



Asha is very excited today. A local fruit seller really likes the recycled newspaper bags she makes for a living along with her mother. The fruit seller wants 200 bags! Asha is 13 years old and spends most of her day making bags and caring for her twin baby sisters, Anya and Anita. Asha's mother, a single mum, sells flowers from her basket at the traffic lights around the slum neighbourhood. Asha tries her best to be quick and efficient at bag making. Only then can she go to school for 2 hours a day.

Asha's school is actually a "school-on-wheels". The inside of a bus is converted into a classroom. This bus travels across the slums, teaching kids like Asha, who cannot afford to go to school and who have to care for their siblings.

With little Anya and Anita in tow, Asha enters her classroom in the bus. Anya and Anita are entertained with toys in one corner of the bus, as Asha learns reading, science and maths, her favourite. She has

mastered multiplication and almost knows all her times tables up to 15!

Today after school, she is ready to deliver her bags to the fruit seller. Her mother cannot read or write so Asha carefully tries to calculate how much money she will make selling 200 bags. She writes down on a piece of paper:

1 bag = 50 paise

200 bags = ? (Ask children!)

She does the maths she has learnt on board her mobile school bus and calculates:

200 bags = 100 Rupees (about a pound and a half)

¹Paise: the paise currently equals 1/100 of an Indian rupee. One pound equals approximately 80 Rupees.