutes. We got in to our carriage. Train started...

It was morning. Atmosphere was very beautiful outside.

Riya's Train Got Late

Our train was passing “level crossing” where people were waiting on both the sides of crossing for the train to pass. There buses, cars, autorickshaws, cycle, scooter and goods-trucks etc vehicles were waiting. Some people did not switch off the engine of their vehicle. Due to this there was a lot of smoke and noise in the atmosphere. Some people were crossing below the bars of the level crossing and stood near it. How dangerous it is !



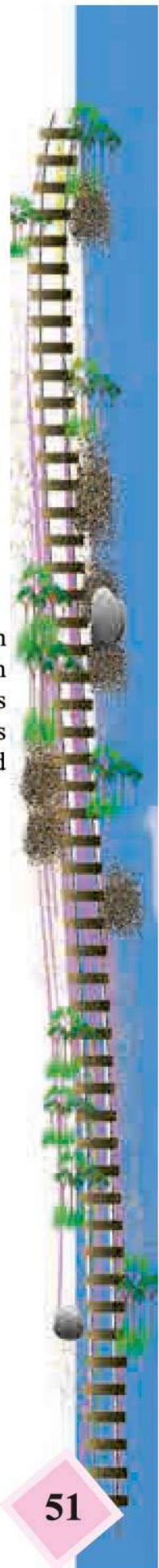
At the same time our train crossed another train. Himaksh and I tried to count the carriages of one such train but both trains were going very fast. So we could not count the carriages.

- Did you ever pass from the railway crossing ? If yes, think and write the situation you faced when the railway crossing was closed and when it opened ?

- What did Riya see at the crossing ?



For the teacher : Give special instruction to students about rules of railway crossing, moreover what care should be taken at railway crossing, traffic safety and duties.





Later, I was sitting near the window with my eyes closed. Suddenly the sound of the moving train changed. Khud, Khud, Khud... I opened my eyes. Guess what I saw ? My train was crossing over a big river, on a very long bridge. Mother said, 'It is a bridge of Narmada river. This is the biggest river of Gujarat. Its water is given to far away areas through canal.'

After a while, another two bridges were seen. Small vehicles were passing through it. Father said, "The first bridge is called 'Golden Bridge.' It is a very old and strong bridge. The another bridge beside it, is built over river Narmada. It is known as the biggest 'Cable Bridge' of India.

Though it is summer, the river was full of water. Some fishermen were seen, spreading net sailing in their boat. The bridge was long, so we enjoyed watching surroundings.



Father said, "Our train passed through the bridges of Sabarmati, Vatrak, Mahisagar and Vishwamitri while you both were sleeping. Now bridge of Tapi river near Surat will come. Don't miss to see it.



For the teacher : With the help of map give instruction of different rivers of Gujarat as well as give importance of bridges on road ways and railways and also give information about dam to collect river water.

Riya's Train Got Late

It was delightful to see the scene outside the windows. Fields full of green crops were visible near riverbank area. In some field there was farming of bananas. Green trees are seen all around. The breeze was very cool.



I had never experienced this type of cool breeze in Gandhidham. We were busy in observing the scenes when *Mama's* called on my mother's mobile. He was coming to the railway station to pick us up, so my mother told that our train was two hours late and we will reach at 10:25 instead of 8:25.

- Have you seen any bridge ? Which ?

- Which rivers are there in your area ? Think and write, over that river at which places the bridge has been built.

- Think and write, why should a bridge be built over river ?

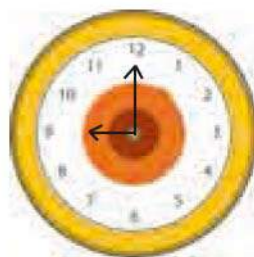


For the teacher : With the help of pictures, give more information to students about railway tracks passing through tunnels in mountainous regions, as well as across river, lake, pond, valley.

- Have you ever crossed a bridge ? Where ?

- What did you see around the bridge ?

- From which river's bridge did Riya's train pass ?



09:00



Our train was passing through one big city. On the way there were many bridges of roadways On both sides of railway tracks big buildings and markets were seen. Father said that it is Surat city. This city is famous for its diamond business and textile business in the whole world. This is the second big city of Gujarat after Ahmedabad. Train stopped when station came.



For the teacher : Get information to the students about dressing, lifestyle, language and food of different states and regions of India with their pictures or charts.

Riya's Train Got Late

Many passengers were moving on the platform. Here, somewhere people wearing different dresses were seen. Some women had worn saree like dhoti. While some men had wrapped white dhoti like lungi. Some people's language was also different.

Father said; "People of different states have settled here for business.

So, here people wearing different dresses have been seen."

Father bought *Sutarfeni* and *Ghari*, which are famous sweets of Surat. The train halted for five minutes and then moved.

Father said, "Vapi would come soon after Navasari and Valsad. We would reach Vapi within an hour."



Mother informed *Mama* by phone that our train would reach Vapi within an hour.



Himaksh and I were happy to reach at *Mama's* home. Our train was going to reach Vapi. Where we have to get down.

Mama called that they had reached the station to pick us up. Our journey was long, but Himaksh and I enjoyed a lot.

Now, I penning off my diary. I shall write rest of the diary after reaching at *Mama's* home.



29 May



10:25

- Which cities have you seen ? What do you see there ? Think and write.

- Which kinds of dresses wearing people you seen ? Think and write.

- Which different language speaking people have you heard except Gujarati?

- From which stations did Riya's train pass ?

- Riya's train passes through which stations and it has not been mentioned here, give the names of those station from the time-table which is given on page-62.

Riya's Train Got Late

- List out the famous items or things of your area, village or city.

Like - *Ghari* of Surat, *Patolas* of Patan

Name of village or city	Famous food items	Famous thing

- How are water and electricity supplied in the train carriage ? Discuss.
- Imagine that you are going for a long journey. Which things will you carry with you to pass your time ?
- Recognise the people given below in the pictures and write their names. What work do they do ? Discuss.

