**Symbiosis School, Nasik.**

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

**Subject: English Language & Literature - Worksheet – 55**

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

**Instructions**

Please read the chapter thoroughly and write the difficult words and meanings and concept - based answers and textual question answers.

**Concept Based Answers**

**Answer 1:**

The narrator was sent to serve summons. He had to go to all sorts of dirty and dangerous places. At times, he was also beaten by those very people. That is why he called his work unpleasant.

**Answer 2:**

The hack driver looked to be about forty years in age. His face was red. He wore dirty and worn out clothes but he was cheerful.

**Answer 3:**

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.

**Answer 4:**

The narrator meant to say that the hack driver was as dishonest as him because he was getting paid for riding the narrator on his cart on the pretence of helping him.

**Answer 5:**

The narrator had hated city life. This ride through the village made him very happy. He was overjoyed to meet the hack driver. So he was happy though he had not found Lutkins.

**Answer 6:**

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.

**Answer 7:**

The chief was furious at the narrator’s failure to serve summons on Lutkins. He decided to send a man who knew Ltutkins with the narrator the next day to serve summons on Lutkins.

**Answer 8:**

The narrator’s companion had seen Lutkins. When the narrator pointed opt the hack driver to him, he told him that the hack driver was Lutkins himself. In this way, the narrator found Lutkins eventually.

**Answer 9:**

Lutkins pretended to be Bill Magnuson as he did not want to accept the summons and be a witness in the case.

**Answer 10:**

The hack driver told the narrator that Lutkins’ mother was a real terror. He described her as a large and hefty lady with a fierce temper. He also said that she was quick as a cat.

**Answer 11:**

The hack driver was able to befool him as he had not seen Lutkins before. He took him around the village on the pretext of searching for Lutkins.

**Textual Question Answers**

**Read and Find Out**

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**Question 1.**

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

**Answer 1:**

The lawyer was sent to New Mullion to serve summons on Oliver Lutkins, who was 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 2:**

A hack driver at the station, who called himself Bill Magnuson, befriends him. He told the lawyer that he knew Lutkins and would help in finding him. Bill took him to all the places where Lutkins was known to hang out. He took the lawyer to Fritz’s shop, where Lutkins played 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 was not found.

**Question 3.**

What does Bill say about Lutkins?

**Answer 3:**

Bill told the lawyer that Lutkins was a hard person to find as he was always busy in some activity or the other. He owed money to many people, including Bill, and had never paid back anybody. He also said that Lutkins played a lot of poker and was good at deceiving people.

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**Question 1.**

What more does Bill say about Lutkins and his family?

**Answer 1:**

Bill told the lawyer that he knew mother of Lutkins’. 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 carry it carefully. He also said that she was very tall and bulky. She was very quick and could talk a lot. He said that Lutkins must have heard that somebody was chasing him and consequently would have gone into hiding at his mother’s place.

**Question 2.**

Does the narrator serve the summons that day?

**Answer 2:**

No, the narrator did not serve the summons that day.

**Question 3.**

Who is Lutkins?

**Answer 3:**

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.

**Think About It (Page 53)**

**Question 1.**

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 1:**

No, ‘Bill’ did not know initially that the lawyer was looking for him.  
He must have made his plan for fooling the lawyer when the lawyer told him that he was looking for Lutkins, as he knew that he was required as a witness but did not want to give his testimony.

**Question 2.**

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 2:**

Lutkins never allows the lawyer to reach the place  
where the imaginary Lutkins is supposed to be present at a given time. The way he weaves stories about Lutkins’ vagabond nature and the way he scares the lawyer about Lutkins’ mother are ways of fooling the lawyer devised by the hack driver. Everywhere he does not allow the lawyer to ask about Lutkins but he himself pretends to ask about him, which the villagers are knowing is a pretence. So the villagers also join in the whole drama.

**Question 3.**

Why do you think Lufkin’s neighbours were anxious to meet the lawyer?

**Answer 3:**

Almost the entire village had enjoyed Lutkins making a fool of the lawyer. Only Lutkins’ neighbours had not seen the lawyer but had come to know what happened. They wanted to see the gullible man who Lutkins had taken for a ride. That is why tin y wanted to meet him.

**Question 4.**

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

**Answer 4:**

No, absolutely not. After knowing how Lutkins had made fool of him, he would never return to New Mullion to practice law.

**Question 5.**

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

**Answer 5:**

Yes, the lawyer was gullible. He believed every word of what Oliver Lutkins said. He should have asked about Lutkins from other villagers. Instead, he depended completely on the hack driver.

**Talk About It (Page 53)**

**Question 1.**

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 1:**

Persons like Lutkins are found in real life as well. They do not just appear in stories. They are very much real. Newspapers are full of reports of such tricksters. There is this famous con man in ‘David Copperfield’ written by Charles Dickens. His name is Uriah Heep. He traps a gullible, rich old man. The old man depends on him entirely. He takes advantage of his trust and takes all his money. He makes the old man an addict to alcohol. Then he forces the old man to marry his daughter to him.

**Question 2.**

Who is a ‘con man’, or a confidence trickster?

**Answer 2:**

A ‘con man’ or a confidence trickster is a person who makes a fool out of other people. He wins their trust first and then, he gets from them whatever he wants.