

CLASS NOTES

Class: X

Topic: The Hack Driver

Subject: ENGLISH

Textual Questions and Answers

Question : 1 Why is the lawyer sent to New Mullion? What does he first think about the place?

Answer : The lawyer is sent to New Mullion to serve summons on Oliver Lutkins, who is needed as a witness in a law case.

He first thinks that the place must be a sweet and a simple country village.

Question : 2 Who befriends lawyer? Where does he take him?

Answer : A hack driver at the station, who called himself Bill Magnuson, befriends him. He tells the lawyer that he knows Lutkins and will help in finding him. Bill takes him to all the places where Lutkins is known to hang out. He takes the lawyer to Fritz's shop, where Lutkins plays a lot of poker; to Gustaff's barber shop and then to Gray's barber shop; to the poolroom and several other places before finally taking him to Lutkins' mother's farm. However, Oliver Lutkins is not found.

Question : 3 What does Bill say about Lutkins?

Answer : Bill tells the lawyer that Lutkins is a hard person to find as he is always busy in some activity or the other. He owes money to many people, including Bill, and has never paid back anybody. He also says that Lutkins plays a lot of poker and is good at deceiving people.

Question : 4 What more does Bill say about Lutkins and his family?

Answer : Bill tells the lawyer that he knows mother of Lutkins'. He says that she is a terror. He narrates an incident when he took a trunk to her once and she almost took his skin off because he did not carry it carefully. He also says that she is very tall and bulky. She is very quick and talks a lot. He says that Lutkins must have heard that somebody is chasing him and consequently would have gone into hiding at his mother's place.

Question : 5 Does the narrator serve the summons that day?

Answer : No, the narrator does not serve the summons that day.

Question : 6 Who is Lutkins?

Answer : The hack driver himself is Lutkins but pretends to be Bill Magnuson. He tricks the lawyer to avoid the summons to be a witness in a case.

Question : 7 When the lawyer reached New Mullion, did 'Bill' know that he was looking for Lutkins? When do you think Bill came up with his plan for fooling the lawyer?

Answer : No, Bill didn't know anything about the lawyer. It was a matter of chance that he went himself to Bill and enquired about Oliver Lutkins. Bill at once came up with the plan of fooling the lawyer when he was enquired by the lawyer about Lutkins because as he knew that he was required as a witness but did not want to give his testimony. Therefore, we can say that he was ready with a plan to befool him.

Question : 8 Lutkins openly takes the lawyer all over the village. How is that no one lets out the secret? (Hint : Notice that the hack driver asks the lawyer to keep out of sight behind him when they go into Fritz's.) Can you find other such subtle ways in which Lutkins manipulates the tour?

Answer : Lutkins (Bill) was a very cunning man who cooked up a story for the lawyer that Lutkins would run away if he saw a man dressed like a lawyer enquiring about him. So, he suggested him to stay behind. It was Lutkins, who used to go into the various shops first, due to this no one could be able to answer the truth as he would come up with another story for the villager or may take them in confidence. Even when they went to search for Lutkins at his mother's place, he described his mother as very horrible and there also he introduced himself as bill the hack driver to his mother and informed her about the lawyer who was searching for Lutkins.

This made his mother to help him out as she knew that she was not supposed to

disclose anything to the lawyer.

Question : 9 Why do you think Lutkins' neighbours were anxious to meet the lawyer?

Answer : Lutkins took the lawyer all across the town in search of Lutkins himself. He was able to fool a lawyer with his cooked up stories about Lutkins and other villagers. All this must have become the talk of the town as how a man could fool the other man in his own search. Everyone had seen this happening. So, Lutkins' neighbours were keen to see him as they missed seeing him that day.

Question : 10 After his first day's experience with the hack driver the lawyer thinks of returning to New Mullion to practise law. Do you think he would have reconsidered this idea after his second visit?

Answer : Yes, he may have reconsidered his idea of practicing law at New Mullions. He had taken this decision because he was impressed by the noble and friendly nature of Bill. He found that the villagers were nice, innocent and kind. They were far better than the city people who were not so simple and humble. But on the second visit when he realized that Lutkins had fooled him, he would rethink over his idea and would decide not to settle in New Mullion.

Question : 11 Do you think the lawyer was gullible? How could he have avoided being taken for a ride?

Answer : Yes, the lawyer was very gullible as he was taken away by whatever he was told by the hack driver. He never thought of cross checking it. The lawyer could have checked everything himself by going to the people himself but he let Bill to do this. He was so impressed by Bill's friendliness and cheerfulness that he never cross checked with what he was told by Bill and made it easy for the hack driver to fool him.

Extra Questions

Question : 1 Why does the hack driver offer to ask about Oliver Lutkins?

Answer : The hack driver was none other than Oliver Lutkins himself. He did not wish to take the summons and go as a witness. So, he pretended to be a hack driver. He offered to help the lawyer so that the lawyer could not come to know about him from someone else.

Question : 2 What impressed the narrator most about Bill? Mention any two things.

Answer : The first quality that struck the narrator was that Bill was a cheerful, friendly and helpful man. Secondly, he loved Bill for his simple and philosophical wisdom as he had helped the narrator to find Lutkins.

Question : 3 In life, people who easily trust others are sometimes made to look foolish. One should not be too trusting. Describe how Oliver Lutkins made a fool of the young lawyer.

Answer : Oliver Lutkins made a fool of the young lawyer throughout his first visit to the village. First he introduced himself as Bill at the railway station and assured the lawyer that they would together search for Lutkins. He told the lawyer that he knew most of the places where Lutkins used to hang out. In succession, he took the narrator to Fritz, then to the barber's shop, then Gray's shop and finally Lutkins' mother who he called a 'terrible'. He deceived the lawyer throughout and also made money by taking the lawyer around. Thus, he was able to make a fool of the lawyer by taking him all over the village without success, as the lawyer did not recognise Lutkins and so did not realise that it was Lutkins himself who was taking him around.

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