

“Hack Driver” Vocabulary

Part I. Guessing

1. “He may be a Maine guide, or the old garageman who used to keep the livery stable, or a perfectly useless innkeeper who sneaks off to shoot ducks when he ought to be sweeping the floors, but your pompous big-city man will contrive to get back and see him every year, and loaf with him, and secretly prefer him to all the high city falutin leaders of the city”(57).
 - A self-important
 - B self-conscious
 - C self-deprecating (hating)
 - D self-assured
2. “He may be a Maine guide, or the old garageman who used to keep the livery stable, or a perfectly useless innkeeper who sneaks off to shoot ducks when he ought to be sweeping the floors, but your pompous big-city man will contrive to get back and see him every year, and loaf with him, and secretly prefer him to all the high city falutin leaders of the city” (57).
 - A remember
 - B forget
 - C plan
 - D wing
3. “I was kicked out of actresses’ dressing rooms, and from time to time I was righteously beaten by large and indignant litigants” (58).
 - A stupid
 - B lazy
 - C angry
 - D silly
4. “‘Seen Nolly Lutkins around today? Friend of his looking for him,’ said Bill, with treacherous heartiness” (60).
 - A surprised
 - B realistic
 - C happy
 - D unrealistic
5. “I knew that my friend Bill was not free from guile; I knew that his hospitality to the Young Fellow from the City was not altogether a matter of brotherly love” (61).
 - A lying
 - B innocence
 - C happiness
 - D friendliness
6. “He was cynical yet tender” (61).
 - A mean
 - B trusting
 - C untrusting
 - D simple
7. “We left that placid place of orchards and resumed the search for Oliver Lutkins”(62).
 - A chaotic
 - B twisted
 - C calm
 - D ugly
8. “I saw a candid and happy life beyond the neat learnings of universities’ law firms”(63).
 - A straightforward
 - B scary
 - C short
 - D crazy
9. “That morning my eminent career almost came to an end” (63).
 - A tired
 - B new
 - C fancy
 - D struggling
10. “I was rather sorry, because it would prevent my loafing again in the gorgeous indolence of Bill Magnuson” (63).
 - A ambition
 - B simplicity
 - C laziness
 - D boredom

Part II. Matching

- 1. pompous
- 2. contrived
- 3. indignant
- 4. treacherous
- 5. guile
- 6. cynical
- 7. placid
- 8. candid
- 9. eminent
- 10. indolence

- A angry
- B calm and peaceful
- C laziness
- D self-important, one that feels they are better than others
- E skeptical, untrusting, doubting
- F someone or something that is great and stands out
- G something that is planned out carefully
- H straightforward and honest, not rehearsed
- I tricking or lying well
- J unreliable or betraying

Part III. Fill-In

- 1. Jane's mother gets mad at her _____; she just sits on the couch all day and watches television.
- 2. Paris Hilton is often referred to as _____, since she seems to only be concerned with her own well being.
- 3. The forest was beautiful and _____; the only sounds were the chirping of the birds and the waterfalls.
- 4. The show *Punk'd* shows people in a _____ state, since they have no idea they are on television.
- 5. The _____ spy betrayed his country by selling secrets to North Korea.
- 6. The criminals _____ a plan to rob a bank.
- 7. The girl was _____ about dating him since she knew he was a player.
- 8. He may be a child, but he is already full of _____; he is constantly pulling the wool over his parent's eyes.
- 9. The boy was _____ when he found out his girlfriend was cheating on him.
- 10. The _____ emperor was respected throughout his country.

Part IV. Your own sentences

- 1. pompous _____
- 2. contrived _____
- 3. indignant _____
- 4. treacherous _____
- 5. guile _____
- 6. cynical _____
- 7. placid _____
- 8. candid _____
- 9. eminent _____
- 10. indolence _____

“The Hack Driver” Questions

1. Why would the rich man want to be like the rum-hound? What does a rum-hound do?
2. The author implies men only dress nicely and shave because women make them. Do you agree or disagree and why?
3. What profession is the narrator in?
4. How does the narrator describe his personality when he first graduated?
5. Due to this description, when can you infer that this story was written by the narrator (in the present, in the future, how long in the future?)
6. What job duties does the narrator find himself responsible for?
7. Why does the narrator’s company need Lutkins?
8. How does the narrator describe the town of New Mullion?
9. How does the narrator describe the expressman?
10. What has the expressman agreed to do?
11. What kind of person has Bill described Lutkins to be?
12. What does Bill say Lutkins is good at?
13. According to Swede, why does Lutkins get shaved?
14. Why do you think Lutkin’s mother was laughing at them?
15. The narrator refers to the townspeople as “slow-spoken, simple, wise neighbors” (63). After reading the ending what is ironic about this statement?
16. How would you describe the townspeople based on the story?
17. What is the situational irony in the story?
18. What point of view is the story from?
19. Our narrator turns out to be an unreliable narrator, explain why he cannot be entirely trusted.
20. Describe the narrator’s character with as many adjectives as possible.
21. Describe Lutkin’s character with as many adjectives as possible.
22. What is the setting of the story? Guess the time period. (hack in this story means “taxi”, but it really wasn’t a taxi)

In the “Hack Driver,” we realize that things aren’t always what they seem. Go through the story and find as many incidents in the story as you can to prove this.

Answer these questions:

1. When the narrator first meets Lutkins/Magnuson, how is he tricked?
2. How does Lutkins manage to find out what the narrator wants from him?
3. How does Lutkins manage to keep Beinke from revealing his identity?
4. How does Lutkins trick the narrator at his mothers?
5. Who ends up being the most clever the narrator, or Lutkins? Explain your answer.

Now, you will write an essay about your findings. You will be explaining how Lutkins was able to trick the narrator and is therefore the cleverer of the two.

Your essay should include the following:

Introduction paragraph

Background (a short summary of the plot no more than two or three sentences)

Thesis—Lutkins is cleverer than the narrator.

Body paragraph #1

Topic sentence

One way Lutkins fooled the narrator and a quote to illustrate this.

Explanation of quote

Body paragraph #2

Topic sentence

One way Lutkins fooled the narrator and a quote to illustrate this.

Explanation of quote

Conclusion