



## Lesson: 6

### The Woman on the Bus

#### **SOLUTIONS:**

##### COMPREHENSION:-

1. Answer the following questions:-

i. What was Jack before he joined the school?

Ans:- Jack was a soldier before he joined the school.

ii. How did Jack behave in the school and towards the other teachers?

Ans: Jack was a good Spanish teacher and settled in the school routines at once and proved to be popular. But he was not quite fitting in with the group of teachers who gathered in the teacher's lounge at various times. He never had much to do with anyone else, keeping pretty much to himself.

iii. How did Jack try remember, the identity of the woman he met in the bus?

Ans: Jack tried to remember the identity of the woman by visualizing her in various uniforms. He mentally dressed her as a fire fighter, a police officer, a letter carrier, a nurse but it didn't work.

iv. Describe the meeting of the woman and Jack?

Ans: Jack had been sent out with a group of seven other soldiers to examine hill position held by the Northern Vietnamese or the Viet cong. It was early in the morning and Jack somehow got a little ahead of the others and decided to wait until the other caught up with him. There was a shell hole in front of him and he jumped into it but there staring up at him was a frightened Vietnamese Woman soldier. That's how he met the woman.

v. How was Jack captured during the war?

Ans:- When Jack climbed out of the hole after emptying his gun into the woman soldier, she had also fired at him and when he got up out of hole, he found that his left hand was bleeding badly. He become disoriented and frightened and in his confusion ran directly into a North Vietnamese Army position and was taken prisoner.

vi. How was Jack treated in the camp of the prisoners of war?

Ans: Jack was sent to the prisoner-of-war camp near the border with Laos and spent the rest of the war there. His hand got infected and he had never had full use of it since then. He was naturally a left-handed person and it was his left hand that was shot so he had to learn to do everything with his right hand. The food and sanitary conditions were terrible and they had to work twelve hours a day. Often they were beaten for no reason at all.

vii. What happened to Jack after the war?

Ans:- When the war ended Jack was sent back to the States however he went to pieces. The Army sent him to a veterans' hospital and he was there for two years. After a while he began to rebuild his life, got married and had children, got the teacher's job but he still hated those people even though he doesn't like those feelings.

viii. What did Jack think of the Vietnamese when he was in the prison camp?

Ans: It was hard in the prisoner-of-war camp and Jack began to hate those people. He used to lie in bed and plan how he could get back at them. He even figured out how he would search them out in their homes after the war and kill them with their families.

ix. What was Jack's attitude towards the Vietnamese after his encounter with the Vietnamese woman soldier?

Ans: Jack used to hate the Vietnamese and he was even scared of what would happen when he met a Vietnamese, get into an argument with him or her and lost control. But after meeting the Vietnamese woman soldier on the bus he felt good. She was a pleasant, quite sort of person and she was only wounded slightly by Jack during the war. Jack began to feel better about things so he even invited the woman soldier and her husband to his place to meet his family.

x. How did Jack's feeling of hatred change at the end of the story?

Ans: Jack was happy deep inside when he realized that he had never killed anyone in the war even though the woman soldier had wounded him and caused him to become right handed. He was ready to start to change his feeling of hate. He reasoned that she was only doing her job as soldier for her country just as he was. He was glad he never killed anyone.