

**CBSE Class 09 English Language and Literature**  
**NCERT Solutions**  
**Beehive Chapter 11**  
**If I Were you**

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**Page No:144 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?**

**Ans: (i)** Gerrard says this.

**(ii)** When the intruder asks him to sit and have a nice little talk about himself, Gerrard pretends that the intruder had a sympathetic feeling towards him. So he says these lines.

**(iii)** He is sarcastic here as the intruder has a threatening behaviour.

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

**Ans:** The Intruder believed that he was similar in build to Gerrard, knew how to talk like Gerrard and by putting Gerrard's clothes and specs he will look like him. All this will help him to be Vincent Charles Gerrard. Then he will be free to move around without being caught by the police.

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**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 went wrong, Gerrard used his gun to shoot someone and escaped from there.

**(iii)** No, it is not the truth. The speaker wants to save himself from getting shot by the intruder.

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

**Ans:** Gerrard could have been a playwright by profession. Several parts of the play which support this 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."
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**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 line.

**(ii)** The speaker says this because Gerrard seemed to be relaxed though he had threatened Gerrard with a revolver.

**(iii)** According to the intruder, Gerrard would stop being smart when he will come to know that the intruder's plan was to kill Gerrard and take over his identity.

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**6. "They can't hang me twice."**

**(i) Who says this?**

**(ii) Why does the speaker say it?**

**Ans: (i)** The intruder says this line.

**(ii)** The intruder says this because he had already murdered a man and was hunted by the police. He had a plan to kill Gerrard and take his identity. Even if he is arrested after that, the police would not be able to hang him twice.

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

**Ans:** As soon as the intruder says that he felt Gerrard was a mystery man, Gerrard proposes to explain a story behind it. He made up a story to avoid the intruder and save his own life. Gerrard told that he himself was a crook like the intruder. He asked the intruder why else would he not meet any tradespeople, be 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.

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**8. "This is your big surprise."**

**(i) Where has this been said in the play?**

**(ii) What is the surprise?**

**Ans: (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 that he plans to kill Gerrard and take on his identity. So that he can be free to roam about. Whereas, Gerrard's surprise is his fictitious identity, his way of stopping the intruder from killing him.

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**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.**

**Ans:** 1. The site of the accident was ghastly.

2. Our college principal is very strict.

3. I studied continuously for eight hours.

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

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

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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.**

<b>What the author says</b>	<b>What he means</b>
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	He pretends that the intruder wants to listen to him, whereas actually

sympathetic  
audience!

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 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.