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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (S)

Government of Manipur

**CLASS X**  
**ADDITIONAL ENGLISH**  
**CHAPTER 6 – IF I WERE YOU**  
**DOUGLAS JAMES**

**NOTES**

**WORD STUDY AND USE**

**Frame sentences using the following words:**

- i. **Boss:** He was reprimanded by his boss for not completing the project on time.
- ii. **Cop:** He murdered a cop and was on the run since then.
- iii. **Guy:** A guy came to give the parcel to me.
- iv. **Queer:** I came across a queer looking man when I returned from work.
- v. **Dandy:** She wore a dandy dress to the party.
- vi. **Grave:** He knew that his actions would lead to grave consequences.
- vii. **Crook:** No crook is respected anywhere in this world.
- viii. **Identity:** Do not reveal your identity to strangers.
- ix. **Compliment:** She was complimented by everyone for her charitable work.
- x. **Fake:** All the documents submitted by him were fake ones.

**Fill in the blanks in the following sentences using the phrasal verbs in the box. You may change the form of the verbs if necessary:**

**turn up, fill in, break down, shut down, call off**

1. If you want to receive the letter, make sure you fill in the mailing address properly.
2. We are to call the engineer in case the machine breaks down again.
3. The strikers called off the strike.
4. The manager gives word to shut down the factory.
5. Only two members turned up in the meeting.



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## COMPREHENSION

**Answer the following questions:**

**1. Describe the disguise outfit.**

Ans: The disguise outfit consisted of false moustaches and all that was required for the rehearsal of a play.

**2. What does Gerrard do for a living?**

Ans: Gerrard is a playwright.

**3. Where did Gerrard push the Intruder into?**

Ans: Gerrard pushed the Intruder into the cupboard.

**4. What happened to the Intruder's revolver?**

Ans: When Gerrard pushed the Intruder into the cupboard, the revolver was knocked out of his hand.

**5. Who was cleverer – Gerrard or the Intruder? Why?**

Ans: Gerrard was cleverer than the Intruder because he was able to trap the Intruder by cooking up a story of being a criminal himself and thus saved himself from being killed by the Intruder.

**6. Why was the Intruder a hunted rat?**

Ans: The Intruder was chased by the police because he had killed a cop. That is why he described himself as a hunted rat.

## APPLICATION

**Answer the following questions in about 40-50 words:**

**1. Why did the Intruder come to Gerrard's house?**

Ans: The Intruder who came to Gerrard's house was a criminal. He had murdered a cop and was being chased by the police. He came to Gerrard's house with the intention of killing Gerrard and then to impersonate him in order to escape the police.

**2. Describe the opening scene of the play.**

Ans: The play opened with Gerrard talking to someone on the phone. He was in his small cottage which was simply furnished. When he finished talking, he was preparing to leave his place to attend a rehearsal. While he was packing a travelling bag, an intruder came into the room from the right side silently. He was similar in build to Gerrard, flashily dressed and had a revolver in his hand.

**3. Relate the Intruder's encounter with Gerrard.**

Ans: When the gun-toting Intruder came to Gerrard's house with the intention of killing him, Gerrard kept his cool and remained absolutely in control. There was neither panic nor any sign of tension in his voice. He remained his normal self and talked to him casually.



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**4. Why could not the Intruder carry out his plan at once?**

Ans: The Intruder could not carry out his plan of killing Gerrard at once because first he wanted to get all the necessary information from him. Without extracting the information, his plan to disguise and act as Gerrard would not succeed.

**5. How did Gerrard make a trick to the Intruder?**

Ans: Gerrard made up a story about his own criminal background. He told the Intruder that the police were after him and that he was expecting his friend to ring him when the police came. So, when the telephone rang, he hurried the Intruder into the cupboard by telling him that it was connected to the garage. Thus, Gerrard made a trick to the Intruder.

**6. What did the Intruder plan to do as Vincent Charles Gerrard?**

Ans: As Vincent Charles Gerrard, the Intruder planned to gain his freedom. He planned to take on his identity so as not to be caught by the police. He would be free to go places and do things. He could eat well and sleep without having to be ready to run at the sight of a cop.

**7. Describe the appearance of Gerrard.**

Ans: Gerrard is a man of medium height. He wears horn-rimmed glasses. When the play opens, he is seen dressed in a lounge suit and a great coat. He talks in a cultured voice and has a confident appearance.

**8. Who gives away more information about himself –the Intruder or Gerrard?**

Ans: The Intruder gave more information about himself than Gerrard. He came to kill Gerrard so that he could live on his borrowed identity. To live as Gerrard, he wanted to get information about him but ended telling him that he was a jewellery thief, killed a cop and hunted down by the police like rat. Gerrard, on the other hand, revealed nothing rather he cooked up a story about himself of being a criminal.

**9. Give the element of suspense in the play.**

Ans: Douglas James' play *If I were You* is full of suspense and humour. Gerrard used his presence of mind and cooked up the story of being a criminal himself and wanted by the police. He also told the Intruder that the police were on the way to arrest him and asked the Intruder to run away with him. He showed the Intruder the escape route which would take them straight to the garage. It was nothing but a cupboard and when the Intruder leaned forward to inspect it, Gerrard pushed him there, knocked his gun out of his hand and locked him up. It was a totally unexpected move on the part of Gerrard and the Intruder was caught off-guard.



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### COMPREHENSION

**1. List two things that the Intruder had found out about Gerrard before coming to his house.**

Ans: Two things that the Intruder had found out about Gerrard before coming to his house were that he phoned his orders and sometimes he would go away suddenly and come back just the same.

**2. “In most melodramas the villain is foolish enough to delay his killing long enough to be frustrated.” Explain this statement with reference to *If I Were You* in not more than 70 words.**

Ans: The above lines were taken from the play *If I Were You* written by Douglas James. Gerrard came to know that the Intruder had come to his house with the intention of impersonating him by killing him. Gerrard was unfazed when he heard what the Intruder said. Gerrard commented to the Intruder that in many dramatic plays, the villain was shown to be a foolish person. He would delay his killing and eventually got frustrated due to the delay. Then he would commit some foolish act and get trapped.

**3. Why did the Intruder want to kill Gerrard?**

Ans: The Intruder had killed a cop and he was chased by the police. He was tired of being hunted like a rat and wanted to gain his freedom. By killing Gerrard who was similar in build and height to him, he planned to take on his identity so that he would be able to go places freely. As Gerrard he would be able to eat well and sleep without having ready to leave immediately at the sight of a cop.

**4. When did the plan of killing Gerrard occur to the Intruder?**

Ans: The plan of killing Gerrard occurred to the Intruder when he saw him at Aylesbury. He heard two other people talking about him and liked what he heard. He liked the way Gerrard lived –giving orders on phone, sometimes going away suddenly and coming back just the same.

**5. Why does the Intruder delay killing him?**

Ans: The Intruder delayed killing Gerrard because as he planned to impersonate Gerrard, he wanted to gather information about him and also wanted to know what he talked like.

**6. Give a brief character sketch of Gerrard.**

Ans: Gerrard, the main character of the play *If I Were You* was a playwright. He lived alone. He was highly intelligent and witty. He knew how to tackle an adverse situation without losing his cool. When an Intruder came to his house with the plan of killing him, he was not scared at all. He engaged the Intruder in talking and trapped him with a criminal story about himself which he cooked up. He managed to convince the gun-toting Intruder that the police were coming for him. He got rid of the Intruder by pushing him into a cupboard and locking him up there. He saved himself from being killed by using his presence of mind, wit and keeping calm.



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**7. How did Gerrard succeed in outwitting the Intruder?**

Ans: When Gerrard came to know that the Intruder had come to his cottage with the intention of killing and impersonating him, he cooked up a story of being a criminal himself. He was able to convince the Intruder that his accomplice had been caught by the police and that he expected them to arrive at his cottage. When the telephone rang, he told the Intruder that it was his man telling him that the police were coming. He convinced the Intruder to run away with him. He managed to push the Intruder into a cupboard, knocked the revolver out of his hand and locked him inside. Thus, Gerrard succeeded in outwitting the Intruder.

**8. What does the title *If I Were You* suggest?**

Ans: The title *If I were You* suggests the wishful thinking the Intruder had of killing Gerrard and impersonating him. It, however, remained unfulfilled. His idea of evading the police by living on Gerrard's identity remained unfulfilled because he was outwitted and trapped by Gerrard before he assumed his life. Thus, his dream of living a free life was quashed by a man who was far more intelligent than he. Thus, the title aptly hints at the basic idea of the story.

**9. What do you think happen in the end? Does the Intruder succeed in his plan to kill Gerrard?**

Ans: In the end, the Intruder might have been sent to the prison where he rightly belonged. No, he did not succeed in his plan to kill Gerrard.

**10. If Gerrard does not resemble the Intruder, what will the Intruder do?**

Ans: If Gerrard does not resemble the Intruder, he will not think of killing and impersonating him.

**11. What would you do if you were Gerrard to tackle the situation?**

Ans: If I were Gerrard, I would have done exactly what he had done.

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