

Read and find out

P.no-47

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

Ans - The lawyer is sent to New Mullion to serve summons on a man called Oliver Lutkins. He did not like to go to a dirty place. He expected New Mullion to be a sweet and simple village unlike the dirty and shadowy corners of the city.

② Who befriends him? Where does he take him?

Ans - The delivery man befriends him. He took him to several places like Fritz's where there was a chance to meet Lutkins. They also went to some other places in search of Lutkins.

③ What does he say about Lutkins?

Ans - He says that Lutkins is not an honest person. He owes money to many people. But he never pays anybody a cent. Then he also says that Lutkins is not really bad. Only he can't part with his money.

P.no-50

① What more does Bill say about Lutkins and his family?

Ans - Bill says that Lutkins has a mother, who is a real terror. She is about nine feet tall, four feet thick and as quick as a cat.

② Does the narrator serve the summons that day?

Ans - The narrator does not serve the summons that day. He comes back to New Mullion in a happy mood. But he is scolded by the chief and sent back to New Mullion with another man. This man recognizes Lutkins and they serve the summons only on the second visit.

③ Who was Lutkins?

Ans - Lutkins was a cheat. He was wanted as a witness in a law case. But he tried to avoid the law. He posed as a hack driver and cheated the narrator who went to serve summons on him.

### Think About it

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?

Ans - When the lawyer reached New Mullion, 'Bill' did not know that he was looking for Lutkins. As the lawyer got down at New Mullion, he found it to be a very messy place. But the presence of the delivery man was the only pleasant sight there. He was a man of forty, red-faced, cheerful and very friendly. When the lawyer enquired about 'Lutkins', he immediately came up with his plan of fooling the lawyer because he knew that he himself was Lutkins. And the best way to escape from the lawyer was to be with him for the whole time.

② Lutkins openly takes the lawyer all over the village. How is it that no one lets out the secret? Can you find other such subtle ways in which Lutkins manipulates the town?

Ans - Lutkins openly takes the lawyer all over the village to find 'Oliver Lutkins' as he hides his real identity from the lawyer. He knew that the lawyer had come there to serve serve summons on him because he had not responded to many letters of the court.

No one lets out the secret for the whole day as Lutkins was an oversmart, clever and frivolous person. First of all he tells the lawyer to keep out of sight when they go to Fritz's to find Lutkins so that nobody could notice him.

Secondly, Bill did not let the lawyer get down from the hack and ask about Lutkins from anyone. He himself asked everyone about Lutkins. It seemed that everybody in the village knew about the mischief of Lutkins. Moreover, he tells the lawyer that Lutkins is very smart and never returns anybody's money back and if he tries to collect in those fancy clothes, he'll be suspicious and get away from him.

When he meets his mother as 'Bill' and introduces himself by saying, 'Remember me I am Bill Magnuson, the Carter and the hack man', it gives a hint to his mother not to recognise him.

In this way, the oversmartness of Bill and the innocence of the lawyer did not let the secret, the Bill was Lutkins, out.

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

Ans. The lawyer spent nearly his whole day with Bill at New Mullion to find Oliver Lutkins as he had to serve summons on him in a case as a witness. Lutkins, in the guise of Bill, was with him the whole day. He took the lawyer to all the places wherever Lutkins hung out.

At Fritz's, Gustaf's barber shop, Gray's barber shop and even his mother, almost everybody in the village, had seen the lawyer and laughed at him for his simplicity and innocence and how he was being befooled by Lutkins himself. Only the neighbours of Lutkins had not seen the lawyer so they were anxious to meet him.

Next day when the lawyer is sent again to serve the summons on Lutkins along with a man who had seen Lutkins, the lawyer meets Lutkin's mother at the station only, she laughs at him and tells him to go to their neighbours to have coffee as they were very anxious to meet him.

④ 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 this second visit?

Ans. On the first day, the hack driver spends almost the whole day with the lawyer to find Lutkins as the lawyer had to serve summons on him. The lawyer feels highly obliged and thankful to the hack driver for his kind consideration and concern for even strangers. The hack driver arranges lunch for him, accompanies him everywhere.

The lawyer was too touched and obliged by the behaviour of Bill. He became fond of his simplicity and humanity. He imagined an honest and happy life beyond the strict limits of universities and

new firms. He decided to come to New Mullion and start a new beautiful life.

He must have reconsidered his idea of setting down at New Mullion after realising the fact of being deceived by Lutkins under his nose. He could not foresee the malignant and mischievous intentions of Bill under the cover of simplicity and innocence.

⑤ Do you think the lawyer was gullible? How could he have avoided being taken for a ride?

Ans- 'Gullible' means 'someone easily deceived'. We can say that the lawyer was gullible. 'Lutkins' under the facade of Bill befooled him, deceived him the whole day. He was with him but he never let disclose his real identity to the lawyer.

But the lawyer could have avoided it. He could refuse his offer of ride across the village. He could have taken another hack or cart. Moreover he could have got down from the cart himself and asked about Lutkins from somebody himself. Definitely he would have found Lutkins but he was totally dependent on the hack driver who befooled him.

---

---