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Samagra Shiksha
সমগ্র শিক্ষা

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CLASS - X

ENGLISH

Footprints without Feet

CHAPTER - 4

THE HACK DRIVER

Part – 3

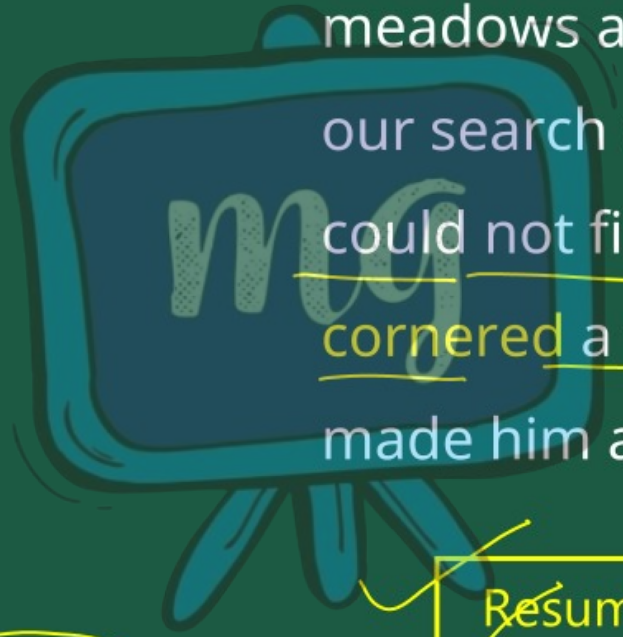
Tricked

Nipa Das

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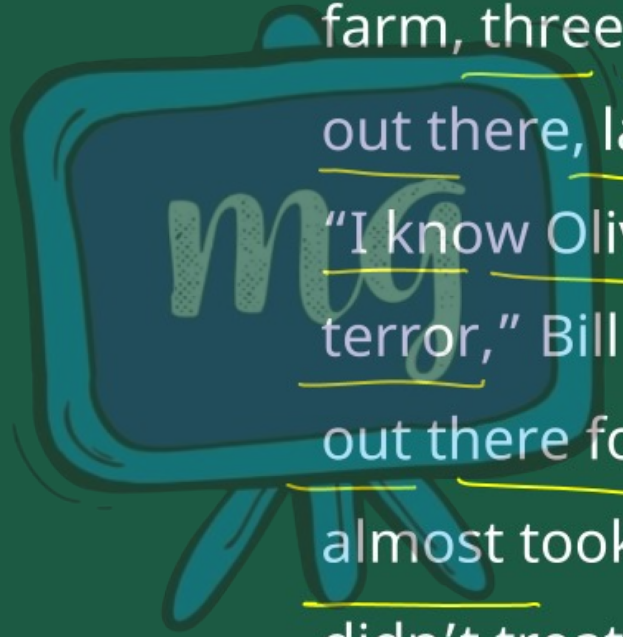
We left that peaceful scene of meadows and woods, and resumed our search of Oliver Lutkins. We could not find him. At last Bill cornered a friend of Lutkins and made him admit what he guessed,



Resumed	:	আকৌ আৰম্ভ কৰা
Cornered	:	আগচি ধৰা

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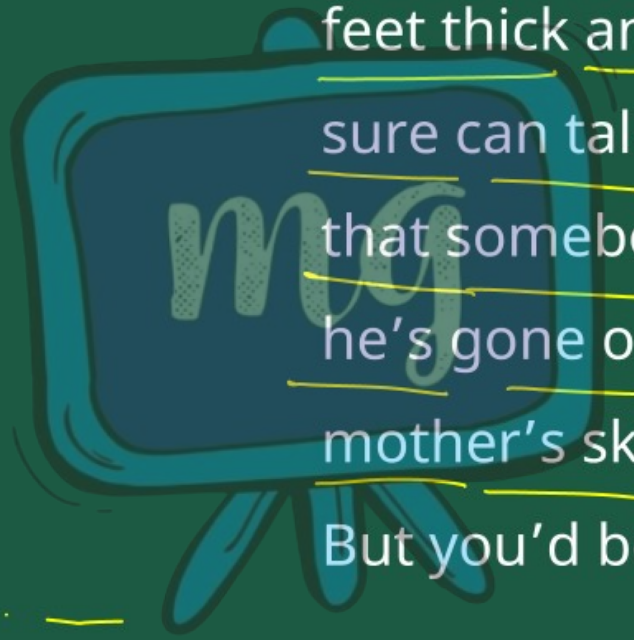


"Oliver's gone out to his mother's farm, three miles north." We drove out there, laying plans.

"I know Oliver's mother. She's a terror," Bill sighed. "I took a trunk out there for her once, and she almost took my skin off because I didn't treat it like a box of eggs.

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She’s about nine feet tall and four feet thick and quick as a cat, and she sure can talk. I’ll bet Oliver heard that somebody’s chasing him, and he’s gone on there to hide behind his mother’s skirts. Well, we’ll try her. But you’d better let me do it, boy.

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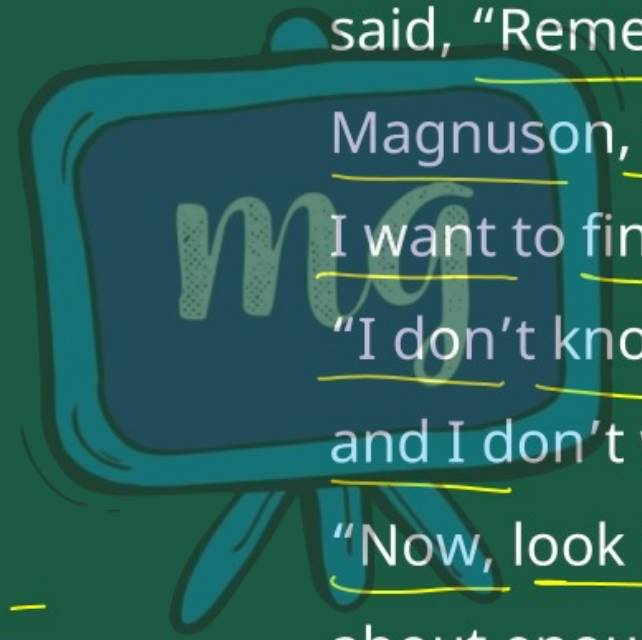
You may be great at literature and law, but you haven't had real training in swearing."

We drove into a poor farmyard; we were faced by an enormous and cheerful old woman.

Swearing	:	গালি-গালাজ/আপত্তিজনক ভাষা
Enormous	:	বৃহৎ

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My guide bravely went up to her and said, “Remember me? I’m Bill Magnuson, the carter and hackman. I want to find your son, Oliver.”

“I don’t know anything about Oliver, and I don’t want to,” she shouted.

“Now, look here. We’ve had just about enough nonsense.

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This young man represents the court in the city, and we have a legal right to search all properties for this Oliver Lutkins."

Bill made me sound very important, and the woman was impressed.

She retired into the kitchen and we followed.

Retired : ভিতৰলৈ সোমাই গ'ল

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She seized an iron from the old-fashioned stove and marched on us shouting.

"You search all you want to – if you don't mind getting burnt first."

Seized	:	ধৰি লোৱা
Marched on	:	আগবাঢ়ি আহা

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She shouted and laughed at our frightened retreat.

“Let’s get out of here. She’ll murder us,” Bill whispered. Outside, he said, “Did you see her smile? She was laughing at us.”

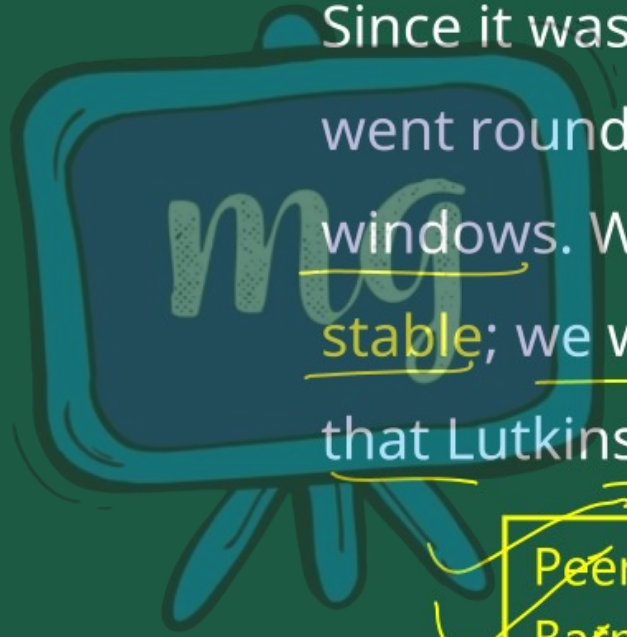
I agreed that it was pretty disrespectfull treatment.

Retreat : ঘূৰি যোৱা

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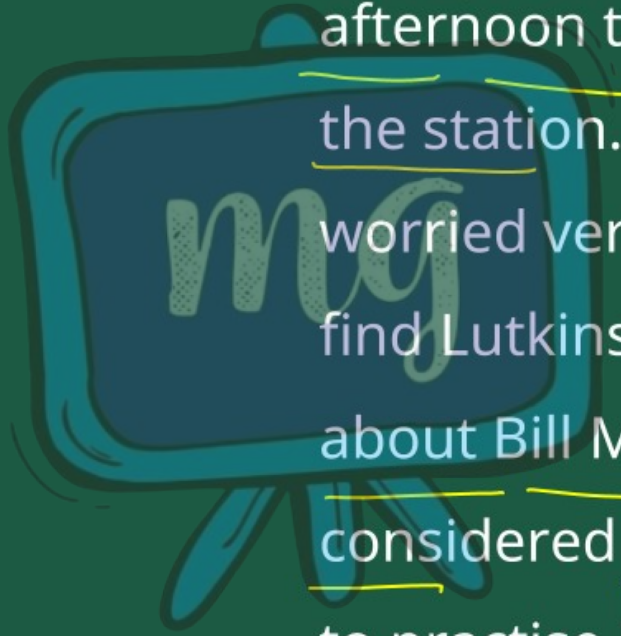
We did, however, search the house. Since it was only one storey high, Bill went round it, peering in at all the windows. We examined the barn and stable; we were reasonably certain that Lutkins was not there.



Peering	:	চোৱা
Barn	:	ভঁৰাল
Stable	:	ঘোঁৰাশাল

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It was nearly time for me to catch the afternoon train, and Bill drove me to the station. On the way to the city I worried very little over my failure to find Lutkins. I was too busy thinking about Bill Magnuson. Really, I considered returning to New Mullion to practise law.

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If I had found Bill so deep and richly human, might I not grow to love Fritz and Gustaff and a hundred other slow-spoken, simple, wise neighbours? I pictured an honest and happy life beyond the strict limits of universities and law firms. I was excited. I had found a treasure.

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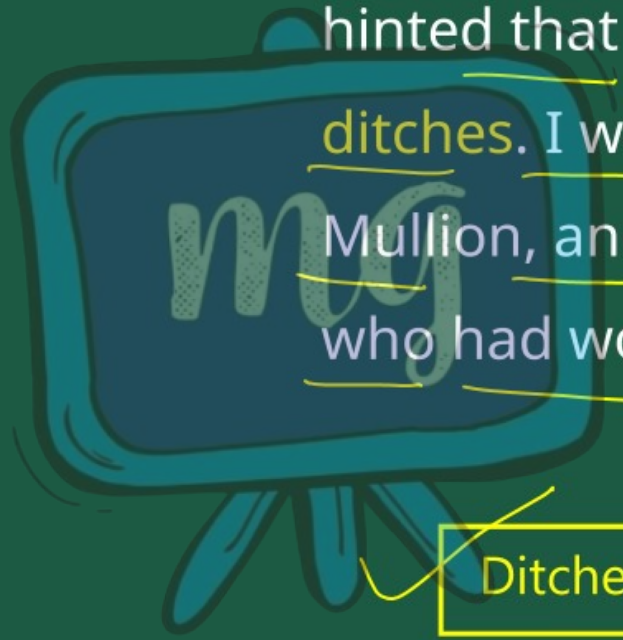
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I had discovered a new way of life. But if I did not think much about Lutkins, the office did. I found them all upset. Next morning the case was coming up in the court, and they had to have Lutkins. I was a shameful, useless fool. That morning my promising legal career almost came to an end before it had begun.

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The Chief almost murdered me. He hinted that I might do well at digging ditches. I was ordered back to New Mullion, and with me went a man who had worked with Lutkins.



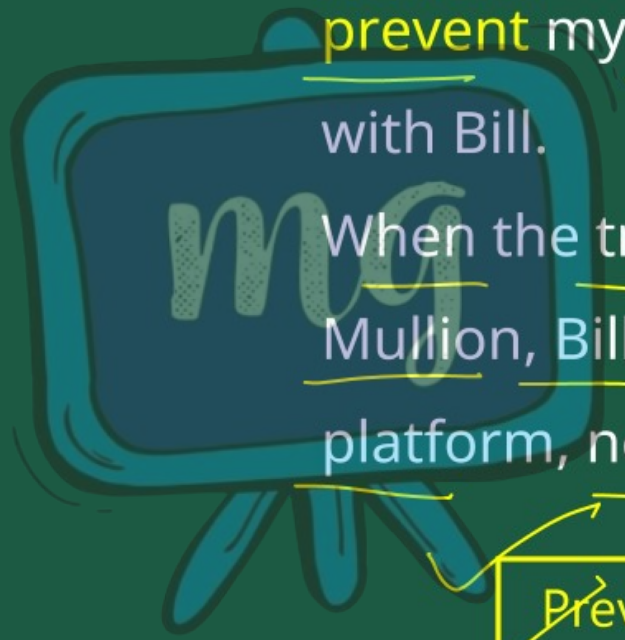
Ditches : সংকীর্ণ খাদ / খাদ

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I was rather sorry, because it would prevent my loafing all over again with Bill.

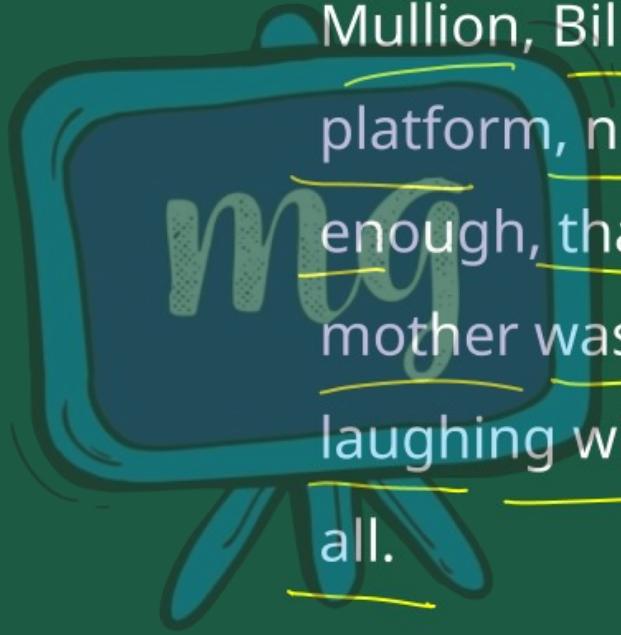
When the train arrived at New Mullion, Bill was on the station platform, near his cart.



Prevent	:	প্ৰতিৰোধ কৰা
Loafing	:	হলি গলি কৰা

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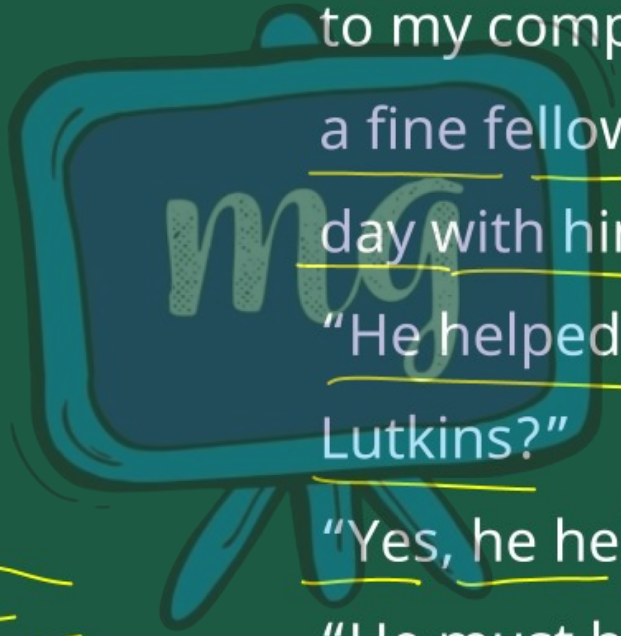
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When the train arrived at New Mullion, Bill was on the station platform, near his cart. Strangely enough, that old tigress, Lutkins' mother was there talking and laughing with Bill, not quarrelling at all.

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From the train steps I pointed Bill out to my companion and said, “There’s a fine fellow, a real man. I spent the day with him.”

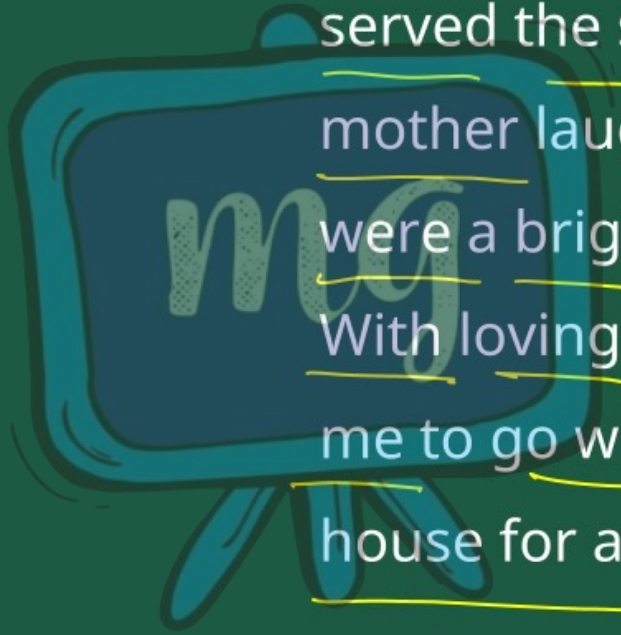
“He helped you hunt for Oliver Lutkins?”

“Yes, he helped me a lot.”

“He must have; he’s Lutkins himself.”

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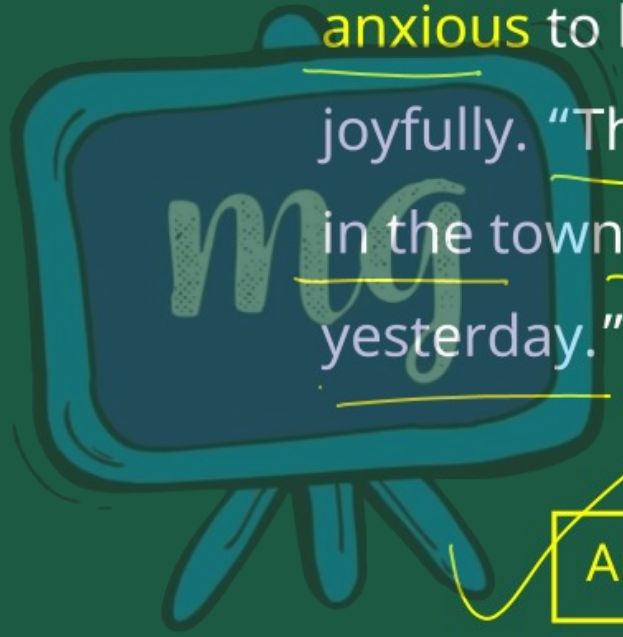


What really hurt me was that when I served the summons, Lutkins and his mother laughed at me as though I were a bright boy of seven. With loving kindness they begged me to go with them to a neighbour's house for a cup of coffee.

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"I told them about you and they're anxious to look at you," said Lutkins joyfully. "They're about the only folks in the town that missed seeing you yesterday."



Anxious : উদ্বিগ্ন

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ASSESSMENT

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1 “She’s about nine feet tall and four feet thick and quick as a cat”
Who is “She” here ?

A Lawyer’s mother

B Oliver Lutkins’ mother

C Bill’s wife

D Bill’s mother

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2 She seized an *iron* from the old-fashioned stove and marched on us shouting