1. Copy and complete the following paragraph about the theme of the play in pairs:
The play deals with a _________and ____________Bishop who is always ready to lend a _______hand to anyone in distress. A _______breaks into the Bishop’s house and is ___________and warmed. The benevolence of the Bishop somewhat ___________the convict, but, when he sees the silver candlesticks, he ___________them, and runs away. However, he is ___________and brought back. He expects to go back to jail, but the Bishop informs the police they are a _______________. The convict is ___________by this kindness of the Bishop and before he leaves he seeks the priest’s blessing.

Answer

The play deals with a **kind** and **charitable** Bishop who is always ready to lend a **helping** hand to anyone in distress. A **convict** breaks into the Bishop’s house and is **fed** and warmed. The benevolence of the Bishop somewhat **confounds** the convict, but, when he sees the silver candlesticks, he **steals** them, and runs away. However, he is **arrested** and brought back. He expects to go back to jail, but the Bishop informs the police they are a **gift**. The convict is **moved** by this kindness of the Bishop and before he leaves he seeks the priest’s blessing.

5. (a) Working in pairs give antonyms of the following words
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>kind-hearted</th>
<th>unscrupulous</th>
<th>forgiving</th>
<th>stern</th>
<th>benevolent</th>
<th>credulous</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>generous</td>
<td>pious</td>
<td>suspicious</td>
<td>sympathetic</td>
<td>understanding</td>
<td>wild</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>innocent</td>
<td>penitent</td>
<td>clever</td>
<td>brutal</td>
<td>cunning</td>
<td>caring</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sentimental</td>
<td>trusting</td>
<td>protective</td>
<td>concerned</td>
<td>honourable</td>
<td>embittered</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Answer

(i) Kind Hearted − nasty, unkind, cruel
(ii) Unscrupulous − ethical, moral, good
(iii) Forgiving − censure, charge, punish
(iv) Stern − cheerful, funny, lenient
(v) Benevolent − greedy, malevolent, mean, selfish
(vi) Credulous − skeptical, suspecting, suspicious
(vii) Generous − greedy, mean, miserly
(viii) Pious − atheist, impious, irreligious
(ix) Suspicious − innocent, trustworthy, trusty
(x) Sympathetic − callous, merciless, uncaring, unconcerned
(xi) Understanding − misunderstanding, intolerant
(xii) Wild − civilized, controlled, delicate, gentle
(xiii) Innocent − bad, blamable, corrupt
(xiv) Penitent − happy, unashamed
(xv) Clever − awkward, foolish, idiotic, ignorant,
(xvi) Brutal − generous, humane, kind, nice
(xvii) Cunning − gullible, kind, naive
(xviii) Caring − disregarding, ignoring, neglecting
(xix) Sentimental − hard-hearted, indifferent, pragmatic, unemotional
(xx) Trusting− disagree, dispute, reject, renounce
(21) Protective − attacking, harmful, hurtful, injurious
(22) Concerned − happy, undisturbed, unperturbed
(23) Honourable − not respectful, unhonourable
(24) Embittered − pleasant, content, genial

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(b) Select words from the above box to describe the characters in the
play as revealed by the following lines from the play.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lines from the play</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Quality revealed</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. “You told him she was feeling poorly, did you? And so my brother is to be kept out of bed, and go without his supper because you told him she was feeling poorly.”</td>
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<td>2. __________ “take my comforter, it will keep you warm.”</td>
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<td>3. “If people lie to me they are poorer, not I.”</td>
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<td>4. “You are like a child. I can’t trust you out of my sight. No sooner my back is turned than you get that minx Marie to sell the silver salt-cellars.”</td>
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<td>5. “My dear there is so much suffering in the world, and I can do so very little.”</td>
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<td>6. “My mother gave them to me on – on her death bed just after you were born, and – and she asked me to keep them in remembrance of her, so I would like to keep them.”</td>
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<td>7. “I am too old a bird to be caught with chaff.”</td>
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<td>8. “You have your soul to lose, my son.”</td>
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<td>“Give me food or I’ll stick my knife in you both and help myself.”</td>
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<td>Kind hearted</td>
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6. Answer the following questions briefly

(a) Do you think the Bishop was right in selling the salt-cellars? Why/why not?

Answer

No, the Bishop was not right in selling the salt-cellars. His own economic condition was not good and he should have asked for Persome’s opinion before he sold the cellars, which belonged to her too. From another point of view the Bishop was right in selling the salt-cellars as he wanted to give the money he got from selling the cellars to Mere Gringoire who could not give rent to the landlord on time and was about to face eviction. The Bishop was very broadminded as he could empathise with the condition of Mere Gringoire and chose to do away with the salt cellars. The Bishop felt that one could eat salt out of china as well.

(b) Why does Persome feel the people pretend to be sick?

Answer

Persome is protective and wishes to maintain the household. She is pained to see that the entire humanity is turning upon them for charity and benevolence. She feels people like Marie’s mother pretend to be sick and take undue advantage of the Bishop.
(c) Who was Jeanette? What was the cause of her death?

**Answer**

Jeanette was the convict’s wife. She died due to illness and starvation.

(d) The convict says, “I am too old a bird to be caught with chaff.” What does he mean by this statement?

**Answer**

The convict has suffered, he is embittered, he is experienced. So he couldn’t be tricked. He ordered the Bishop to stay put because he couldn’t trust anyone not to report to the police and get him arrested.

(e) Why was the convict sent to prison? What was the punishment given to him?

**Answer**

The convict was sent to prison for stealing a loaf of bread. He was sentenced to ten years in a prison hulk.

(f) Do you think the punishment given to the convict was justified? Why/why not? Why is the convict eager to reach Paris?

**Answer**
The punishment given to the convict was not justified. It is too inhuman for someone who was caught stealing just to feed his sick wife. He was guilty of stealing only to feed his wife who was dying of starvation. But they showed him no mercy and treated him like a beast. They chained him like a wild animal, lashed him like a hound and fed him filth. He was covered with vermin and had to sleep on boards. This kind of treatment is inhuman and not justified.

The convict is eager to reach Paris because it was a big city and the Police would never be able to find him there.

(g) Before leaving, the convict asks the Bishop to bless him. What brought about this change in him?

Answer

The Bishop’s benevolent, kind and caring attitude had brought about a change in the convict. That is why before leaving for Paris, he asks the Bishop to bless him.

7. Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow by choosing the correct options.

A. Monseigneur the Bishop is a -----------ahem’
(a) Why does Persome not complete the sentence?
(i) she used to stammer while speaking.
(ii) she was about to praise the Bishop.
(iii) she did not wish to criticise the Bishop in front of Marie.
(iv) she had a habit of passing such remarks.

Answer

(iii) She did not wish to criticise the Bishop in front of Marie.
(b) Why is she angry with the Bishop?
(i) The Bishop has sold her salt-cellars.
(ii) The Bishop has gone to visit Mere Gringoire.
(iii) He showed extra concern for Marie.
(iv) She disliked the Bishop.

**Answer**

(i) The Bishop has sold her salt-cellars.

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B. ‘She sent little Jean to Monseigneur to ask for help, and—’

(a) Who sent little Jean to the Bishop?
(i) Mere Gringoire
(ii) Marie
(iii) Persome
(iv) Marie's mother

**Answer**

(i) Mere Gringoire

(b) Why did she send Jean to the Bishop?
(i) so that he could pray for her
(ii) as she knew that he was a generous person
(iii) as she was a greedy woman
(iv) as she was a poor woman

**Answer**
(ii) as she knew that he was a generous person

C. ‘I offered to take her in here for a day or two, but she seemed to think it might distress you.”
The Bishop wanted to take Mere Gringoire in because _________.

(a) The Bishop wanted to take Mere Gringoire in because _________.
(i) she was sick
(ii) she had no money
(iii) she was unable to pay the rent of her house
(iv) she was a close friend of Persome

Answer

(iii) she was unable to pay the rent of her house

(b) Persome would be distressed on Mere Gringoire's being taken in because _________.
(i) she did not want to help anyone
(ii) she felt that Mere Gringoire was taking undue advantage of the Bishop
(iii) she was a self-centred person
(iv) she would be put to a great deal of inconvenience

Answer

(ii) she felt that Mere Gringoire was taking undue advantage of the Bishop

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9. Identify the situations which be termed as the turning points in the
The Convict, when was caught and brought to the Bishop’s house, was asked to be released by the Bishop saying that he is a friend to him. The Bishop also gives him his mother’s only memory i.e. candle-sticks. This entire incidence makes convict believe that there still exists humanity. This is the turning point in the convict’s life.