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Class 9 English (Beehive) Notes

IF I WERE YOU



Key Notes and Important Questions with Answers

11. IF I WERE YOU

–Douglas James

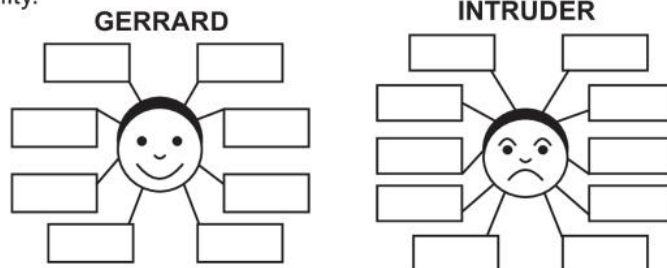
- Gerrard, a play wright, lives alone in a lonely cottage.
- After talking to someone on phone, he starts packing his travelling bag.
- Suddenly an intruder enters the cottage with a revolver in this hand, Gerrard smiles surprisingly.
- Gerrard tries to be calm. Intruder wants to know some facts about his life. When Gerrard tries to be humorous while answering his questions, he threatens to hurt him, if he would not answer.
- Gerrard tries to know his name but he is too clever to tell it, Instead he asks Gerrard's christian name.
- Intruder inquires if he drives car and the people who often visit him. Though intruder has collected a lot of information about Gerrard, still he wants to confirm the facts.
- Gerrard tells him that only a few people-the baker, the green grocer and a quite charming milkman visit him.
- Again Gerrard again in a tricky way tries to know about him. Intruder asks him not to be smart he has a special motive and it would surprise him.
- Gerrard asks him what particular line of crime he embraces and intruder tells that his speciality is jewel robbery.
- During conversation Gerrard says that there are few jewels to rob in the Essex's forests. Intruder say that cops are also few. So he can comfortably relax.
- Gerrard amusingly tells him that he was not invited to live with him. Intruder says that his big surprise is that he is not going to live for long he will kill him soon.
- Intruder sarcastically tells him that he is sorry to kill him but he has to as he is wanted in a murder and police is behind him. If he kills Gerrard he cannot be hanged twice for double murder.
- After killing Gerrard he will take on his identity and live comfortably. He has learnt Gerrard's style of talking and he will dress up like him with Gerrard's clothes.
- After listening all this Gerrard says to intruder that he cannot kill him instead he will let him go and thank God for not killing him earlier.
- Now intruder is eager to know the reason and unintentionally tells Gerrard that he was doing a job in the town. Things went wrong and he killed a cop. since then he has been dodging. Intruder further tells that he came to Aylesbury where he saw and listened to his conversation with two people.

He says that Gerrard seems mysterious to him. He is the right person to take on his identity.

- Gerrard tries to explain the mystery but intruder is no more interested in listening. He is paying much attention to Gerrard's way of talking. Style of walking etc.
- He tells intruder that if he shoots, he will be surely hanged if not s him self then as Vincent Charles Gerrard.
- Gerrard tells him that it was his surprise for him. If he is a criminal. He is also not a gentleman. He says that his game is also over. Circumstances were not favourable so he ran away after firing bullets but one of his accomplice was captured. He is also expecting trouble that night. So his bag is packed and intruder finds in his bag, along with other things, false must aches etc. Which Gerrard says are for disguise outfit.
- Gerrard offers him lift in his car to run away. To make him believe his words he shows disguise outfit in the bag as a proof.
- Gerrard tells the intruder that he has posted a man who will ring up on seeing police. Then bell rings and he instructs intruder to follow him as police has come.
- Gerrard opens the door and steps away. Intruder leans forward, to inspect whether he is speaking truth, with side towards Gerrard, but revolver ready. As he turns his head and reach as near the cupboard, Gerrard pushed the intruder into the cupboard, knocking the revolver out of his hand and locks it from outside. Now Gerrard goes to the phone and calls the policeman (sergeant).

ACTIVITY

Following words are associated with the personality of the characters of this play.' If I were you.' Write the words at the correct place, matching the personality.



Smart, Sarcastic, quick witted, sense of humor, talkative, clever, flashy, confident, spectacles, observant, nonchalant, reserved, planned, short-tempered, bold, intelligent, well-dressed, serious, brave, Medium built.

COMPREHENSION PASSAGES

1. "I'm not taking it for fun, I've been hunted long enough. I'm wanted for murder already and they can't hang me twice."

Questions

- Who does 'I' refer to?
- Why has he been hunted long enough?
- What punishment may be given to him?
- Find a word from the passage which means the same as 'sought after'.

2. "I've got freedom to gain. As for myself, I am a poor hunted rat. As Vincent Charles Gerrard I am free to go places and do nothing".

Questions

- Name the lesson from where the above passage has been taken?
- Who has been referred to as "a poor hunted rat" here?
- How does the speaker want to gain freedom?
- Find the opposite of 'lose' from the above lines.

3. "Unfortunately they got one of my men and found things the fool should have burnt. Tonight I'm expecting trouble."

Questions

- Who are 'they' here?
- Who is the speaker?
- Why is the speaker expecting a trouble?
- 'Unfortunately' has 'un' as prefix. Make any two words using the same prefix.

Short Questions :

- Q.1 Where does Gerrard live? What had happened to him, where was he a child?
- Q.2 Why has the intruder been hunted long enough?
- Q.3 What will the intruder gain by killing Gerrard?
- Q.4 Where did the intruder see Gerrard? Why did he select him (Gerrard) only to take on his identity after killing him?
- Q.5 As told to the intruder, what had Gerrard done and with what result.

Long Question

- Q.1 Gerrard saved himself with his presence of mind. What are the essentials to face a problem successfully?
- Q.2 Why did the intruder break into Gerrard's cottage?
- Q.3 What is Gerrard's profession? How does his speech and words reveal this?