**Symbiosis School, Nasik.**

**Std: X Term I (2020-21)**

**Subject: English Language & Literature - Worksheet – 54**

**Chapter 7 – The Hack Driver By - Sinclair Lewis**

About the Poet

**Harry Sinclair Lewis** (1885-1951) was an American novelist, short- story writer and playwright. He is the first American writer to receive the **Nobel Prize in Literature.** Some of his famous novels are ‘Hike and the Aeroplane’, ‘The Job: **An American Novel,** Free Air etc.



**Theme**

According to The Hack Driver chapter written by Sinclair Lewis, a young lawyer is made to serve summons instead of practicing law. He hates his job as sometimes he is beaten up. Once he is directed by the law firm to serve summons to one Mr. Oliver Lutkins, who lived in a village called New Mullion. The young lawyer goes to the village with some expectations 0f village life but he is disappointed. He meets a hack driver who is a very helpful person according to him. The hack driver takes him round the village in search of Lutkins but cannot be able to find him. The young lawyer returns to their working place. After it again he is directed by the law firm to serve Lutkins. This time he was not alone but with a person who worked with Lutkins. Finally, they got that the hack driver who spent the day with lawyer is the Mr. Oliver Lutkins

## **The Hack Driver- Summary**

The narrator of the story explains that after completing his graduation he started working with a famous law firm in the city. He was working as an assistant clerk there. He was not very happy with his job of serving summons because sometimes he had to face harsh situations while serving them. One day, he got the task of serving summons to **Oliver Lutkins**who was a key witness in some case. He lived in a small town named New Mullion.

The narrator was very excited to visit a small and beautiful town but his excitement ended by the dull appearance of the town. He saw a **hack driver** standing at the platform who was very cheerful and nice. He went up to him and enquired about Oliver Lutkins as he was new to the town and wanted to find him. The driver told him that Oliver was a nasty man who owed debt to many people. He also cunningly extracted information from the lawyer that he needed Lutkins for some **court case.**

A deal was cracked between both- he decided to hire Bill’s hack and go on a search for Lutkins. Bill somehow traps the lawyer in his story and they visit different places in search of Lutkins. He always asks the lawyer stay behind. They go to Fritz’s to catch Lutkins while **playing poker.** But he tells them that he has gone to Gustaff for a shave. At Gustaff’s they weren’t able to meet him and were told that someone saw him at the pool room. Here also somebody said that he left the poolroom after buying cigarettes.

Bill described Lutkins as a cunning man and guessed that he must have gone to gray’s for a shave. **In the afternoon**, Bill offered him to buy lunch from his wife as it would be less costly than at the restaurant. They had lunch at wade’s hill which was a very beautiful place. By that time the clerk was totally impressed by Bill’s nice and cheery nature. He had even started comparing **village people to city people.** Later on, they went to search for Lutkins at his mother’s house on the basis of information derived from one of his friends.

There the lady was horrible and they hurriedly left the place as she was about to attack them with a **hot iron rod**. At last, the lawyer had to leave without serving summons to Lutkins. **Next day**he was scolded badly by his chief and was again sent to New Mullion with a companion who knew Lutkins. Upon reaching the station, the clerk happily pointed out that Bill was such a helpful person to him search Lutkins.

**At this time**, the truth was revealed by his companion that the hack driver was none other than Lutkins himself. The clerk felt so bad and ashamed of how he had been fooled by a **villager.**

**Word Meanings**

**Magnificent**: glorious, majestic  
**Legal briefs**: A written legal document  
**Summons**: court order  
**Detective:** investigator  
**Shadowy**: dark, dim  
**Unpleasant**: horrible

**Rejoiced:** happiness, joy  
**Witness**: viewer, observer

**Eager**: impatient  
**Expectation**: belief, supposition  
**Disappointed:** upset  
**Agreeable**: pleasing, nice

**Poker game:** a type of card game.

**Hack**: A horse drawn vehicle, horse cart

**Hangs out**: To spend time doing nothing in particular

**Glowed:** Here, it means impressed  
**Affection:** love and care for someone  
**Bargain**: to negotiate the price of something  
**Black box on wheels**: refers to the horse cart

**Owes**: be in a debt/ an obligation to pay money  
**Suspicious**: doubtful

**Hack Driver**: the one drives a horse cart or hack  
**Confidence**: trust, belief  
**Earnestly**: sincerely

**Proceed**: to begin  
**Deceiving**: cheating  
**Admire**: praise, appreciate  
**Regret**: to be sorry

**Cheerily: happy  
Hesitated: be in two minds, stall**

**Admitted: confess**

**Lingered:**waited around  
**Swede:** a native or inhabitant of Sweden, or a person of Swedish descent.

**Concluded: draw the judgement**  
**Exhausted: used up, finished**  
**Poolroom: A place to play pool, a betting shop**  
**Scarcely: hardly**

**Greasy meal**: oily food

**Pastures**: grassland  
**Creeks**: a stream or minor tributary

**Adventures**; exploit or event  
**Philosophy**: ideology, beliefs  
**Meadows**: field, pasture  
**Resumed**: restart  
**Cornered**: forced into a place or situation

**Enormous**: huge

**Represents:** Be appointed to act on behalf of or speak for someone  
**Retired:** Here, went inside  
**Seized**: grabbed, snatched  
**Frightened**: afraid or anxious  
**Retreat**: pull back

**Represents:** Be appointed to act on behalf of or speak for someone  
**Retired:** Here, went inside  
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**Retreat**: pull back

**Shameful**: disgraceful  
**Promising**: hopeful

**Hinted**: suggest  
**Digging:** to till  
**Ditches:** a drain or trench  
**Loafing**: spend time in idle way

**Hunt**: search for

**Begged:**To request  
**Anxious:** concerned, worried  
**Folks:** people

**Character Sketch**

**Hack Driver**

The narrator happened to meet the hack driver on reaching New Mullion. He was Lutkins himself. When he came to know the purpose of the narrator’s visit, he offered help in finding Lutkins at a charge of two pounds per hour. He was a red-faced, forty-year-old man having a cheerful and pleasant personality. The lawyer liked him at the first look. He was fun-loving and jolly. He played a practical joke on the lawyer. When he came to know that he did not identify Lutkins, he introduced himself as Bill. He was neither honest nor helpful. He was rather clever. He charged him for the lunch hour and the food that he got from his wife. But he was creative, humorous and witty. He portrayed the people of New Mullion, in an entertaining and humorous manner reflecting his cheerful wisdom.

**Oliver Lutkins**

The hack driver, Bill, who was Oliver Lutkins himself, does help us drawing a character-sketch of Oliver Lutkins. Being a good talker, Bill gave a detailed description of Oliver Lutkins and his activities to the narrator. Bill told the narrator that Lutkins was a hard fellow to be caught. He was always up to something or the other. He was deeply interested in poker. Probably, he was trying to start up a poker game in the back of Fritz’s shop.

Bill told that Oliver Lutkins never paid anybody a cent. He still owed Bill fifty cents on a poker game. Lutkins was not really bad, but it was hard to make him part with his money. Bill also told that Lutkins had a talent for dishonesty. Lutkins’ mother was a terror and he had gone to his mother’s farm to hide behind his mother’s skirts.

Oliver Lutkins’ real character was exposed when his real identity was revealed. Bill was actually acting as Oliver Lutkins. When summons was served, Lutkins and his mother laughed at the narrator as if he were a seven-year-old boy. Lutkins outwitted, outsmarted and outmanoeuvred the narrator. Clever and cunning, Lutkins proved that the gullible narrator was just a novice before a seasoned crook like him.

**Concept Based Questions**

**Question 1.**

Why did the narrator call his work unpleasant?

**Question 2.**

Describe the hack driver’s appearance in your own words.

**Question 3.**

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

**Question 4.**

**‘But he was no more dishonest than I’.** Explain.

**Question 5.**

The narrator was happy though he had not found Lutkins. Why?

**Question 6.**

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

**Question 7.**

How did the chief react when the narrator returned to his town?

**Question 8.**

How does the narrator find Lutkins eventually?

**Question 9.**

Why did Lutkins pretend to be Bill Magnuson?

**Question 10.**

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

**Question 11.**

How did the hack driver befool the lawyer?