

English

Class: 12th

Subject: English

Lesson 7: MY FINANCIAL CAREER

Author: Stephan Leacock

❖ Exercise Short Questions:

1. What light do the following expressions throw on Leacock's state of mind when he entered the bank: "looked timidly round", "shambled in"?

Ans: These expressions show that Leacock was nervous, hesitant, and lacking confidence. He felt intimidated by the bank environment, the clerks, and the money. "Timidly" shows fear, and "shambled" shows a clumsy, unsure movement, reflecting his unease.

2. Why did the manager come to think that Leacock had an awful secret to reveal?

Ans: The manager noticed Leacock's mysterious and anxious behavior, asking to see him "alone" and acting oddly. This unusual seriousness and secrecy made the manager suspect that Leacock had something serious or suspicious to disclose.

3. What was the attitude of the manager towards Leacock on learning that he only wished to deposit 56 dollars in the bank?

Ans: The manager felt relieved but still serious. He was no longer suspicious but still treated Leacock with respect, imagining him as a wealthy or important client, possibly a son of Baron Rothschild or young Gould.

4. What other blunders did Leacock commit after leaving the manager's office?

Ans:

Leacock made several mistakes:

- He poked the money at the accountant as if performing a trick.
- He lost control and confusion while depositing the money.

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- He wrote a cheque for \$56 instead of \$6, withdrawing all the money unintentionally.
 - He tried to pretend anger or temper, which was unconvincing.

5. After this misadventure in the bank where did Leacock keep his money?

Ans: After this incident, Leacock stopped banking altogether. He kept his cash in his trousers pocket and his savings in silver dollars inside a sock.

6. Give as many examples as you can to show that Leacock was feeling completely lost in the bank all the time he was there.

Ans:

Examples of his confusion:

- He was rattled by clerks, wickets, and the sight of money.
- He shambled in and looked timidly around.
- His voice was sepulchral, showing fear.
- He forgot to say "alone" the second time but felt it necessary.
- He lost track while depositing the money, poking it like a trick.
- He wrote the wrong amount on the cheque (\$56 instead of \$6).
- He had no voice to speak in the manager's room.
- He felt impossible to explain his mistakes to the clerks.

❖ Important Short Questions:

1. What is Leacock's reaction when he crosses the threshold of a bank?

Ans: He becomes nervous, confused, and feels like an irresponsible idiot.

2. Why does Leacock feel that the bank is the only place for his salary?

Ans: Because his salary had been raised to \$56 a month, and he thought it was the safest and proper place to keep it.

3. Which wicket did Leacock first approach in the bank?

Ans: He first approached the wicket marked "Accountant."

4. How did Leacock describe the accountant?

Ans: As a tall, cool devil whose very sight rattled him, making his voice sepulchral.

5. Why did Leacock ask to see the manager "alone"?

Ans: He felt it was self-evident, though he didn't know why; it also gave the impression he had a secret.

6. What impression did Leacock give the manager about his identity at first?

Ans: The manager thought he was a detective from Pinkerton's agency.

7. How did Leacock correct the manager's assumption that he was a detective?

Ans: He said he was not a detective at all, implying he came from a rival agency and that he only wanted to open an account.

8. What did the manager assume about Leacock's financial status after learning his intention to deposit money?

Ans: He assumed Leacock was very wealthy, like a son of Baron Rothschild or a young Gould.

9. How much money did Leacock propose to deposit monthly along with the initial amount?

Ans: He proposed to deposit \$50 every month along with the initial \$56.

10. How did Leacock behave when he stepped into the safe?

Ans: He acted nervously and timidly, and the manager coldly showed him the way out.

11. What impression did Leacock give the bank clerks while writing the cheque?

Ans: The clerks thought he was an invalid millionaire, nervous and incapable of controlling his actions.

12. What mistake did Leacock make while writing the cheque?

Ans: He wrote \$56 instead of \$6, intending to withdraw only a small amount.

13. How did Leacock attempt to justify withdrawing all his money?

Ans: He tried to look like a man with a quick temper and hoped the clerks would think someone had insulted him.

14. How did the bank clerks react to Leacock's mistake on the cheque?

Ans: They were surprised, stopped writing, and looked at him as if it were impossible to explain.

15. What did Leacock do with his money after this banking misadventure?

Ans: He stopped banking and kept his cash in his trousers pocket and his silver dollars in a sock.

Note:

This chapter is designed to provide a solid foundation of knowledge, with the goal of deepening understanding and encouraging further exploration of the subject. The content has been carefully selected to support effective learning and inspire students to engage with the topic more deeply.

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Purpose: To contribute to education by offering insightful, valuable content that enhances learning and understanding.

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