

Unit

3

Supplementary

The Hour of Truth (Play)

Percival Wilde



Warm Up

a) We judge people around us, based on their qualities and actions. We brand some people as good and some bad. What qualities, do you think, characterise a gentleman? Some of them may be merely external and some others internal



well-dressed

courteous

b) When we see a few *coins scattered* on the ground, we would probably pick them up on the sly or walk away ignoring them. What if it was an envelope full of ₹ 2000 bills? How are people likely to react in such a situation?

Discuss with a partner and share your views.



Here is a play which describes a situation where the honesty and uprightness of the protagonist is put to a crucial test. He is compelled by his family members to compromise on his ethical principles. Let's find out how he is saved from that crisis.

CHARACTERS:

ROBERT BALDWIN

MARTHA

JOHN

EVIE

Mr. MARSHALL

It is rather a hot and sultry Sunday afternoon, and the sun overhead and the baked clay under foot are merciless. In the distance, lowering clouds give promise of

coming relief. And at the parlour window of a trim little cottage the Baldwin family is anxiously awaiting the return of its head.

John, Baldwin's son, an average young man of twenty-seven, is smoking a pipe as philosophically as if this day were no whit more momentous than any other. But Martha, his mother, has made little progress in the last half-hour; and Evie, Baldwin's daughter, takes no pains to conceal her nervousness. There is a tense pause. It