

Thinking about the Text**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?****Answer: (i)** The speaker of the given line is Gerrard.**(ii)** He says it as he is asked by the intruder to speak about himself.**(iii)** He speaks the given dialogue sarcastically.

2. Why does the intruder choose Gerrard as the man whose identity he wants to take on?**Answer:** Gerrard looks much like the intruder. The intruder is a murderer. The police is after him. He hopes he can easily impersonate Gerrard escape being caught.

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?****Answer: (i)** Gerrard says this.**(ii)** It means that when things went wrong, he had used his gun to shoot someone for his escape.**(iii)** No, it is not the truth. The speaker says this to save himself from getting shot by the intruder.

4. What is Gerrard’s profession? Quote the parts of the play that support your answer.**Answer:** Gerrard is a playwright by profession. Several parts of the play that reflect this. Some of these are:

- This is all very melodramatic, not very original, perhaps, but...”
- At last a sympathetic audience!”
- In most melodramas the villain is foolish enough to delay his killing long enough to be frustrated”.
- I said, you were luckier than most melodramatic villains.”
- That’s a disguise outfit; false moustaches and what not”.
- Sorry I can’t let you have the props in time for rehearsal, I’ve had a spot of bother – quite amusing. I think I’ll put it in my 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?****Answer: (i)** The intruder says the line.**(ii)** The speaker says it to frighten Gerrard.

(iii) According to the intruder, Gerrard would stop being smart once he knew what was going to happen to him. The intruder's plan was to kill Gerard and take over his identity. He felt that when Gerrard would know this, he would stop being smart and start getting scared.

6. They can't hang me twice."

(i) Who says this?

(ii) Why does the speaker say it?

Answer: (i) The intruder says the line.

(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?

Answer: The mystery that Gerrard proposed to explain was the story he made up to dodge the intruder and save his own life. The story was that Gerrard himself was a criminal like the intruder. He asked the intruder why else would he not meet any trades people and be a bit of a mystery man here today and gone tomorrow. The game was up as things had suddenly gone wrong for him. He had committed a murder and got away. Unfortunately, one of his men had been arrested and certain things were found which his men should have burnt. He said that 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?

Answer: (i) This has been said twice in the play. On the first occasion, it is spoken by the intruder while revealing his plan to kill Gerrard. Secondly, it is spoken by Gerrard before he reveals his fictitious identity to the intruder.

(ii) The intruder's surprise is his plan to kill Gerrard and take on his identity to lead a secure and hassle-free life. Whereas, Gerrard's surprise is his fictitious identity, his way of refraining the intruder from killing him.

Thinking about the Language

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).

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

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

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

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

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

7. Our school will (host/hoist) 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.

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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'.

Expressions 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 actually the intruder wants to find out information for his own use.

Answer:

What the author says	What he means
You won't kill me for a very good reason.	Gerrard is just pretending to have a 'very good reason' even though there is no such reason.
Sorry I can't let you have the props in time for rehearsal, I've had a spot of bother – quite amusing.	The 'spot of bother' that Gerrard calls 'quite amusing' is actually a life-threatening situation, where a criminal actually threatens to kill him.
You have been so modest.	Here, Gerrard means that it is immodest on the part of the intruder to know so much about him without disclosing his own identity.

Speaking

Question 1.

Imagine you are Gerrard. Tell your friend what happened when the Intruder broke into your house.

[Clues: Describe (i) the Intruder—his appearance, the way he spoke, his plan, his movements, etc., (ii) how you outwitted him.

Answer:

Yesterday I was standing near the telephone and an intruder entered my cottage. He had a gun in his hand and he tried to threaten me. He intended to kill me and shouted at me. The intruder forced me to tell everything about me. But I did not tell him the reality and misguided him. I told him that he would not gain anything after murdering me. I told him that I was to safeguard myself from the police. So I posted a man on the road. When we tried to come out of the cottage I locked him inside a cupboard and called the police. Eventually, the police arrested him.

Question 2.

Enact the play in the class. Pay special attention to words given in italics before a dialogue. These words will tell you whether the dialogue has to be said in a happy, sarcastic or ironic tone and how the characters move and what they do as they speak. Read these carefully before you enact the play.

Answer.

For self attempt.

Writing

Question 1.

Which of the words below describe Gerrard and which describe the Intruder?

**smart humorous clever
beautiful cool confident
flashy witty nonchalant**

Answer:

Gerrard was smart, humorous, confident, witty and clever. He was cool. When the intruder broke into his cottage, he did not lose his patience and confidence. He cooked up a story, convinced the intruder and got rid of him. He showed his intelligence and presence of mind. He was nonchalant also. The intruder was smart, beautiful, flashy, clever and confident. He collected much information about Gerrard

and planned his visit meticulously. He wore flashy clothes. He had the ability to make someone afraid of him. Moreover he was witty and answered Gerrard's questions intelligently and sarcastically.

Question 2.

Convert the play into a story (150-200 words). Your story should be as exciting and as witty as the play. Provide a suitable title to it.

Answer:

Gerrard is a dramatist who lives in a cottage. A very few people come to visit him. He rarely goes out. If he goes out, he comes back suddenly. Once an intruder enters his cottage who has a gun in his hands. Gerrard receives him with a warm welcome. The intruder asks many questions to him about his personal life. He answers his queries intelligently and thoughtfully. The intruder tells him that he wants to take on his identity because he is being chased by police as he has murdered a cop. But Gerrard tells him that he will not be benefited by killing him as he is also wanted. And he expects the police there tonight to arrest him. So he asks him to run with him in the car. But when they are about to cross the door, Gerrard pushes him into the cupboard and slams it. Then he calls the police and gets him arrested.