

## CLASS 7 ENGLISH

### HAMLET

#### CHAPTER 11: MISTAKEN IDENTITY

##### Summary

With the onset of the chapter we see king Claudius speaking to Rosencrantz and Guildenstern. Deeply shaken after the presentation of 'The Play', he considers Hamlet's madness to be dangerous. Claudius asks both of them to take Hamlet to England immediately. They leave and in the meantime Polonius enters to inform the king that Hamlet would be going to meet his mother and that he plans to hide there and listen to their conversation.

Claudius now becomes the main focus of the chapter where he is seen praying to God. He admits that he has committed a great sin of murdering his elder brother. He begs to the almighty that some divine assistance might bow his knees and soften his heart so that he can seek forgiveness.

Hamlet enters and saw Claudius in his prayers. He recognises his perfect opportunity to kill Claudius, but stops himself. He knows that by killing Claudius while he is praying would be sent straight to heaven and he would escape the eternal punishment.

The scene now shifts to Gertrude's chamber, the queen and Polonius wait for Hamlet's arrival. He instructs her to be entirely harsh with her son. Hamlet enters and asks what the matter was. Gertrude tells him that he has badly offended his father( Claudius) to which Hamlet responds that she had badly offended his father( old king Hamlet). Hamlet tries to threaten his mother and she cries out that he is trying to murder her. Polonius reacts from behind the curtains and shouts for help. Hamlet draws his sword and kills Polonius. Hamlet lifts the wall hanging and discovers that it was Polonius's body. Then he points to the contrasting pictures of Claudius and his dead father. In the meantime the old king Hamlet's ghost appears which is only visible to Hamlet. He reminds him that his real revenge is with Claudius and with no one else.

##### ***Answer with reference to the given context :***

“ My lord, he's going to his mother's closet. Behind the arras I'll convey myself to hear the process.”

1. Identify the speaker in the above extract?

**Ans.** Polonius is the speaker.

2. Who is being referred to as 'My lord'?

**Ans.** Claudius is being referred to as 'My lord'.

3. Who is 'he' in the above extract?

**Ans.** In the above extract 'he' refers to Prince Hamlet.

4. Where is Hamlet going?

**Ans.** Hamlet is going to his mother's closet (Gertrude's chamber).

5. Where is Polonius planning to hide?

**Ans.** Polonius is planning to hide behind the curtains in the chamber of Gertrude.

**Answer the following questions:**

1. What did Claudius ask Rosencrantz and Guildenstern to do?

**Ans.** Claudius asked Rosencrantz and Guildenstern to take Hamlet to England as he was a danger to the kingdom of Denmark.

2. Why didn't Hamlet kill Claudius when he was praying?

**Ans.** Hamlet could not kill Claudius while he was praying because if he would kill Claudius at that very point of time he would have sent to Heaven as he was praying and would have escaped the eternal punishment for his bad deeds.

3. Was the ghost of the Old King Hamlet visible to Gertrude as well? What did the ghost remind him of?

**Ans.** No, the ghost of the Old King Hamlet was not visible to Gertrude. It was only visible to Prince Hamlet. The ghost reminded Hamlet that his revenge was only with King Claudius and with no one else.

## **CHAPTER 12: HAMLET MUST GO**

### **Summary:**

With the opening of the chapter we find Claudius and Gertrude discussing that after Polonius's death it is not safe to leave Hamlet free. Claudius wanted to send him to England but he thinks that the reason for sending him should appear convincing to the other people within the kingdom. The very next moment Hamlet enters and Claudius wanted to know where Hamlet has put Polonius. He engages

a word play with Claudius taunting him. Then he remarks that even if a messenger was sent to heaven, he could not find the old man.

Claudius claims to Hamlet that he is being sent to England for his own safety and a ship was waiting to take the Prince to England. As soon as they leave, a secret letter instructs the king of England to murder Hamlet.

On his way to England Hamlet observes Fortinbras leading his troops through Denmark towards Poland. He learns from the Captain that the Norwegians have planned to wage a war over a worthless patch of land in Poland. Hamlet thinks of taking the necessary revenge against the enemy as he had a good reason to take action against him, but he was unable to do so.

***Answer the following with reference to the context:***

“The bark is ready and the wind at help. The associates tend, and everything is bent for England “

1. Identify the speaker in the above extract.

**Ans.** Claudius is the speaker.

2. Who is being sent to England?

**Ans.** Prince Hamlet is being sent to England.

3. What is the meaning of the word 'bark' in the above extract?

**Ans.** It means ship.

***Answer the following questions:***

1. While his way to the harbour what did Hamlet see? Whom did he meet and what was the matter?

**Ans.** While his way to the harbour Hamlet saw the Norwegian army marching across Denmark. He met a captain who said that they were marching across Denmark because the Norwegian army had planned to wage a war over a worthless patch of land in Poland.

2. What did the Captain tell Hamlet?

**Ans.** The Captain told Hamlet that the mission of the army was pointless as it was a worthless patch of land that they were waging a war against.