

Class 10 English (Footprints Without Feet)

The Hack Driver

Extra Questions and Answers

Short Answer Type

Question 1.

What job did the narrator get after graduation? Did he like his work?

Answer:

After doing his graduation, the narrator got the job of a junior assistant clerk in a law firm. No, he did not like his work. He had to serve a summons on the wanted people. He had to visit many dirty places. He never liked his work.

Question 2.

Why was he happy to go to New Mullion? Why did he go there?

Answer:

The narrator did not like the dirty and dark sides of the city life. He thought that he would find some pleasant sights in New Mullion. So, he was happy to go there. He went there to serve summons on Oliver Lutkins.

Question 3.

Why did the lawyer find the sight at the station 'agreeable'?

Answer:

The narrator was disappointed to see the dirty roads and rows of wooden shops. But there was a man who made the dull scene of the station agreeable by adding his cheerfulness. He was the delivery man at the station.

Question 4.

How did the hack driver sketch the character of Lutkins?

Answer:

In fact, the hack driver was Lutkins himself. He sketched Lutkins as a very clever man who was good at deceiving people. He never repaid the money he had taken from others. He had a passion for Poker.

Question 5.

The narrator and the hack driver drove around together to find Lutkins.

(i) Which were the places they visited?

(ii) Why couldn't they find Lutkins?

Answer:

(i) The hack driver took the narrator to almost all the places where Lutkins could be found. They visited Fritz's shop, Gustaf's shop, Gray's stop, the pool room and Lutkins mother's farmhouse.

(ii) They could not find Lutkins because the Hack driver was Lutkins himself.

Question 6.

What did the hack driver tell the narrator about Lutkins' mother?

Answer:

The hack driver told the narrator that Lutkins' mother was a real terror. She was nine feet tall, four feet thick and as quick as a cat.

Question 7.

How did Lutkins' mother receive the narrator?

Answer:

Lutkins' mother was not ready to tell them anything about Lutkins'. She tried to avoid their enquiry. When she ceune to know about the purposes of the narrator, she got furious. She went to the kitchen and came out with an iron rod. She marched towards them with a threat. They had to retreat from there.

Question 8.

What does the narrator describe as "pretty disrespectful treatment"?

Answer:

The narrator describes the treatment given to them by Lutkins' mother as a pretty disrespected treatment. She insulted them. She marched towards them with a hot iron rod. She laughed at them when they retreated with a fear from there.

Question 9.

With what impression did the lawyer come back to the city?

Answer:

The lawyer returned to the city with a good impression. He liked the people of the village. He found them simple, wise and soft-spoken. He thought of practising law there. He was excited. He had found a treasure and a new way of life in New Mullion.

Question 10.

How did the people at the law firm receive him?

Answer:

The narrator could not find Lutkins. He could not serve the Summons on him so everyone at the firm was angry with him. They scolded and disgraced him,. His chief considered him as a useless fool. He was asked to go back to serve the summons on Lutkins.

Question 11.

Why was he sent back to New Mullion? Who went with him?

Answer:

The lawyer was sent back to New Mullion to serve summons on Lutkins. He had failed in his mission earlier. This time another man who had worked with Lutkins was also sent with him.

Question 12.

Who was the hack driver? What really hurt the feelings of the narrator in the end?

Answer:

The hack driver was Lutkins himself. He had driven the lawyer previous day. The narrator was really hurt when Lutkins and his mother were laughing at him as if he were a bright boy of seven.

Question 13.

How did the lawyer find the streets and shops of New Mullion?

Answer:

The lawyer found the streets of New Mullion muddy. With rows of wooden shops, either painted in

sour brown or not painted at all. He was disappointed because he expected to see a sweet and simple country village.

Question 14.

Did the lawyer and the hack driver find Lutkins at Gustaffs barber shop? What did Gustaff say about Lutkins?

Answer:

No, they did not find Lutkins at Gustaffs barber shop. Gustaff told the hack driver that he had neither seen Lutkins nor he cared to see him. He asked him that if he finds Lutkins, he might collect the thirty , five dollars which Lutkins owes to him.

Question 15.

“Let’s go to a restaurant and I’ll buy your lunch,” the lawyer told the hack driver. Did they go to a restaurant to have lunch?

Answer:

The hack driver told the young lawyer that all the four restaurants in the town were bad. He suggested that only for half a dollar his wife would pack up the lunch for them and they would eat at Wade’s Hill. So they did not go to a restaurant.

Question 16.

Did Lutkin’s mother allow the lawyer to search her house to find Lutkins?

Answer:

The hack driver told Lutkins’ mother that the lawyer represented the court in the city and he had a legal right to search the home. She treated them quite disrespectfully but allowed to search the house. But they could not find Lutkin’s there.

Question 17.

“Really, I considered returning to New Mullion to practise law.” Why did the young lawyer think so?

Answer:

While returning, the young lawyer was too busy thinking about Bill Magnuson. He was so fascinated with Bill being “so deep and richly human” and others so soft-spoken, simple and wise that he thought of returning to New Mullion to practice law.

Question 18.

How did the lawyer feel after knowing that the hack driver was Oliver Lutkins himself?

Answer:

The law firm sent the lawyer again to New Mullion to serve the summons to Lutkins. The lawyer was shocked and his feelings were hurt when the man told him that Bill or the hack driver was Lutkins himself.

Question 19.

“He was so open and friendly that I glowed with the warmth of his affection”. How did the young lawyer form this opinion about the hack driver?

Answer:

The young lawyer felt that the co-operating attitude and kindness shown to him was real, though the hack driver had to earn something out of it also. The lawyer bargained with the hack driver and had settled for two dollars an hour, but his wide smile made him think that he was one old friend.

Question 20.

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 a person named Oliver Lutkins, who was needed as a witness in a law case. He had expected the place to be a sweet and simple country village.

Question 21.

Who befriends him? Where does he take him?

Answer:

The lawyer was befriended by a delivery man who introduced himself as Bill. He told him that he knew Lutkins and would help the lawyer in finding him. He took him to all the possible places where Lutkins was seen or was known to hang out. He took the lawyer to Fritz's shop, where Lutkins was a frequent visitor to play poker; to Gustaf's barber shop and then to Gray's barber shop; to the poolroom and several other places before finally taking him to Oliver's mother's farm. However, so much of roaming around did not yield any result as they failed to find Oliver Lutkins.

Question 22.

What does he say about Lutkins?

Answer:

Bill told the lawyer that Lutkins was a clever fellow hard enough to catch. He was always up to something or the other. He owed money to many people, including Bill, and had never even paid anybody a cent. He also said that Oliver played a lot of pokers and was good at deceiving people.

Question 23.

What more does Bill say about Lutkins and his family?

Answer:

Bill told the lawyer that he knew Lutkin's mother. He said that she was a terror. He narrated an incident when he took a trunk to her once and she almost took his skin off because he did not treat it like a box of eggs. He also said that she was very tall and fat. She was very quick and could talk a lot. He said that Oliver must have heard that somebody was chasing him and consequently, would have gone into hiding at his mother's place.

Question 24.

Does the narrator serve the summons that day?

Answer:

No, the narrator does not serve the summon that day.

Question 25.

Who is Lutkins?

Answer:

The hack driver, who called himself Bill, is Oliver Lutkins.

Long Answer Type

Question 1.

Intelligence or cleverness cannot be identified only on the basis of our work or profession but it comes from our inside. Explain it with reference to the chapter, 'The Hack Driver'.

Answer:

Yes, it is quite right that intelligence and cleverness come automatically from our inside because it is our birth quality, it cannot be created, that's why our intelligence or cleverness cannot be identified only on the basis of our work or profession. Many times in our daily life, we can find such examples. For example, a policeman is always considered brave and fighter because he has to face many difficulties daily and if he is not like that, he cannot defeat criminals, dacoits, burglars and cheaters. But sometimes we find some policemen opposite to it.

Some policemen nm away from the place where the people need them very much. Such policemen never think about their duty. They think only to save their lives. Such examples can easily be found in many different fields like medical, political. Some doctors don't fulfill expectation of the common people, they think only for their families. So it is clear that our work or profession cannot disclose our internal quality like intelligence or cleverness. As we find in this story, the lawyer is not so clever or intelligent but the hackman is very cunning.

Question 2.

Do we come across persons like Lutkins only in fiction or do we encounter them in real life as well? You can give examples from fiction, or narrate an incident that you have read in the newspaper or an incident from real life.

Answer:

Yes, we do come across persons like Lutkins in fiction as well as in real life. Literature is full of instances where appearance is different from reality. In real life also we find that what appears may be quite contrary to what it turns out to be. That is why, it is said that all that glitters is not gold. A person who appears to be very gentle, may, later on, turns out to be a rogue. We read in newspapers many instances of so-called false holy men deceiving the people and turning out later as frauds.

Once I was taken for a ride. One night I got a telephonic message that my brother would be coming by morning flight. The person who was calling told me personally. He told me that my brother would be waiting for us at the airport. As my father was not feeling well, he asked me to go there to receive my brother. After reaching the airport, I looked for my brother, but he was nowhere to be found. I contacted the enquiry counter and was told that the flight was in. After two hours, I got a call on my mobile. It was my friend who laughed and said that they were successful in making me the first April fool!

Question 3.

The narrator strikes us as a romantic idealist, Do you agree? Support your answer from the text.

Answer:

The narrator is definitely a romantic idealist. He is fresh out of law school. He wants to have a real case. But, as a part of training, he is sent to serve summons. He finds it difficult to understand. He simply dislikes his job as he has to go to all dirty places. Further, he has a very romantic | view of the country. He believes that villages are all pure and peaceful. There is no ugliness of the city in them. He I also thinks that villagers are very honest and decent people. He has a habit of trusting people blindly. He believes in whatever someone says. In fact, he is very gullible. Later on, he realises that a village can also be ugly. He also experiences that villagers are not always simple and honest.

Question 4.

Describe 'Bill' as seen through the eyes of the narrator.

Answer:

The narrator was much impressed with Bill. He first meets him at the station. He finds him to be friendly and cheerful. Bill is very helpful in his eyes as he offers to take him around in search of Lutkins. The narrator admires him when he goes looking for Lutkins on his behalf. Bill is full of a wonderful village charm. The narrator finds Bill to have a unique country wisdom. He admires him as a story teller. He appreciates him a lot when Bill even goes to Lutkins' mother's place to find him. For the narrator, Bill is a friendly man who helps others generously. He is so impressed by Bill that he decides to settle down in the village.

Question 5.

'Appearances are often deceptive'. Comment on the statement in the light of your reading of the story.

Answer:

Things are not always what they seem to be. Appearances are often deceptive. The narrator reaches a village in the search of Oliver Lutkins. He meets a hack driver at the station. The driver warns him about Lutkins. He takes him on a tour of the entire village in search of Lutkins. He tells the narrator about his experiences and about the village and its people. The narrator likes him for his helpful and kind nature.

He even forgets all about Lutkins. But, the next day he finds out that the hack driver was Oliver Lutkins himself. He realises that a simple and kind person was a trickster in reality.

Question 6.

Do you think Lutkins was right in befooling the lawyer and earning money by using unfair means? What precautions should one take to avoid a situation like the one in which the lawyer was placed?

Answer:

Lutkins was not right in befooling the lawyer and earning money by using unfair means. This shows that Lutkins did not care for the law at all. If we are in the lawyer's place, we should not believe in things as they are seen. We should judge every action taken by the other person carefully before accepting it. Instead of depending on others, we should carry out our enquiries ourselves. The lawyer was befooled because he let Lutkins do the finding and questioning and did not do anything himself. This resulted in his failure to serve the summons on Lutkins.

Question 7.

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:

In the story Oliver Lutkins made a fool of the young lawyer. When the lawyer reached New Mullion, Lutkins came up with his plan to fool the lawyer when the lawyer told him that he was looking for Oliver Lutkins, Lutkins openly takes the lawyer all over the village. When the lawyer said he needed to catch the afternoon train back he realized that he would need to keep him occupied till he left.

He also had to ensure that the lawyer did not speak or question anyone else about him or he would be caught. He therefore told the lawyer that Lutkins never paid anybody a cent and so if he tried to collect money from him in his fancy clothes he would be suspicious and get away. Instead he would go into Fritz's and ask for Lutkins, and the lawyer was kept out of sight behind him.

In this way Lutkins was always the first to enter a place and prevented the lawyer from directly meeting and speaking to the people. He would then most probably take the people into his

confidence so that no one let out the secret of his true identity. At last Bill cornered a friend of Lutkins and made him

admit that he had gone out to his mother's farm. He then convinced the lawyer that Lutkins' mother was a terror and so it was best that he dealt with her himself. He introduced himself and the lawyer to her and told her the reason for their visit. This introduction was enough for her to get an idea about what was happening and she too put on an act and did not let out the secret but managed to make a fool of the young lawyer.

Question 8.

Lutkins played with the emotions of the young lawyer. By the end of the story, he was hurt on knowing the truth of the hack driver. Would you call Lutkins an insensitive fellow? Should we hurt the feeling of someone like this?

Answer:

Lutkins played with the emotions of the young lawyer. He impressed him by his deceptive nature. He pretended to help him. But he was making a fool out of him. He roamed around the city with the lawyer in search of Lutkins. He did not reveal that he himself was Lutkins. Wherever he went, he made the lawyer a laughing stock for others.

Everyone was amused to see how Lutkins was making a fool of the lawyer. By the end of the story when the lawyer revisited the place, he was hurt to know how the hack driver had befooled him. No doubt the hack driver was an insensitive human being. He did not care for his emotions. No, we should not hurt someone's emotions for the sake of self-entertainment
