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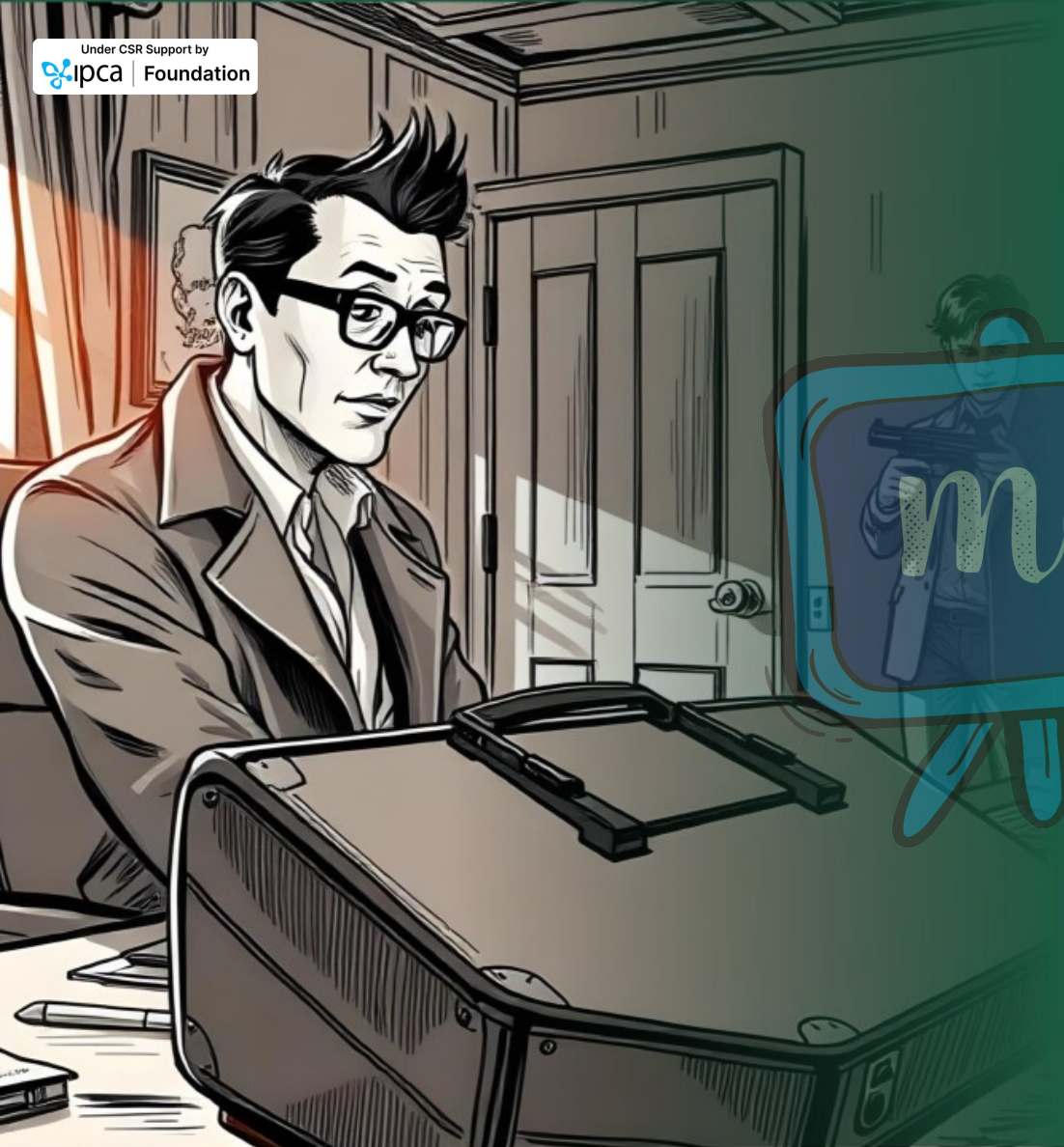

CLASS – 9

ENGLISH

Beehive

CH-9 : If I were you

Part – 3

Comprehension

ARPITA SHARMA

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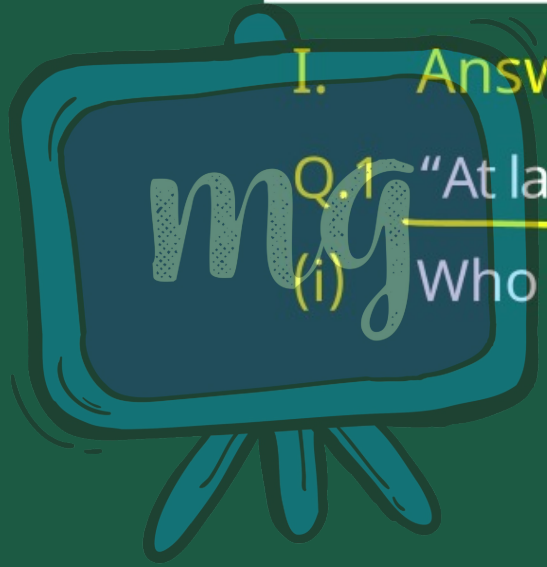
THINKING ABOUT THE TEXT



I. Answer these questions.

Q.1 "At last a sympathetic audience."

(i) Who says this?

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Answer : Gerrard says this.



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(ii) Why does he say it?



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Answer : He says it because the intruder asks him to speak about himself.



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(iii) Is he sarcastic or serious?



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Answer : He is being sarcastic.



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



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Answer : The intruder chooses Gerrard as the man whose identity he wanted to take on because he is of the same build as Gerrard.

Gerrard lives alone in a cottage. Very few people come to visit him. So the intruder wont face much danger afterwards. He is kind of a mysterious man. As Vincent Charles Gerrard,

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the intruder can eat well and sleep without having to be ready to run away at the sight of a cop.



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Q.3 "I said it with bullets."

(i) Who says this?



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Answer : Gerrard says this.



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(ii) What does it mean?



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Answer : It means that when things went wrong, he had to use his gun to shoot someone to escape.



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(iii) Is it the truth? What is the speaker's reason for saying this?



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Answer : No, it is not the truth. He just wants the intruder to believe that he himself is a crook and he has also killed someone and escaped. Thus, the speaker says this to save himself from getting shot by the intruder.

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



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Answer : Gerrard is a playwright.

Some parts of the play that suggest his profession as a playwright 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".

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- "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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Q.5 “You’ll soon stop being smart.”

(i) Who says this?



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Answer : The intruder says this.



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(ii) Why does the speaker say it?



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Answer : The speaker says it to frighten Gerrard as he doesn't seem to be affected by his (speaker's) gun.



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(iii) What according to the speaker will stop Gerrard from being smart?



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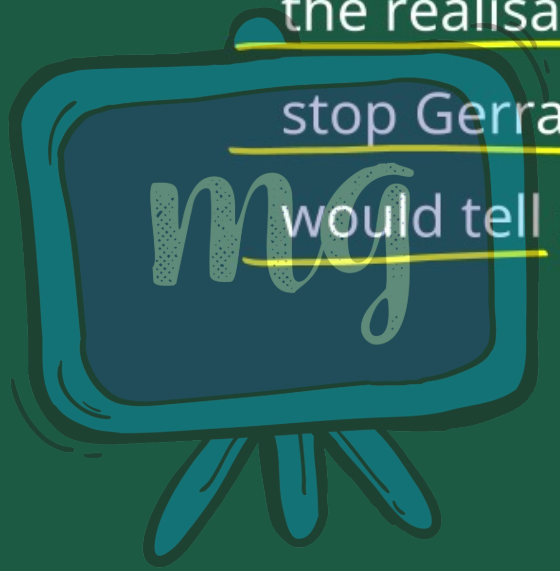
Answer : According to the speaker, the realisation of being killed will stop Gerrard from being smart and would tell more about himself.



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Q.6 “They can’t hang me twice.”

(i) Who says this?



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Answer : The intruder says this line.



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(ii) Why does the speaker say it?



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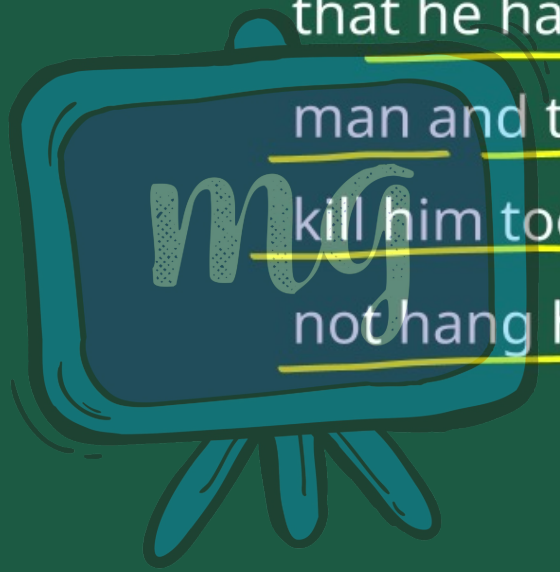
Answer : The intruder tells Gerrard that he has already murdered one man and that he will not hesitate to kill him too. Because the police can not hang him twice for two murders.



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Q.7 “A mystery I propose to explain.”
What is the mystery the speaker proposes to explain?



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Answer : The mystery that Gerrard proposes to explain is a story that he makes to fool the intruder by making him believe that he is also a dangerous man. He tells him that he himself is a criminal. He asks the intruder that why doesn't he meet any tradespeople and be a bit of a mystery man here today and gone tomorrow. He further adds to the

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mystery by telling him that the game is up as things went wrong with him when he had to murder someone to escape.

Unfortunately, one of his men has been arrested and certain things are found with him which he should have burnt. Gerrard tells the intruder that he is expecting some trouble tonight and therefore, his bag is packed and he is ready to escape.

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Q.8 "This is your big surprise."

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



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Answer : This has been said twice in the play. At first time, the intruder says this to Gerrard while revealing his plan to kill him. Second time, Gerrard says these words when he is about to reveal his fictitious identity to the intruder.

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(ii) What is the surprise?



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Answer : When intruder says this line, the surprise is his plan to kill Gerrard and take on his identity. On the second occasion, when Gerrard says this, the surprise is his fictitious identity that he is going to reveal to make the intruder believe that he himself is a crook like the intruder.