

CHAPTER

11

If I Were You

by Douglas James

Chapter Sketch

The chapter 'If I Were You' is a drama written by Douglas James. The drama is a dialogue between the two persons. Gerrard, a playwright, was disturbed by an intruder who intended to take on his identity by killing him. He fell into a discussion with Gerrard and using that time Gerrard made a false story which trapped the intruder. Finally, Gerrard got rid of the intruder for ever.

About the Characters

Gerrard A playwright by profession who has a great presence of mind. He was successful in trapping the intruder.

Intruder The intruder is a criminal who specialises in stealing jewellery. He intrudes into the cottage of Gerrard to kill him and to take on his identity.

Summary of the Chapter

Entry of the Intruder

Gerrard was talking over the phone when the intruder (a criminal) came into the room with a gun in his hand. Gerrard was shocked at this but he kept himself calm and did not panic.

He tried to ask his name but he did not tell his name. The intruder was much interested in knowing the full name of Gerrard. He also wanted to know about his habits, his talking styles and about his other activities. Gerrard was very surprised to know that the intruder knew a few things about him.

Surprise to Gerrard

Gerrard engaged intruder in a conversation and came to know that the intruder wanted to kill him and take his identity. He was a jewel thief and was chased by the police for murdering a cop.

Gerrard Made a False Story

When Gerrard knew the intention of the intruder, he made a false story to save himself and capture the intruder. He told the intruder that he couldn't kill him because he too was wanted by the police. He made it sound real by telling him that he has to live in isolation as he too is being chased by the police.

Intruder Fell into the Story of Gerrard

At first, intruder didn't believe Gerrard but the decorative items and materials for appearances forced him to trust his words. Therefore, he decided to run away with Gerrard in his car. Gerrard pushed him into the cupboard instead of going in the garage. Then, he called his friend and asked him to send the cop at his home.

» Chapter Highlights

- 1 Gerrard was packing his bag when an intruder armed with a gun breaks into his house.
- 2 He appears calm and behaves as if nothing has happened.
- 3 The intruder asks him questions about himself.
- 4 Gerrard strikes a conversation with him to know about his intentions.
- 5 In the meantime, Gerrard cooks up a plan to trap the intruder.
- 6 The intruder believes in his plan and follows him to his car.
- 7 While the intruder is moving out of his house, Gerrard pushes him and locks him in a cupboard.
- 8 Gerrard tells his friend to call the police.

Word Meanings

The given page nos. correspond to the pages in the prescribed textbook.

Word	Meaning
PAGE 138	
intruder	someone who breaks into a place
intends	plans
interior	the inside of something
PAGE 139	
cultured	having or showing good education, tastes, and manners
count on	rely
bumps	to hit something or someone
paws	hands
melodramatic	something that involves drama
nonchalant	feeling or appearing casually calm and relaxed
PAGE 140	
sympathetic	showing concern about someone who is in a bad situation
gypsies	nomadic persons/spy
inflection	arise or fall in the sound of a person's voice
imitation	to copy something
assist	to help someone
charming	pleasing and interesting
tradespeople	businessmen
PAGE 141	
considerable	large
modest	humble

Word	Meaning
plenty	much
precisely	exactly, correctly
require	need
embrace	belong to
dandy	good or impressive
cops	police
retire	to relax
trifle	slightly
harsh	unpleasant and difficult to accept or experience
sarcasm	the use of words that mean the opposite of what you really want to say especially in order to insult or irritate someone or be funny
grave step	serious act
hunted	being chased
gratuitous	(of something such as bad behaviour) not necessary or with no cause
frustrated	to get discouraged or feel angry or upset
PAGE 142	
posh	legante
pantomime	a way of expressing, using body movements and facial expressions.
decorative	being decent enough
tribute	a respect to someone/something
conversation	talks between persons
elude	to avoid or escape someone by being quick, skilful or clever
dodging	avoiding
apparently	as far as one knows or can see
invested in	taken to
cloak	blanket
PAGE 143	
crook	a dishonest person
concerned	have something to do with
expecting	anticipating
disguise outfit	things to hide one's identity
muddled	confused
frame	a trap to catch someone/something
PAGE 144	
leans	bows down
inspect	to check
props	support material
bother	trouble

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NCERT FOLDER

(Here we have covered questions given in the NCERT textbook along with their answers.)

Thinking about the Text (Page 144)

I. Answer these questions.

1 "At last a sympathetic audience."

- (i) Who says this? (ii) Why does he say it?
- (iii) Is he sarcastic or serious?

Ans. (i) Gerrard says this.

(ii) He says it because the intruder had asked him to talk about himself.

(iii) He was being sarcastic. The audience, i.e. the intruder was in no ways sympathetic. In fact, he told Gerrard, at gunpoint, to talk about himself so that he could use the information to further his own interests.

2 Why does the intruder choose Gerrard as the man whose identity he wants to take on?

Ans. The intruder chooses Gerrard as the man whose identity he wanted to take on because he was of the same build as Gerrard. Also, Gerrard lived alone and did not meet a lot of people.

3 "I said it with bullets".

- (i) Who says this? (ii) What does it mean?
- (iii) Is it the truth? What is the speaker's reason for saying this?

Ans. (i) Gerrard says this.

(ii) It means that when things had went wrong with him, he shoot someone.

(iii) No, it was not the truth. Gerrard said so because he wanted the intruder to believe that he too was dangerous. The intruder would have killed him if he had not lied about his identity. He told him that he himself was a crook; that he had also killed someone and escaped. However, his partner had been caught and he had not burnt the papers that should have been burnt.

Therefore, the cops were after him too and this meant that the intruder would still not be safe even after taking on his identity.

4 What is Gerrard's profession? Quote the parts of the play that support your answer.

Ans. Gerrard could have been a theatrical artist, perhaps a playwright. There are several parts in the play which suggest that he had something to do with theatre. When he saw the intruder, he said, "This is all very melodramatic, not very original, perhaps, but..." When the intruder asked him to talk about himself, he said, "At last a sympathetic audience!"

He also asked the intruder, "Are you American or is that merely a clever imitation?". When the intruder had told him his plan of killing him and taking over his identity, he said, "In most melodramas the villain is foolish enough to delay his killing long enough to be frustrated." Later, he again said, "I said, you were luckier than most melodramatic villains."

When he told the intruder about his false identity in order to save himself, he told him "That's a disguise outfit; false moustaches and what not." Finally, after locking him up, he answered the phone and said that he can't send the props in time for rehearsal. He also said that he was in a tough situation and may put in his next play.

5 "You'll soon stop being smart".

- (i) Who says this?
- (ii) Why does the speaker say it?
- (iii) What, according to the speaker, will stop Gerrard from being smart?

Ans. (i) The intruder says this.

(ii) The speaker (intruder) said this as Gerrard was not anxious or upset at his breaking into his house. Moreover, he was completing the words whenever the intruder fumbled.

(iii) According to the intruder, Gerrard would stop being smart when he would know what was going to happen to him. The intruder's plan was to kill Gerrard and take on his identity.

6 "They can't hang me twice".

- (i) Who says this?
- (ii) Why does that speaker say it?

Ans. (i) The intruder says this.

(ii) The intruder had been telling Gerrard that he had murdered one man and that he would not shy away from murdering him too. This is because the police could not hang him twice for two murders.

7 "A mystery I propose to explain." What is the mystery the speaker proposes to explain?

Ans. The mystery that Gerrard proposed to explain was the story that Gerrard himself was a criminal like the intruder. When things went wrong with him, he had committed a murder and got away.

Unfortunately, one of his man had been arrested and certain things were found which his man should have burnt. Due to this, he was expecting some trouble that night and therefore his bag was packed and he was ready to escape.

8 "This is your big surprise."

- (i) Where has this been said in the play?
(ii) What is the surprise?

Ans. (i) The given line was spoken twice in the play. First, it was spoken by the intruder when he revealed to Gerrard why he was there and what he was going to do with him. On the second occasion, it was spoken by Gerrard when he was about to reveal his made up story to the intruder.

- (ii) When the intruder said this line, the surprise was that he was going to kill Gerrard and take on his identity. When Gerrard said this line, the surprise was that he too was a criminal like the intruder.

Thinking about Language (Page 145)

I. Consult your dictionary and choose the correct word from the pairs given in brackets.

1 The (site, cite) of the accident was (ghastly/ghostly).

Ans. The site of the accident was ghastly.

2 Our college (principle/principal) is very strict.

Ans. Our college principal is very strict.

II. Irony is when we say one thing but mean another, usually the opposite of what we say. When someone makes a mistake and you say, "Oh! That was clever!" that is irony. You're saying 'clever' to mean 'not clever.'

Expression we often use in an ironic fashion are

- Oh, wasn't that clever!/Oh that was clever!
- You have been a great help, I must say!
- You've got yourself into a lovely mess, haven't you?
- Oh, very funny!How funny!

We use a slightly different tone of voice when we use these words ironically.

Read the play carefully and find the words and expressions Gerrard uses in an ironic way. Then say what these expressions really mean. Two examples have been given below. Write down three such expressions along with what they really mean.

What the author says	What he means
Why, this is a surprise, Mr—er—	He pretends that the intruder is a social visitor whom he is welcoming. In this way, he hides his fear.
At last a sympathetic audience!	He pretends that the intruder wants to listen to him whereas the intruder wants to find out information for his own use.

Ans.

What the author says	What he means
You won't kill me for a very good reason.	Gerrard was just pretending to have a very good reason. However, there was no such reason.
In most melodramas the villain is foolish enough to delay his killing long enough to be frustrated. You are much luckier.	Gerrard said that the 'villain' takes too long a time to make the killing and ends up being at the wrong end. However, the intruder has been quite smart and lucky for not killing Gerrard and taking on his identity. As we know, Gerrard then tells him a cooked up story and the intruder turns out to be like the foolish villain of most melodramas.
Sorry I can't let you have props in time for rehearsal, I've had a spot of bother—quite amusing.	The 'spot of bother' that Gerrard found 'quite amusing' was actually a life-threatening situation. He was being held at gunpoint by a murderer who wanted to kill him and take his identity.

3 I studied (continuously/continually) for eight hours:

Ans. I studied continuously for eight hours.

4 The fog had an adverse (affect/effect) on the traffic.

Ans. The fog had an adverse effect on the traffic.

5 Cezanne, the famous French painter, was a brilliant (artist/artiste).

Ans. Cezanne, the famous French painter, was a brilliant artist.

6 The book that you gave me yesterday is an extraordinary (collage/college) of science fiction and mystery.

Ans. The book that you gave me yesterday is an extraordinary collage of science fiction and mystery.

7 Our school will (host/hoist) an exhibition on cruelty to animals and wildlife conservation.

Ans. Our school will host an exhibition on cruelty to animals and wildlife conservation.

8 Screw the lid tightly onto the top of the bottle and (shake/shape) well before using the contents.

Ans. Screw the lid tightly onto the top of the bottle and shake well before using the contents.

Exam Practice

Extract Based Questions

[4 Marks each]

Read the following extracts carefully and choose the correct option.

1 Gerrard : (pleasantly) Why, this is a surprise, Mr—er—

Intruder : I'm glad you're pleased to see me. I don't think you'll be pleased for long. Put those paws up!

Gerrard : This is all very melodramatic, not very original, perhaps, but...

Intruder : Trying to be calm and — er —

Gerrard : 'Nonchalant' is your word, I think.

Intruder : Thanks a lot. You'll soon stop being smart. I'll make you crawl. I want to know a few things, see.

(i) Why did the intruder say that Gerrard would not be pleased for long?

- (a) He will be out of his house
- (b) Will be in jail
- (c) Will be killed
- (d) He will be robbed

(ii) What has been referred to as 'melodramatic'?

- (a) Dialogues by intruder
- (b) Entry by the intruder
- (c) Gerrard's reaction
- (d) Both 'a' and 'b'

(iii) Find a word from the passage which means 'a person not showing anxiety'.

- (a) Glad
- (b) Pleased
- (c) Non-chalant
- (d) Smart

(iv) Why does Gerrard say it was a pleasure to see the Intruder?

- (a) To distract him
- (b) To hide anxiety
- (c) To carry a polite conversation
- (d) Both 'a' and 'b'

Ans. (i) (c) Will be killed

(ii) (d) Both 'a' and 'b'

(iii) (c) Non-chalant

(iv) (d) Both 'a' and 'b'

2 Gerrard : Anything you like. I know all the answers.

But, before we begin I should like to change my position; you may be comfortable, but I am not.

Intruder : Sit down there and no funny business. (Motions to a chair and seats himself on the divan by the bag). Now then, we'll have a nice little talk about yourself!

Gerrard : At last a sympathetic audience! I'll tell you the story of my life. How as a child I was stolen by the gypsies, and why at the age of thirty-two, I find myself in my lonely Essex cottage, how...

(i) "..... and no funny business" which funny business did the Intruder refer to?

- (a) Not to do anything silly
- (b) Not to make fun of him
- (c) Not try to dodge him
- (d) Both 'a' and 'b'

(ii) The words used by Gerrard "At last sympathetic audience", are genuine or did he mean something else.

- (a) Words are sarcastic
- (b) Mocking the Intruder
- (c) He genuinely means
- (d) Wants to show his coolness

(iii) Find a word from the extract which is opposite in meaning to the word 'indifferent'.

- (a) Funny
- (b) Nice
- (c) Sympathetic
- (d) Lonely

(iv) Why did Gerrard want to change his position?

- (a) To avoid tiredness
- (b) To be comfortable
- (c) To be tension free
- (d) To keep an eye on Intruder

Ans. (i) (d) Both 'a' and 'b'

(ii) (a) Words are sarcastic

(iii) (c) Sympathetic

(iv) (b) To be comfortable

3 Intruder : Keep it to yourself, and just answer my questions. You live here alone? Well, do you?

Gerrard : I'm sorry. I thought you were telling me, not asking me.

A question of inflection your voice is unfamiliar.

Intruder : (with emphasis) Do you live here alone?

Gerrard : And if I don't answer?

Intruder : You've got enough sense not to want to get hurt.

Gerrard : I think good sense is shown more in the ability to avoid pain than in the mere desire to do so. What do you think. Mr — er—

Intruder : Never mind my name. I like yours better. Mr Gerrard. What are your Christian names?

Gerrard : Vincent Charles.

(i) About what did the intruder say "keep it to yourself".

- (a) Breakfast (b) Money
(c) Glass of water (d) Gerrard's story

(ii) Which word in the passage will also mean a "change in the modulation of voice"?

- (a) Unfamiliar (b) Good sense
(c) Emphasis (d) Inflection

(iii) Through questioning what did Intruder want to confirm?

- (a) If Gerrard was feeling scared
(b) If he was talking to right person
(c) If Gerrard lived alone in that house
(d) If he had lots of money

(iv) What type of person does Intruder appear to you?

- (a) Nice human (b) Criminal
(c) Concerned (d) Selfish

Ans. (i) (d) Gerrard's story

(ii) (d) Inflection

(iii) (c) If Gerrard lived alone in that house

(iv) (b) Criminal

4 Intruder : Do you run a car?

Gerrard : No.

Intruder : That's a lie. You're not dealing with a fool. I'm as smart as you and smarter, and I know you run a car. Better be careful, wise guy!

Gerrard : Are you American, or is that merely a clever imitation?

Intruder : Listen, this gun's no toy. I can hurt you without killing you, and still get my answers.

Gerrard : Of course, if you put it like that, I'll be glad to assist you. I do possess a car, and it's in the garage round the corner.

(i) Why did the Intruder say that Gerrard was not dealing with a fool?

- (a) Gerrard trying to escape
(b) To fool the Intruder
(c) Gerrard had lied to him
(d) Trying to be smart

(ii) Why does the Intruder threaten Gerrard?

- (a) To elicit correct information
(b) Does not want to waste time
(c) To scare Gerrard
(d) All of the above

(iii) Find a word from the extract which is opposite in meaning to 'reckless'..

- (a) Careless (b) False
(c) Careful (d) Clever

(iv) Why did Gerrard tell the intruder that he possessed a car after the man had threatened him?

- (a) To show that he got scared
(b) To deflect his attention
(c) To keep him engaged
(d) To be honest

Ans. (i) (c) Gerrard had lied to him

(ii) (d) All of the above

(iii) (c) Careful

(iv) (a) To show that he got scared

5 Intruder : That's better. Do people often come out here?

Gerrard : Very rarely, Surprisingly few people take the trouble to visit me. There's the baker and the greengrocer. of course; and then there's the milkman—quite charming, but no one so interesting as yourself.

Intruder : I happen to know that you never see tradespeople.

Gerrard : You seem to have taken a considerable amount of trouble. Since you know so much about me, won't you say something about yourself? You have been so modest.

Intruder : I could tell you plenty. You think you're smart, but I'm the top of the class round here. I've got brains and I use them. That's how I've got where I have.

(i) What information about Gerrard do we get through conversation between him and the Intruder?

- (a) Very few people visit him
(b) No trades people visit him
(c) He lives with his friends
(d) He does not meet people

(ii) How did the intruder praise himself?

- (a) Called himself smartest (b) Intelligent
(c) Uses his intelligence (d) All of these

(iii) Find a word from the extract similar in meaning to 'most of the time'.

- (a) Considerable (b) Surprisingly
(c) Modest (d) Often

(iv) Why Intruder is not disclosing anything about himself?

- (a) Doesn't want to leave any clue
(b) He has some other plans
(c) Wants to take no chance with Gerrard
(d) Both a and b

- Ans.** (i) (b) No trades people visit him
 (ii) (d) All of these
 (iii) (d) Often
 (iv) (d) Both 'a' and 'b'

6 Intruder : When you know why I've broken into your little cottage, you'll be surprised, and it won't be a pleasant surprise.

Gerrard : With you figuring so largely in it, that is understandable. By the way, what particular line of crime do you embrace, or aren't you a specialist?

Intruder : My speciality's jewel robbery. Your car will do me a treat. It's certainly a dandy bus.

Gerrard : I'm afraid jewels are few and far between in the wilds of Essex.

Intruder : So are the cops. I can retire here nicely for a little while.

Gerrard : You mean to live with me? A trifle sudden isn't it; you've not been invited.

- (i) What was understandable to Gerrard?
 (a) Intruder was quite smart
 (b) Was not willing to divulge anything
 (c) Intruder wanted to harm him
 (d) Had some criminal plans
- (ii) What field is Intruder's speciality in crime?
 (a) Murder
 (b) House robbery
 (c) Jewel robbery
 (d) Impersonation
- (iii) Find a word in the extract which is opposite in meaning to the word 'boring'.
 (a) Surprised (b) Particular
 (c) Certainly (d) Pleasant
- (iv) Why did Intruder come to Essex though there was very less scope of jewel robbery in this area?
 (a) Had some other plans
 (b) Wanted to relax for few days
 (c) Not much police in the area
 (d) Both 'b' and 'c'

- Ans.** (i) (c) Intruder wanted to harm him
 (ii) (c) Jewel robbery
 (iii) (d) Pleasant
 (iv) (d) Both 'b' and 'c'

7 Intruder : This is your big surprise. I'm going to kill you.

Gerrard : A little harsh, isn't it?

Intruder : (With heavy sarcasm) Yeah, I'll be sorry to do it. I've taken a fancy to you, but it's just got to be done.

Gerrard : Why add murder to your other crimes. It's a grave step you're taking.

Intruder : 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.

- (i) For what thing does Gerrard call it 'harsh'?
 (a) Jewel robbery
 (b) Impersonation
 (c) Being killed by the Intruder
 (d) Not allowed to speak
- (ii) Why does Intruder want to kill Gerrard?
 (a) To live in his house
 (b) To take Gerrard's identity
 (c) To take revenge
 (d) None of the above
- (iii) What does the expression 'I've been hunted long enough' mean?
 (a) Running away from police
 (b) Hunting the animals
 (c) Police trying to catch him
 (d) All of the above
- (iv) Find a word from the extract which means 'dangerous'.
 (a) Fancy (b) Hunted
 (c) Grave (d) Hang

- Ans.** (i) (c) Being killed by the Intruder
 (ii) (b) To take Gerrard's identity
 (iii) (c) Police trying to catch him
 (iv) (c) Grave

8 Gerrard : You're planning a gratuitous double, so to speak. Admitted you're nothing to lose, but what have you to gain?

Intruder : I've got freedom to gain. As for myself, I'm a poor hunted rat. As Vincent Charles Gerrard I'm free to go places and do nothing. I can eat well and sleep and without having to be ready to beat it at the sight of a cop. Gerrard : In most melodramas the villain is foolish enough to delay his killing long enough to be frustrated. You are much luckier.

- (i) What information did the intruder reveal about himself?
 (a) He was a runaway criminal
 (b) Police was after him
 (c) He wanted lot of money
 (d) Both 'a' and 'b'
- (ii) In what context did the 'Intruder say, they can't hang me twice'?
 (a) Escaping from prison
 (b) Murder of Gerrard
 (c) Robbery at Gerrard's place
 (d) Escaping in a car

(iii) Find a word from the extract which means 'stupid'.

- (a) Sarcasm (b) Fancy
(c) Foolish (d) Grave

(iv) What is the Intruder real plan?

- (a) To murder Gerrard
(b) Take his identity
(c) Live in his house peacefully
(d) All of the above

Ans. (i) (d) Both 'a' and 'b'

(ii) (b) Murder of Gerrard

(iii) (c) Foolish

(iv) (d) All of the above

9 Gerrard : That is extremely interesting, but you seem to miss the point of my remark. I said, you were luckier than most melodramatic villains. It was not a tribute to your intelligence. You won't kill me for a very good reason.

Intruder : So that's what you think.

Gerrard : You'll let me go, and thank God you didn't shoot sooner.

Intruder : Come on what's on your mind! Better be quick. This conversation bores me.

(i) How was the Intruder luckier than the other villains?

- (a) He was not chased by police
(b) Not hounded by relatives
(c) Did not get frustrated
(d) Did not kill Gerrard

(ii) Why did Gerrard say that the Intruder will not kill him for a very good reason?

- (a) Wanted more time
(b) Wanted to involve him in a story
(c) Mislead him
(d) Wanted to converse with the Intruder

(iii) Find the word from the extract which can be associated with 'fortunate'.

- (a) Interesting (b) Melodramatic
(c) Luckier (d) Tribute

(iv) Explain : "It was not a tribute to your intelligence".

- (a) Not praising his presence of mind
(b) Not praising Intruder's intelligence
(c) Admiring Intruder's actions
(d) Not commenting on Intruder's performance

Ans. (i) (c) Did not get frustrated

(ii) (b) Wanted to involve him in a story

(iii) (c) Luckier

(iv) (b) Not praising Intruder's intelligence

10 Gerrard : Your idea is to elude the police by killing me and taking on my identity?

Intruder : Yes, I like the idea.

Gerrard : But are you sure it's going to help you?

Intruder : Now listen here. I've got this all planned. I did a job in town. Things went wrong and I killed a cop. Since then I've done nothing but dodge.

Gerrard : And this is where dodging has brought you?

Intruder : It brought me to Aylesbury. That where I saw you in the car. Two other people saw you and started to talk. I listened. It looks like you're bit queer – kind of a mystery man.

(i) What was the plan of the Intruder?

- (a) To kill Gerrard
(b) To take on his identity
(c) Fool the police
(d) All of the above

(ii) Why was Intruder dodging and running from one place to another?

- (a) To change in a better person
(b) To dodge the police
(c) To avoid being caught for the murder
(d) Both 'b' and 'c'

(iii) Where did the intruder see Gerrard first time?

- (a) Wessex (b) Essex
(c) Aylesbury (d) London

(iv) Which word in the extract would mean the same as 'suspicious'?

- (a) Sure (b) Dubious
(c) Mystery (d) Dodging

Ans. (i) (d) All of the above

(ii) (d) Both 'b' and 'c'

(iii) (c) Aylesbury

(iv) (b) Dubious

11 Gerrard : A mystery which I propose to explain.

Intruder : (disregarding him) You phone your orders and sometimes you go away suddenly and come back just the same. Those are just the things I want to do. Hearing about you was of my luckiest breaks.

Gerrard : Apparently you haven't the intelligence to ask why I am invested in this cloak of mystery.

Intruder : (preparing to shoot) As I said before, this conversation bores me.

Gerrard : Don't be fool. If you shoot, you'll hang for sure, If not as yourself, then as Vincent Charles Gerrard.

- (i) According to the Intruder which was his luckiest break?
 - (a) Reaching Gerrard's house
 - (b) Meeting Gerrard
 - (c) Information about Gerrard
 - (d) Dodging the police
- (ii) Which conversation bores the Intruder?
 - (a) About his initial years
 - (b) Listening to Gerrard's story
 - (c) Listening to his parents
 - (d) Talking about himself
- (iii) Find the word from the extract which is opposite in meaning to 'expectedly'.
 - (a) Suddenly
 - (b) Apparently
 - (c) Cloak
 - (d) Invested
- (iv) What was strange and interesting for Intruder about Gerrard ?
 - (a) Come and go in no time
 - (b) Live alone
 - (c) Eat as his wish
 - (d) Meet people as per his choice

- Ans.** (i) (c) Information about Gerrard
 (ii) (b) Listening to Gerrard's story
 (iii) (a) Suddenly
 (iv) (a) Come and go in no time

- 12** This is your big surprise. I said you wouldn't kill me and I was right. Why do you think I am here today and gone tomorrow, never see tradespeople? You say my habits would suit you. You are a crook. Do you think I am a Sunday-school teacher?

The game's up as far as I'm concerned. Things went wrong with me. I said it with bullets and go always. Unfortunately they got one of my men, and found things the fool should have burnt. Tonight I'm expecting trouble. My bag's packed ready to clear off. There it is.

- (i) What was the big surprise for the Intruder?
 - (a) Gerrard was not a fool
 - (b) Gerrard was also a criminal
 - (c) Gerrard was not afraid of him
 - (d) Gerrard was a multi-millionaire
- (ii) What story did Gerrard make up ?
 - (a) He was not an honest citizen
 - (b) He was a runaway criminal
 - (c) His family lived somewhere else
 - (d) He was suffering from cancer
- (iii) Why Gerrard has packed his bag?
 - (a) To disappear from his house
 - (b) To travel to another city
 - (c) To go out of his country
 - (d) To surrender to police
- (iv) Which word in the passage would mean same as 'regrettably or 'sadly'?
 - (a) Surprise
 - (b) Crook
 - (c) Unfortunately
 - (d) Expecting

- Ans.** (i) (b) Gerrard was also a criminal
 (ii) (b) He was a runaway criminal
 (iii) (a) To disappear from his house
 (iv) (c) Unfortunately

Short Answer (SA) Type Questions

[2 Marks each]

- 1** What surprise did Gerrard receive and when did he receive it?

Ans. Gerrard received the surprise of an intruder breaking into his cottage when he was busy in packing. It was an intruder who broke into his house with the intention that he would kill Gerrard and live with his identity. It was all sudden and Gerrard was astonished (surprised) over it.

- 2** Explain the context involved in "... and no funny business"?

Ans. The intruder said those words when Gerrard wanted to be seated at a different place as he was not comfortable at the place where he was sitting. The

intruder said so because he thought that Gerrard might do anything to come out of the trouble which the intruder didn't want from Gerrard.

- 3** Why did Gerrard say the intruder "a sympathetic audience"?

Ans. Generally, people avoid listening to the talks of others. They would never be interested in their matters.

When the intruder showed his willingness to listen to the words of Gerrard then the words "a sympathetic audience" are used. Gerrard said so with another intention to divert his attention so that he could plan a way to come out of this.

- 4 If Gerrard would not have answered the questions of the intruder then what would have happened to him? Why?
- Ans.* If Gerrard would not have answered the questions of the intruder, the intruder might have hurt him. It was because the intruder wanted to know everything about him so that he could take on his identity. Moreover, he broke into his house just in order to take his place by murdering him.
- 5 Why was Gerrard dodging the questions of the intruder that he could have answered easily?
- Ans.* Gerrard was aware of the fact that the intentions of the intruder were not good. He was dodging the intruder's questions so that he could come up with an idea to escape the situation. If he kept on talking longer with the intruder then he would have the required time to think and also he might get some clues about the intruder too.
- 6 Which tradespeople did Gerrard meet? Why?
- Ans.* Gerrard did not meet any tradespeople at all. There were baker, the green grocer, the milkman but none was seen by Gerrard. It was because none of them was so charming and so interesting as the intruder, according to Gerrard. In actual practice, due to his professional commitments, Gerrard was unable to meet the tradespeople.
- 7 What was the special area of crime for the intruder? Why did he come there to Essex?
- Ans.* The speciality of the intruder was to rob jewels. There were hardly any jewels in Essex but still the intruder came there so that he can avoid the cops and relax peacefully. The intruder intended to commit the robbery at a place other than Essex and would flee from there to hide at that place without being noticed by anyone whatsoever.
- 8 What surprise did the intruder give to Gerrard? Why was it threatening?
- Ans.* The surprise that the intruder gave to Gerrard was that he was to kill him. The surprise was threatening because the intruder wanted to take on his identity afterwards and wanted to live as Gerrard. As the intruder was hunted by the cops, so he planned to kill Gerrard and live as a fancy to him thereby deceiving the cops.
- 9 What things were there to gain as far as the intruder was concerned?
- Ans.* There were some important things for the intruder to gain. If he could take on the identity of Gerrard, then he would be free to go anywhere he liked and he didn't need to run at the sight of the cops. So, he would lead a very peaceful life being in the fancy of Gerrard.
- 10 Why did Gerrard say that the intruder was luckier?
- Ans.* Gerrard knew that the villains got themselves frustrated in most of the melodramas due to the delay they made in killing but in this case he was not yet frustrated. The intruder still had all the hopes alive so that he could kill Gerrard and take on his identity to lead a peaceful life. So, he could be considered lucky.
- 11 How did the intruder become a criminal?
- Ans.* The intruder did a job in the town. One day things went wrong and he killed a cop. Since then he became a criminal and the police was after him. Also, he specialised himself in the jewel robbery and committed many of them. All of these added to his being a criminal.
- 12 What mystery did Gerrard explain to the intruder?
- Ans.* Gerrard explained the mystery to the intruder that he too was a criminal and if he killed him to take on his identity, it won't do any good to him because he would still be hanged. So, there was no benefit in killing him. This was a ploy used by Gerrard so that he could deceive the intruder and come out of all that.
- 13 How did Gerrard justify himself to be a criminal?
- Ans.* Gerrard told the intruder that he often phoned his orders, never saw tradespeople, remained on the go etc. He also added that when things went wrong with him, he too used bullets and that's how he became a criminal too. Apart from that, there were props like false moustache which indicated that there was the element of truth in what Gerrard said.
- 14 How did Gerrard convince the intruder that he was not lying?
- Ans.* Gerrard made up the story of his being a criminal and told the intruder that he was expecting a trouble that night. He showed the intruder the props. Also, his bag was packed which further added to his conviction. Gerrard had already taken the intruder in his confidence with the extended talks that also added to the conviction of the intruder.
- 15 How did Gerrard get rid of the intruder?
- Ans.* Gerrard told the intruder that both should escape because a trouble was expected that night. He told him that his car was in the garage near the back door and both should get to the car. As the intruder moved towards the garage, Gerrard pushed him and locked him in the cupboard.

Long Answer (LA) Type Questions

[8 Marks each]

- 1 Justify that during the situations of crisis, one's presence of mind and the attitude of not giving up are the most useful qualities?

Ans. Courage, hope, perseverance and presence of mind are the main factors that help one during the time of crisis. If one keeps one's head cool, calm and composed then an uphill task could be done easily. In this story, the same has been shown where the courage and presence of mind helped. Gerrard, the protagonist, was troubled with a problem that was in the form of an intruder who wanted to kill him and take on his identity. Of course, the intruder would have killed him but Gerrard's presence of mind and his attitude of not giving up helped him in coming out of the mess. Gerrard made up a false story while the two were in conversation and it was his presence of mind that helped him doing so. The intruder believed in his story as it was well framed and subjected himself to submission. As a result, Gerrard got him locked in the cupboard and freed himself from the trouble. So, we can say that moments of crisis can be overcome with the help of presence of mind and the attitude of not giving up.

- 2 Consider the statement : "In most melodramas the villain is foolish enough to delay his killing long enough to be frustrated." On the basis of this statement justify the idea lying behind doing the right thing at the right moment.

Ans. Do it right and on the right moment is as true as breathing is to life. If a thing is done at the moment when it should be then the net result is appreciable. If an act is delayed then there are all the chances that the result might differ from the expectations. Therefore, clever people do what is due at that moment and don't delay that act purposely. There is no doubt in the fact that if a thing is done at the right time then it pays off well otherwise it adds to one's frustration. Considering the statement in the question, we can support the corollary (forming a proposition that follows from one already proved) well. The intruder might have succeeded in his plans had he killed Gerrard before the latter came up with a false story that trapped him. He was submitted to the veracity of the story and was not successful in his plans.

If the intruder had killed Gerrard just when he had all the information about him then he might have been living a peaceful life but he frustrated himself by delaying the killing. Hence, the statement holds good and is enough to justify that actions done on time lead to good results.

- 3 Talking about consideration of the situation that Gerrard faced, what safety measures will you suggest to Gerrard?

Ans. Well, safety and security comes first. One's life is precious than anything else. If one can't ensure one's safety then he could not do his work well. The person, while feeling insecurity, is afraid of all the things. So is the case with Gerrard. Definitely, Gerrard was in a difficult situation when the intruder broke into his house. One who comes with a gun in one's hand is never wanted. He had bad intentions and wanted to kill Gerrard and elude the police by taking on his identity. The fact that the intruder was easily able to break into Gerrard's house shows that his house was not secure enough.

Gerrard should not live at a lonely place. He should live in a place where there are people around. He must keep his neighbours aware about his occupation and his trips. He should see his tradespeople and should have regular interaction with them. If possible and if his pocket allows, he should employ a watchman to look after his cottage. He should inform the police about the incident and must seek some sort of security. He must not compromise with safety at all.

- 4 The intruder was a meticulous planner and he planned everything in detail. Discuss the importance of a better planning for an efficient result in the same context and considering your opponent stronger than you generally think.

Ans. To do a task, what is needed the most, is a planning. If one doesn't plan well then there is all the likely chance of a failure. Even the well-planned things might collapse in the end. Planning gives you the freedom to execute the plans well and get what you desired.

But, planning alone is not sufficient every time. Give a piece of your mind to the capability of your opponent also. He might be smarter than you. On going through the drama, we can easily say that the intruder was a great and a meticulous planner. He worked out everything in detail and knew almost all the facts about Gerrard. All his activities, the persons he meets and his possessing a car, all were known to the intruder. But, still he failed. He was not successful in killing Gerrard.

This shows that even if you have planned well, you still need to consider your expectation. So, what is advised, is not to underestimate your opponent. He might be good at picking the holes with your plan and let you end up in the utmost frustration. Hence, it is not just careful planning that matters but it is the thought about your opponent that matters also.

Self Assessment

Extract Based Questions

Read the following extracts carefully and choose the correct option.

- 1 Gerrard : Don't be a fool. If you shoot, you'll hang for sure. If not as yourself, then as Vincent Charles Gerrard.

Intruder : What is this?

Gerrard : This is your big surprise. I said you wouldn't kill me and I was right. Why do you think I am here today and gone tomorrow, never see tradespeople? You say my habits would suit you. You are a crook. Do you think I am a Sunday-school teacher?

- (i) What does the expression Sunday school teacher' mean?
 - (a) Part time teacher
 - (b) Teacher in a church
 - (c) Very religious person
 - (d) Very honest person
- (ii) What did Gerrard reveal about himself?
 - (a) Does not stay at one place
 - (b) Meets very few people
 - (c) Has committed a crime
 - (d) All of the above
- (iii) Why does Gerrard tell Intruder that he can be hanged as Vincent Charles Gerrard also?
 - (a) Police is after him
 - (b) Has murdered someone
 - (c) Was dodging police for a long time
 - (d) All of these
- (iv) Find the word from the extract similar in meaning to the word 'rogue'.
 - (a) School teacher
 - (b) Trades people
 - (c) Crook
 - (d) Surprise

- 2 Gerrard : That's a disguise outfit; false moustaches and what not. Now do you believe me?

Intruder : (musingly) I don't know.

Gerrard : For God's sake clear that muddled head of yours and let's go. Come with me in the car. I can use you. If you find its a frame, you've got me in the car, and you've still got your gun.

Intruder : May be you're right.

Gerrard : Then don't waste time.

- (i) What did Gerrard tell intruder about carrying false moustaches and wigs?
 - (a) To change his appearance
 - (b) To dodge police
 - (c) For fun
 - (d) Both 'a' and 'b'
- (ii) Where did Gerrard invite the Intruder?
 - (a) To stay in his house
 - (b) To come to the market
 - (c) To come in his car
 - (d) To come to the police station
- (iii) Which word in the passage means 'stupid'?
 - (a) Disguise
 - (b) Frame
 - (c) Muddle headed
 - (d) None of these
- (iv) What did Gerrard suggest intruder to do if he was pretending?
 - (a) Could call police
 - (b) Could leave him in a jungle
 - (c) Could murder him with gun
 - (d) Could impersonate him

Short Answer (SA) Type Questions

- 3 What was Gerrard trying to ask the intruder? Why was he doing so?
- 4 What things were known to the intruder about Gerrard?
- 5 "..... What have you to gain?" Gerrard said these words. Is there anything to gain for the intruder?

Long Answer (LA) Type Questions

- 6 One's profession adds to one's enlightenment. In the light of the chapter, describe how Gerrard used the skills learnt from his profession to trap the intruder?
- 7 Brave people don't panic at the moment of crisis and use their presence of mind. How did Gerrard show his presence of mind in the play?