समग्र शिक्षा
Samagra Shiksha
সমগ্র শিক্ষা

Under CSR Support by
ipca | Foundation



CLASS - X

ENGLISH

Footprints without Feet

CHAPTER - 4

THE HACK DRIVER

Part – 1

Search for the Witness

Nipa Das

समग्र शिक्षा
Samagra Shiksha
समग्र शिक्षा

Under CSR Support by
ipca | Foundation

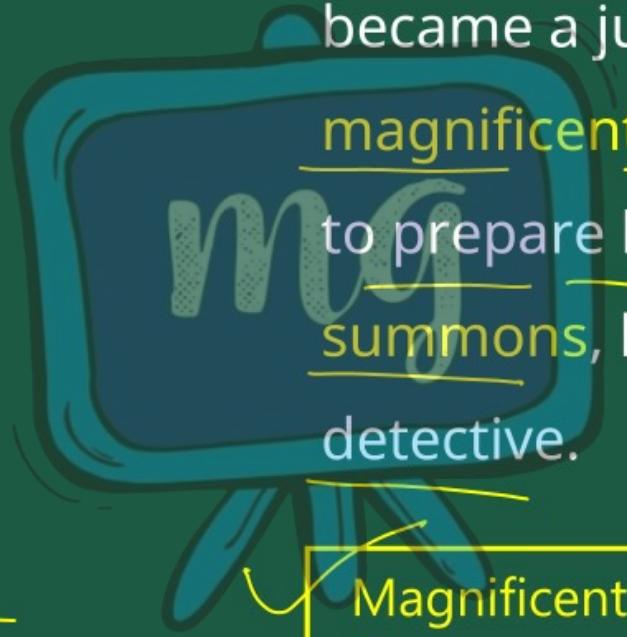
BEFORE YOU READ

A young lawyer comes to a village to serve summons on Oliver Lutkins. A friendly hack driver takes him round the village in search of Lutkins. Does he find him? Who is Lutkins?

समग्र शिक्षा
Samagra Shiksha
সমগ্র শিক্ষা

Under CSR Support by
ipca | Foundation

After graduating with honours, I became a junior assistant clerk in a magnificent law firm. I was sent, not to prepare legal briefs, but to serve summons, like a cheap private detective.



Magnificent	:	বিশাল, আকর্ষণীয়
Summons	:	আদালতলৈ চমন, মাতি পঠিওৱা

समग्र शिक्षा
Samagra Shiksha
সমগ্ৰ শিক্ষা

Under CSR Support by
ipca | Foundation

I had to go to dirty and shadowy corners of the city to seek out my victims.

Some of the larger and more self-confident ones even beat me up. I hated this unpleasant work, and the side of city life it revealed to me.

Revealed : প্ৰকাশ কৰা

समग्र शिक्षा
Samagra Shiksha
সমগ্র শিক্ষা

Under CSR Support by
ipca | Foundation

I even considered fleeing to my hometown, where I could have been a real lawyer right away, without going through this unpleasant training period.

So I rejoiced one day when they sent me out forty miles in the country,

Fleeing	:	পলাই যোৱা
Rejoiced	:	আনন্দ

समग्र शिक्षा
Samagra Shiksha
সমগ্র শিক্ষা

Under CSR Support by
ipca | Foundation

to a town called New Mullion, to serve summons on a man called Oliver Lutkins.

We needed this man as a witness in a law case, and he had ignored all our letters.

समग्र शिक्षा
Samagra Shiksha
সমগ্র শিক্ষা

Under CSR Support by
ipca | Foundation

When I got to New Mullion, my eager expectations of a sweet and simple country village were severely disappointed.

Its streets were rivers of mud, with rows of wooden shops, either painted a sour brown, or bare of any paint at all.

Severely : অত্যন্ত

समग्र शिक्षा
Samagra Shiksha
समग्र शिक्षा

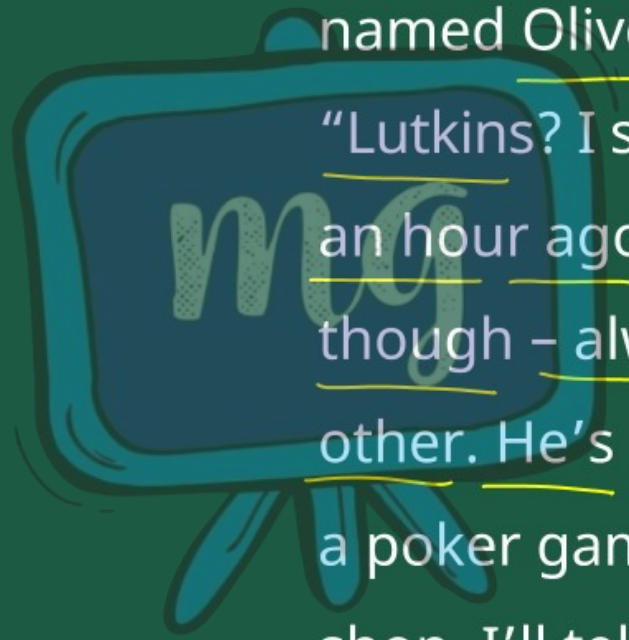
Under CSR Support by
ipca | Foundation

The only agreeable sight about the place was the delivery man at the station. He was about forty, red-faced, cheerful, and thick about the middle.

His working clothes were dirty and well-worn, and he had a friendly manner. You felt at once that he liked people.

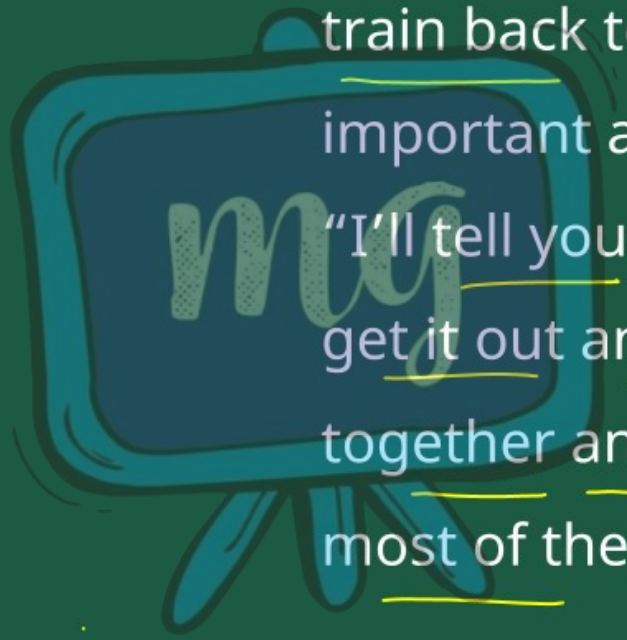
समग्र शिक्षा
Samagra Shiksha
সমগ্র শিক্ষা

Under CSR Support by
ipca | Foundation



"I want," I told him, "to find a man named Oliver Lutkins."

"Lutkins? I saw him around here about an hour ago. Hard fellow to catch though – always up to something or other. He's probably trying to start up a poker game in the back of Fritz's shop. I'll tell you, boy – is there any hurry about locating Lutkins?"

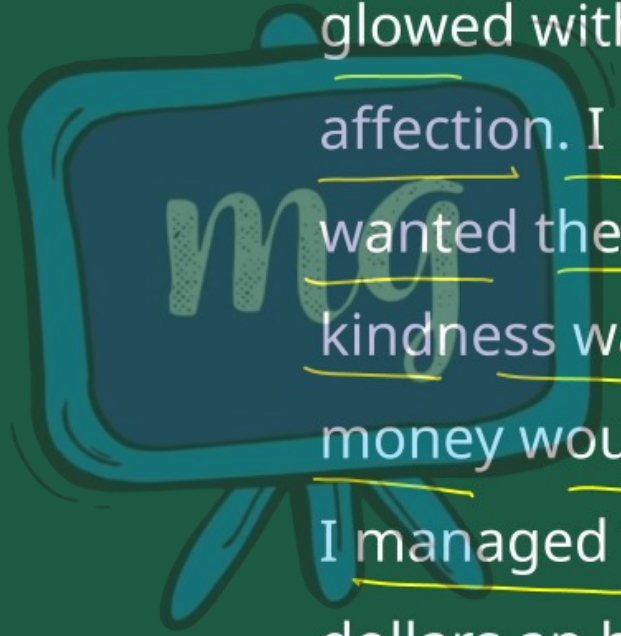


"Yes. I want to catch the afternoon train back to the city." I was very important and secret about it.

"I'll tell you what. I've got a hack. I'll get it out and we can drive around together and find Lutkins. I know most of the places he hangs out."

समग्र शिक्षा
Samagra Shiksha
समग्र शिक्षा

Under CSR Support by
ipca | Foundation

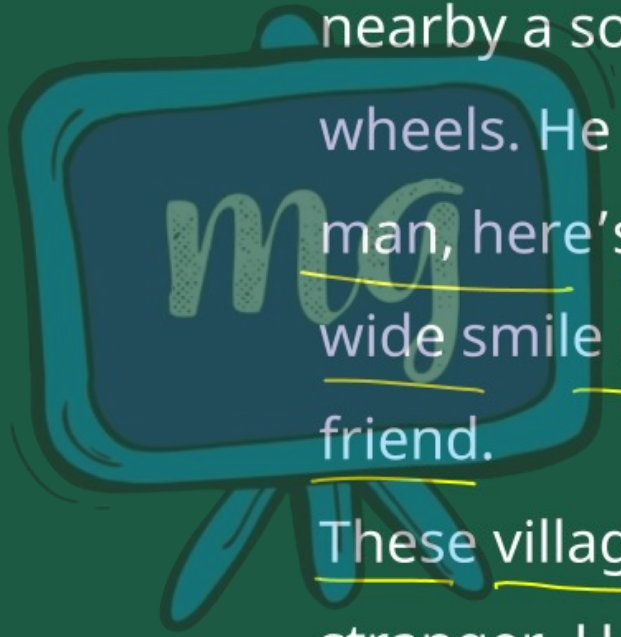


He was so open and friendly that I glowed with the warmth of his affection. I knew, of course, that he wanted the business, but his kindness was real. I was glad the fare money would go to this good fellow. I managed to bargain down to two dollars an hour,

समग्र शिक्षा
Samagra Shiksha
समग्र शिक्षा

Under CSR Support by
ipca | Foundation

and then he brought from his house nearby a sort of large black box on wheels. He remarked, “Well, young man, here’s the carriage,” and his wide smile made me into an old friend.



These villagers are so ready to help a stranger. He had already made it his own task to find Oliver Lutkins for me.

समग्र शिक्षा
Samagra Shiksha
समग्र शिक्षा

Under CSR Support by
ipca | Foundation

He said, “I don’t want to interfere, young fellow, but my guess is that you want to collect some money from Lutkins. He never pays anybody a cent.

He still owes me fifty cents on a poker game I was fool enough to play with him.

समग्र शिक्षा
Samagra Shiksha
সমগ্র শিক্ষা

Under CSR Support by
ipca | Foundation

He’s not really bad, but it’s hard to make him part with his money. If you try to collect from him, in those fancy clothes, he’ll be suspicious and get away from you.

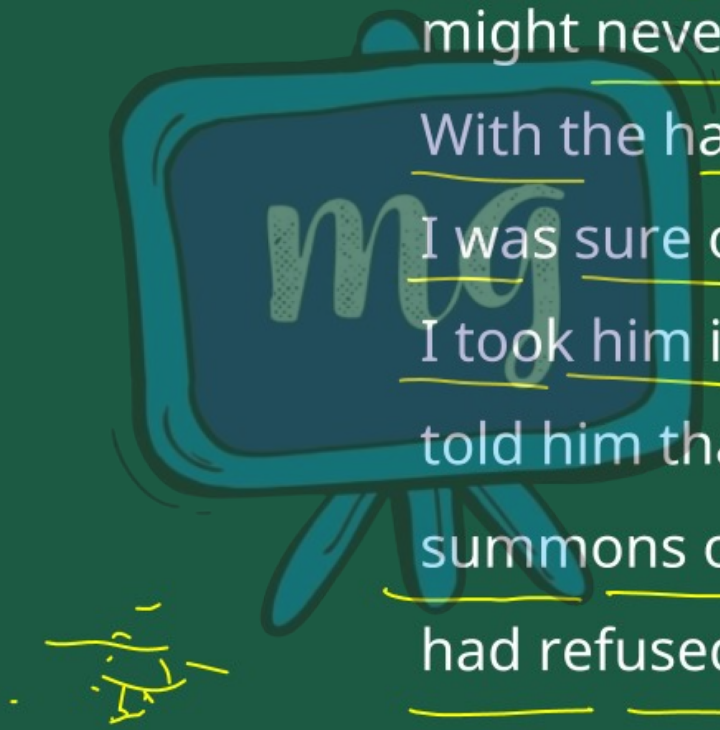
If you want I’ll go into Fritz’s and ask for him, and you can keep out of sight behind me.”

Suspicious : সন্দেহজনক

समग्र शिक्षा
Samagra Shiksha
समग्र शिक्षा

Under CSR Support by
ipca | Foundation

I loved him for this. By myself, I might never have found Lutkins. With the hack driver's knowing help, I was sure of getting my man. I took him into my confidence and told him that I wanted to serve the summons on Lutkins – that the man had refused to be a witness,



when his information would have quickly settled our case. The driver listened earnestly.

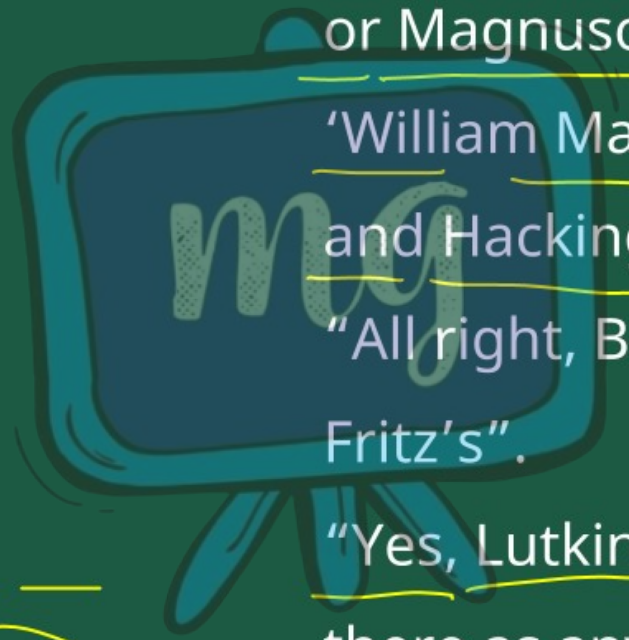
At the end, he hit me on the shoulder and laughed, “Well, we’ll give Brother Lutkins a little surprise.”

“Let’s start, driver.”

Earnestly : মনোযোগেৰে

समग्र शिक्षा
Samagra Shiksha
समग्र शिक्षा

Under CSR Support by
ipca | Foundation



"Most folks around here call me Bill or Magnuson. My business is called 'William Magnuson Fancy Carting and Hacking'."

"All right, Bill. Shall we proceed to Fritz's".

"Yes, Lutkins is just as likely to be there as anywhere. Plays a lot of poker.

समग्र शिक्षा
Samagra Shiksha
समग्र शिक्षा

Under CSR Support by
ipca | Foundation

He's good at deceiving people." Bill seemed to admire Lutkins' talent for dishonesty. I felt that if he had been a policeman, he would have caught Lutkins respectfully, and jailed him with regret.

समग्र शिक्षा
Samagra Shiksha
समग्र शिक्षा

ASSESSMENT

Under CSR Support by
ipca | Foundation



1 Why was the lawyer sent to New Mullion ?

A Shopping

B To catch a criminal

C To serve summons

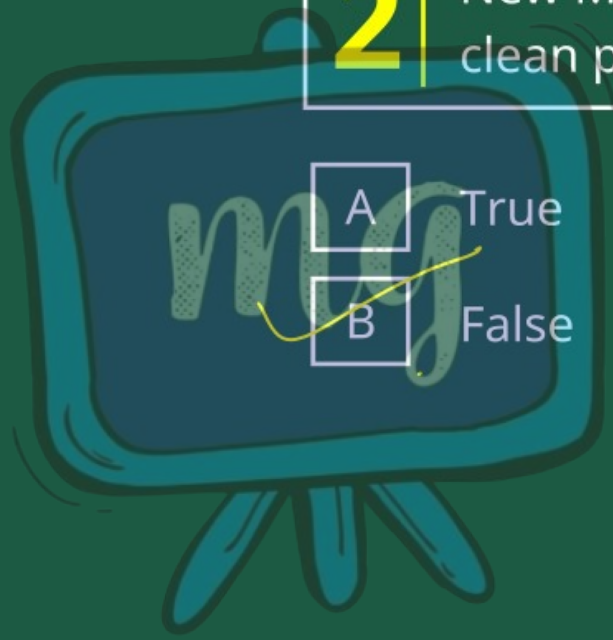
D To visit the village

समग्र शिक्षा
Samagra Shiksha
समग्र शिक्षा

ASSESSMENT

Under CSR Support by
ipca | Foundation





2 New Mullion was a very neat and clean place

A True

B False