



Pakistan

There are not many libraries in Pakistan, and libraries for children are especially hard to find. Most schools don't have libraries either. That is why a company named Alif Laila Bookbus Society ran a children's library in an old bus. They had the mobile library (library that moves) start traveling on the roads. The bus is called Dastangou, which means Storyteller.

The Dastangou bus carries about six thousand books in English and Urdu (a language people speak in Pakistan) to schools. Some schools get weekly visits, but in some places, the Dastangou bus can only visit once every two weeks. This bus full of books has opened up a whole new world to the children. Afshan, a thirteen year old student said, "I didn't know what a library looked like before! This bus is magic! It brings stories and books. I just wish it came more often or stayed longer!"

Bushna, a student in eighth grade, said, "When the Dastangou bus comes to our school, we file out of the school in orderly lines and get our books. Then we take them back to our classrooms and read for an hour!"

Mrs. Syeda Basart Kazim is the woman who is in charge of the Dastangou bus. She said there are not enough books for the children to take books home. "If we did, there wouldn't be enough books to take to the next school." So the students only get to enjoy the books in school.

A twelve year old student, Tabbassum, says, "The first time the Storyteller bus came, I ran to it and picked up a book of poetry. I started copying the poems from it because I didn't know if it would ever come again. But then it came again. The bus would visit every Tuesday. That made me really happy!"



Before the storyteller mobile library arrived; the Pakistani children had no access to books.

Tuesday:

2) What challenges are faced? How are they overcome? Use details from the text in your response.

3) When the storyteller arrives at the gates of our school, we file out of the school in orderly lines and find out books.

In this sentence, orderly most likely means:

- a. well behaved
- b. excited
- c. crazy
- d. messy

Wednesday

4) What do the illustrations (photographs, maps) tell you? How do they help you to understand the text?

5) What questions do you now have after reading? What would you like to learn more about? Why?

Thursday

6) "This bus full of books has opened up a whole new world to children."
What do you think the statement: opened up a whole new world, means?

7) What does the text tell you about the importance of reading, books, or education? Explain your thinking.
