

Play No.

2

Visit to a Small Planet

(Gore Vidal)

Characters

**Kreton****Roger Spelding****Ellen Spelding****Mrs. Spelding****John Randolph****General Powers****Aide**

Visit to a Small Planet

SCENE

Stock Shot: The night sky, stars. Then slowly a luminous object arcs into view. As it is almost upon us, dissolves to the living room of the Spelding house in Maryland.

Superimpose Card: "THE TIME: THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW"

The room is comfortably balanced between the expensively decorated and the homely. ROGER SPELDING is concluding his TV broadcast. He is middle-aged, unctuous, resonant. His wife, bored and vague, knits passively while he talks at his desk. Two technicians are on hand, operating the equipment. His daughter, ELLEN, a lively girl of twenty, fidgets as she listens.

Spelding *(Into microphone)*... and so, according to General Powers ... who should know if anyone does.... the flying object which has given rise to so much irresponsible conjecture is nothing more than a meteor passing through the earth's orbit. It is not, as many believe, a secret weapon of this country. Nor is it a spaceship as certain lunatic elements have suggested. General Powers has assured me that it is highly doubtful there is any form of life on other planets capable of building a spaceship. "If any travelling is to be done in space, we will do it first." And those are his exact words.... Which winds up another week of news. *(Crosses to pose with wife and daughter)*. This is Roger Spelding, saying good night to Mother and Father America, from my old homestead in Silver Glen, Maryland, close to the warm pulsebeat of the nation.

Technician Good show tonight, Mr. Spelding.

Spelding Thank you.

Technician Yes sir, you were right on time.

Spelding nods wearily, his mechanical smile and heartiness suddenly gone.

Mrs. Spelding Very nice, dear. Very nice.

Technician See you next week, Mr. Spelding.

Spelding Thank you, boys.

Technicians go.

Spelding Did you like the broadcast, Ellen?

Ellen Of course I did, Daddy.

Spelding Then what did I say?

Ellen Oh, that's not fair.

Spelding It's not very flattering when one's own daughter won't listen to what one says

while millions of people...

Ellen I always listen, Daddy, you know that.

Mrs. Spelding We love your broadcasts, dear. I don't know what we'd do without them.

Spelding Starve.

Ellen I wonder what's keeping John?

Spelding Certainly not work.

Ellen Oh, Daddy, stop it! John works very hard and you know it.

Mrs. Spelding Yes, he's a perfectly nice boy, Roger. I like him.

Spelding I know. I know: He has every virtue except the most important one: he has no get-up-and-go.

Ellen (*Precisely*) He doesn't want to get up and he doesn't want to go because he's already where he wants to be on his own farm which is exactly where I'm going to be when we're married.

Spelding More thankless than a serpent's tooth is an ungrateful child.

Ellen I don't think that's right. Isn't it "more deadly..."

Spelding Whatever the exact quotation is, I stand by the sentiment.

Mrs. Spelding Please don't quarrel. It always gives me a headache.

Spelding I never quarrel. I merely reason, in my simple way, with Miss Know-it-all here.

Ellen Oh, Daddy! Next you'll tell me I should marry for money.

Spelding There is nothing wrong with marrying a wealthy man. The horror of it has always eluded me. However, my only wish is that you marry someone hard-working ambitious, a man who'll make his mark in the world. Not a boy who plans to sit on a farm all his life, growing peanuts.

Ellen English walnuts.

Spelding Will you stop correcting me?

Ellen But, Daddy, John grows walnuts...

(*John enters, breathlessly.*)

John Come out! Quick! It's coming this way. It's going to land right here!

Spelding What's going to land?

John The spaceship. Look!

Spelding Apparently you didn't hear my broadcast. The flying object in question is a meteor not a spaceship.

John has gone out with Ellen. Spelding and Mrs. Spelding follows.

Mrs. Spelding Oh, my! Look! Something is falling! Roger, you don't think it's going to hit the house, do you?

- Spelding** The odds against being hit by a falling object that size are, I should say, roughly, ten million to one.
- John** Ten million to one or not it's going to land right here, and it's not falling.
- Spelding** I'm sure it's a meteor.
- Mrs. Spelding** Shouldn't we go down to the cellar?
- Spelding** If it's not a meteor, it's an optical illusion... mass hysteria.
- Ellen** Daddy, it's a real spaceship. I'm sure it is.
- Spelding** Or maybe a weather balloon. Yes, that's what it is. **General Powers said only** yesterday...
- John** It's landing!
- Spelding** I'm going to call the police ... the Army. (*Bolts inside.*)
- Ellen** Oh look how it shines!
- John** Here it comes!
- Mrs. Spelding** Right in my rose garden!
- Ellen** May be it's a balloon.
- John** No, it's a spaceship and right in your own backyard.
- Ellen** What makes it shine so?
- John** I don't know but I'm going to find out.
(*Runs off toward the light.*)
- Ellen** Oh, darling, don't! John, please! John, John come back!
(*Spelding wide-eyed returns.*)
- Mrs. Spelding** Roger, it's landed right in my rose garden.
- Spelding** I got General Powers. He's coming over. He said they've been watching this thing. They... they don't know what it is.
- Ellen** You mean it's nothing of ours?
- Spelding** They believe it... (*Swallows hard*)... it's from outer space.
- Ellen** And John's down there! Daddy, get a gun or something.
- Spelding** Perhaps we'd better leave the house until the Army gets here.
- Ellen** We can't leave John.
- Spelding** I can. (*Peers nearsightedly*) Why, it's not much larger than a car. I'm sure it's some kind of meteor.
- Ellen** Meteors are blazing hot.
- Spelding** This is a cold one....
- Ellen** It's opening.... The whole side's opening! (*Shouts*) John! Come back! Quick...
- Mrs. Spelding** Why, there's a man getting out of it! (*Sighs*) I feel much better already. I'm

sure if we ask him, he'll move that thing for us. Roger, you ask him.

Spelding (*Ominously*) If it's really a man?

Ellen John's shaking hands with him (*Calls*) John darling, come on up here...

Mrs. Spelding And bring your friend...

Spelding There's something wrong with the way that creature looks... if it is a man and not a ... not a monster.

Mrs. Spelding He looks perfectly nice to me.

(John and the visitor appear. The visitor is in his forties, a mild, pleasant looking man with side-whiskers and dressed in the fashion of 1860. He pauses when he sees the three people, in silence for a moment. They stare back at him, equally interested.)

Visitor I seem to've made a mistake. I am sorry. I'd better go back and start over again.

Spelding My dear sir, you've only just arrived. Come in, come in. I don't need to tell you what a pleasure this is Mister Mister

Visitor Kreton ... This is the wrong costume, isn't it?

Spelding Wrong for what?

Kreton For the country, and the time,

Spelding Well, it's a trifle old-fashioned.

Mrs. Spelding But really awfully handsome.

Kreton Thank you.

Mrs. Spelding (*to husband*). Ask him about moving that thing off my rose bed.

(Spelding leads them all into living room.)

Spelding Come on in and sit down. You must be tired after your trip.

Kreton Yes, I am a little. (*Looking around delightedly*) Oh, it's better than I'd hoped!

Spelding Better? What's better?

Kreton The house That's what you call it? Or is this an apartment?

Spelding This is a house in the State of Maryland, U.S.A.

Kreton In the late 20th century! To think this is really the 20th century. I must sit down a moment and collect myself. The real thing!

(He sits down.)

Ellen You You're not an American, are you?

Kreton What a nice thought! No, I'm not.

John You sound more English.

Kreton Do I? Is my accent very bad?

John No, It's quite good.

- Spelding** Where are you from, Mr. Kreton?
- Kreton** (*Evasively*) Another place.
- Spelding** On this earth of course.
- Kreton** No, not on this planet.
- Ellen** Are you from Mars?
- Kreton** Oh dear no, not Mars. There's nobody on Mars.... At least no one I know.
- Ellen** I'm sure you're teasing us and this is all some kind of publicity stunt.
- Kreton** No, I really am from another place.
- Spelding** I don't suppose you'd consent to my interviewing you on television?
- Kreton** I don't think your authorities will like that. They are terribly upset as it is.
- Spelding** How do you know?
- Kreton** Well, I ... pick up things. For instance, I know that in a few minutes a number of people from your Army will be here to question me and they ... like you ... are torn by doubt.
- Spelding** How extraordinary!
- Ellen** Why did you come here?
- Kreton** Simply a visit to your small planet. I've been studying it for years. In fact, one might say, you people are my hobby. Especially, this period of your development.
- John** Are you the first person from your planet to travel in space like this?
- Kreton** Oh my no! Everyone travels who wants to. It's just that no one wants to visit you. I can't think, why? I always have. You'd be surprised what a thorough study I've made. (*Recites*) The planet, Earth, is divided into five continents with a number of large islands. It is mostly water. There is one moon. Civilization is only just beginning ...
- Spelding** Just beginning! My dear sir, we have had.
- Kreton** (*Blandly*) You are only in the initial stages, the most fascinating stages as far as I'm concerned ... I do hope I don't sound patronizing.
- Ellen** Well, we are very proud.
- Kreton** I know and that's one of your most endearing primitive traits. Oh, I can't believe I'm here at last!
- (*General Powers, a vigorous product of the National Guard, and his AIDE enter.*)
- Powers** All right folks. The place is surrounded by troops. Where is the monster?
- Kreton** I, my dear General, am the monster.
- Powers** What are you dressed up for, a fancy-dress party?
- Kreton** I'd hoped to be in the costume of the period. As you see I am about a hundred

years too late.

Powers Roger, who is this joker?

Spelding This is Mr. Kreton ... General Powers. Mr. Kreton arrived in that thing outside. He is from another planet.

Powers I don't believe it.

Ellen It's true. We saw him get out of the flying saucer.

Powers *(To AIDE)* Captain, go down and look at the ship. But be careful. Don't touch anything. And don't let anybody else near it. *(AIDE goes)* So you're from another planet.

Kreton Yes. My, that's a very smart uniform but I prefer the ones made of metal, the ones you used to wear, you know: with the feathers on top.

Powers That was five hundred years ago ... Are you sure you're not from the Earth?

Kreton Yes

Powers Well, I'm not. You've got some pretty tall explaining to do.

Kreton Anything to oblige.

Powers All right, which planet?

Kreton None that you have ever heard of.

Powers Where is it?

Kreton You wouldn't know.

Powers This solar system?

Kreton No.

Powers Another system?

Kreton Yes.

Powers Look, Buster, I don't want to play games: I just want to know where you're from. The law requires it.

Kreton It's possible that I could explain it to a mathematician but I'm afraid I couldn't explain it to you, not for another five hundred years and by then of course you'd be dead because you people do die, don't you?

Powers What?

Kreton Poor fragile butterflies, such brief little moments in the sun ... You see we don't die.

Powers You'll die all right if it turns out you're a spy or a hostile alien.

Kreton I'm sure you wouldn't be so cruel.

(AIDE returns; he looks disturbed.)

Powers What did you find?

AIDE I'm not sure, General.

- Powers** *(Heavily)* Then do your best to describe what the object is like.
- AIDE** Well, it's elliptical, with a fourteen foot diameter. And it's made of an unknown metal which shines and inside there isn't anything.
- Powers** Isn't anything?
- AIDE** There's nothing inside the ship: No instruments, no food, **nothing**.
- Powers** *(To Kreton)* What did you do with your instrument board?
- Kreton** With my what? Oh, I don't have one.
- Powers** How does the thing travel?
- Kreton** I don't know.
- Powers** You don't know. Now look, Mister, you're in pretty serious trouble. I suggest you do a bit of cooperating. You claim you travelled here from outer space in a machine with no instruments
- Kreton** Well, these cars are rather common in my world and I suppose, once upon a time, I must've known the theory on which they operate but I've long since forgotten. After all, General, we're not mechanics, you and I.
- Powers** Roger, do you mind if we use your study?
- Spelding** Not at all. Not at all, General.
- Powers** Mr. Kreton and I are going to have a chat. *(To AIDE)* Put in a call to the Chief of Staff.
- AIDE** Yes, General.
(Spelding rises, leads Kreton and Powers into next room, a handsomely furnished study, many books and a globe of the world.)
- Spelding** This way, gentlemen.
(Kreton sits down comfortably beside the globe which he twirls thoughtfully. At the door, Spelding speaks in a low voice to Powers). I hope I'll be the one to get the story first, Tom.
- Powers** There isn't any story. Complete censorship. I'm sorry but this house is under martial law. I've a hunch we're in trouble. *(He shuts the door. Spelding turns and rejoins his family).*
- Ellen** I think he's wonderful whoever he is.
- Mrs. Spelding** I wonder how much damage he did to my rose garden
- John** It's sure hard to believe he's really from outer space. No instruments, no nothing ... boy, they must be advanced scientifically.
- Mrs. Spelding** Is he spending the night, dear?
- Spelding** What?
- Mrs. Spelding** Is he spending the night?
- Spelding** Oh yes, yes, I suppose he will be.

- Mrs. Spelding** Then I'd better go make up the bedroom. He seems perfectly nice to me. I like his whiskers. They're so very ... comforting. Like Grandfather Spelding's. She goes.
- Spelding** *(Bitterly)* I know this story will leak out before I can interview him. I just know it.
- Ellen** What does it mean, we're under martial law.
- Spelding** It means we have to do what General Powers tells us to do. *(He goes to the window as a soldier passes by)* See?
- John** I wish I'd taken a closer look at that ship when I had the chance.
- Ellen** Perhaps he'll give us a ride in it.
- John** Travelling in space! Just like those stories. You know: intergalactic drive stuff.
- Spelding** If he's not an impostor.
- Ellen** I have a feeling he isn't.
- John** Well, I better call the family and tell them I'm all right.
He crosses to telephone by the door which leads into the hall.
- AIDE** I'm sorry, sir, but you can't use the phone.
- Spelding** He certainly can. This is my house
- AIDE** *(Mechanically)* This house is a military reservation until the crisis is over: Order General Powers. I'm sorry.
- John** How am I to call home to say where I am?
- AIDE** Only General Powers can help you. You're also forbidden to leave this house without permission.
- Spelding** You can't do this!
- AIDE** I'm afraid, sir, we've done it.
- Ellen** Isn't it exciting!
(Cut to study.)
- Powers** Are you deliberately trying to confuse me?
- Kreton** Not deliberately, no.
- Powers** We have gone over and over this for two hours now and all that you've told me is that you're from another planet in another solar system....
- Kreton** In another dimension. I think that's the word you use.
- Powers** In another dimension and you have come here as a tourist.
- Kreton** Up to a point, yes. What did you expect?
- Powers** It is my job to guard the security of this country.
- Kreton** I'm sure that must be very interesting work.

- Powers** For all I know, you are a spy, sent here by an alien race to study us, preparatory to invasion.
- Kreton** Oh, none of my people would dream of invading you.
- Powers** How do I know that's true?
- Kreton** You don't, so I suggest you believe me. I should also warn you: I can tell what's inside.
- Powers** What's inside?
- Kreton** What's inside your mind.
- Powers** You're a mind reader?
- Kreton** I don't really read it. I hear it.
- Powers** What am I thinking?
- Kreton** That I am either a lunatic from the earth or a spy from another world.
- Powers** Correct. But then you could've guessed that. *(Frowns)* What am I thinking now?
- Kreton** You're making a picture. Three silver stars. You're pinning them on your shoulder, instead of the two stars you now wear.
- Powers** *(Startled)* That's right. I was thinking of my promotion.
- Kreton** If there's anything I can do to hurry it along, just let me know.
- Powers** You can. Tell me why you're here.
- Kreton** Well, we don't travel much, my people. We used to but since we see everything through special monitors and re-creators, there is no particular need to travel. However, I am a hobbyist. I love to gad about.
- Powers** *(Taking notes)* Are you the first to visit us?
- Kreton** Oh, no! We started visiting you long before there were people on the planet. However, we are seldom noticed on our trips. I'm sorry to say I slipped up, coming in the way I did ... but then this visit was all rather impromptu. *(Laughs)* I am a creature of impulse, I fear.
- (AIDE looks in.)*
- AIDE** Chief of Staff on the telephone, General.
- Powers** *(Picks up phone).* Hello! yes, sir. Powers speaking. I'm talking to him now. No, sir. No, sir. No, we can't determine what method of power was used. He won't talk. Yes, sir. I'll hold him here. I've put the house under martial law ... belongs to a friend of mine, Roger Spelding, the TV commentator. Roger Spelding, the TV ... What? Oh, no, I'm sure he won't say anything. Who ... oh, yes, sir. Yes, I realize the importance of it. Yes, I will. Good-bye. *(Hangs up)* The President of the United States wants to know all about you.
- Kreton** How nice of him! And I want to know all about him. But I do wish you'd let

- me rest a bit first. Your language is still not familiar to me. I had to learn them all, quite exhausting.
- Powers** You speak all our languages?
- Kreton** Yes, all of them. But then it's easier than you might think since I can see what's inside.
- Powers** Speaking of what's inside, we're going to take your ship apart.
- Kreton** Oh, I wish you wouldn't.
- Powers** Security demands it.
- Kreton** In that case my security demands you leave it alone.
- Powers** You plan to stop us?
- Kreton** I already have ... Listen.
(Far-off shouting AIDE rushes into the study.)
- AIDE** Something's happened to the ship, General. The door's shut and there's some kind of wall all around it, an invisible wall. We can't get near it.
- Kreton** *(To camera)* I hope there was no one inside.
- Powers** *(To Kreton)* How did you do that?
- Kreton** I couldn't begin to explain. Now if you don't mind, I think we should go in and see our hosts.
He rises, goes into living room. Powers and AIDE look at each other.
- Powers** Don't let him out of your sight.
(Cut to living room as Powers picks up phone. Kreton is with John and Ellen.)
- Kreton** I don't mind curiosity but I really can't permit them to wreck my poor ship.
- Ellen** What do you plan to do, now you're here?
- Kreton** Oh, keep busy. I have a project or two ... *(Sighs)* I can't believe you're real.
- John** Then we're all in the same boat.
- Kreton.** Boat? Oh, yes! Well, I should have come ages ago but I ... I couldn't get away until yesterday.
- John** Yesterday? It only took you a day to get here?
- Kreton** One of my days, not yours. But then you don't know about time yet.
- John** Oh, you mean relativity.
- Kreton** No, it's much more involved than that. You won't know about time until ... now let me see if I remember ... no, I don't, but it's about two thousand years.
- John** What do we do between now and then?
- Kreton** You simply go on the way you are, living your exciting primitive lives ... you have no idea how much fun you're having now.
- Ellen** I hope you'll stay with us while you're here.

- Kreton** That's very nice of you. Perhaps I will. Though I'm sure you'll get tired of having a visitor under foot all the time.
- Ellen** Certainly not. And Daddy will be deliriously happy. He can interview you by the hour.
- John** What's it like in outer space?
- Kreton** Dull.
- Ellen** I should think it would be divine!
(Powers enters.)
- Kreton** No, General, it won't work.
- Powers** What won't work?
- Kreton** Trying to blow up my little force field. You'll just plough up Mrs. Spelding's garden.
(Powers snarls and goes into study.)
- Ellen** Can you tell what we're all thinking?
- Kreton** Yes. As a matter of fact, it makes me a bit giddy. Your minds are not at all like ours. You see we control our thoughts while you ... well, it's extraordinary the things you think about!
- Ellen** Oh, how awful you can tell everything we think?
- Kreton** Everything! It's one of the reasons I'm here, to intoxicate myself with your primitive minds ... with the wonderful rawness of your emotions! You have no idea how it excites me! You simply seethe with unlikely emotions.
- Ellen** I've never felt so sordid.
- John** From now on I'm going to think about agriculture.
- Spelding** *(Entering)* You would.
- Ellen** Daddy!
- Kreton** No, no. You must go right on thinking about Ellen. Such wonderfully *purple* thoughts!
- Spelding** Now see here, Powers, you're carrying this martial law thing too far ...
- Powers** Unfortunately, until I have received word from Washington as to the final disposition of this problem, you must obey my orders: no telephone calls, no communication with the outside.
- Spelding** This is unsupportable.
- Kreton** Poor Mr. Spelding! If you like, I shall go. That would solve everything, wouldn't it?
- Powers** You're not going anywhere, Mr. Kreton, until I've had my instructions.
- Kreton** I sincerely doubt if you could stop me. However, I put it up to Mr. Spelding. Shall I go?

- Spelding** Yes! (*Powers gestures a warning*) Do stay, I mean, we want you to get a good impression of us ...
- Kreton** And of course you still want to be the first journalist to interview me. Fair enough. All right, I'll stay on for a while.
- Powers** Thank you.
- Kreton** Don't mention it.
- Spelding** General, may I ask our guest a few questions?
- Powers** Go right ahead, Roger. I hope you'll do better than I did.
- Spelding** Since you read our minds, you probably already know what our fears are.
- Kreton** I do, yes.
- Spelding** We are afraid that you represent a hostile race.
- Kreton** And I have assured General Powers that my people are not remotely hostile. Except for me, no one is interested in this planet's present stage.
- Spelding** Does this mean you might be interested in a later stage?
- Kreton** I'm not permitted to discuss your future. Of course my friends think me perverse to be interested in a primitive society but there's no accounting for tastes, is there? You are my hobby. I love you. And that's all there is to it.
- Powers** So you're just here to look around ... sort of going native.
- Kreton** What a nice expression! That's it exactly. I am going native.
- Powers** (*Grimly*) Well, it is my view that you have been sent here by another civilization for the express purpose of reconnoitering prior to invasion.
- Kreton** That would be your view! The wonderfully primitive assumption that all strangers are hostile. You're almost too good to be true, General.
- Powers** You deny your people intend to make trouble for us?
- Kreton** I deny it.
- Powers** Then are they interested in establishing communication with us? Trade? That kind of thing?
- Kreton** We have always had communication with you. As for trade, well, we do not trade ... that is something peculiar only to your social level. (*Quickly*) Which I'm not criticizing! As you know, I approve of everything you do.
- Powers** I give up.
- Spelding** You have no interest then in Well, trying to dominate the earth.
- Kreton** Oh, yes!
- Powers** I thought you just said your people weren't interested in us.
- Kreton** They're not, but I am.
- Powers** You!

- Kreton** Me ... I mean I. You see I've come here to take charge.
- Powers** Of the United States?
- Kreton** No, of the whole world. I'm sure you'll be much happier and it will be great fun for me. You'll get used to it in no time.
- Powers** This is ridiculous. How can one man take over the world?
- Kreton** *(Gaily)* Wait and see!
- Powers** *(To AIDE)* Grab him!
- Powers and AIDE rush Kreton but within a foot of him, they stop, stunned.*
- Kreton** You can't touch me. That's part of the game. *(He yawns)* Now, if you don't mind, I shall go up to my room for a little lie-down.
- Spelding** I'll show you the way.
- Kreton** That's all right. I know the way. *(Touches his brow)* Such savage thoughts! My head is vibrating like a drum. I feel quite giddy, all of you thinking away. *(He starts to the door; he pauses beside Mrs. Spelding)* No, it's not a dream, dear lady. I shall be here in the morning when you wake up. And now, good night, dear, wicked children ...
(He goes as we fade out.)

CURTAIN

Visit to a Small Planet

About the Author

Gore Vidal, a famous American playwright and novelist, was born on October 3, 1925 in New York. He has written a number of famous plays and novels: *Death in Fifth Position*, *Death Before Bed Time*, *A Star's Progress*. *Visit to a Small Planet* first appeared on Television in 1956 and opened in 1957 on Broadway to enthusiastic reviews. It is a beautiful combination of sheer entertainment and a thought provoking comment on American culture.

Theme

The play shows that the people of the 20th century are still in the beginning of their civilization as compared with those of the planets of other solar systems. The man of the future will be free from hatred and violence, and feel a sense of pride in the service of humanity.

Glossary

luminous	shining, giving out light
unctuous	smooth in speech or manner
resonant	resounding
fidgets	make nervous movements

conjecture	guess, put forward an opinion formed without facts
lunatic	mad person
homestead	farm house
eluded	avoided
walnuts	edible nuts, having a hard crinkled shell
cellar	any underground room for storing different things
hysteria	disturbance of the nervous system with outburst of emotions
meteor	small particle of matter that enters the earth atmosphere from outer space and becomes bright
ominously	threateningly
evasively	trying to evade
blandly	gently or politely
fascinating	having strong charm
fragile	broken, weak
twirls	turns round and round quickly
hunch	thick piece, hump
intergalactic	in between the galaxies
impostor	person pretending to be somebody he is not
gad	go from place to place for pleasure, old fashioned for surprise
impromptu	without preparation
deliriously	wildly excited
intoxicate	cause to lose self-control as a result of taking some drink
sordid	wretched, shabby
reconnoitre	to make a survey of an area, especially for military purposes

EXERCISES

1. **Choose the correct answer.**
 - i. Who is Roger Spelding?
 - a) a general
 - b) a soldier
 - c) a newscaster
 - d) a technician
 - ii. John is a
 - a) merchant.
 - b) farm owner.
 - c) pilot.
 - d) professor.
 - iii. Where did the spaceship land?
 - a) on the roof of a building
 - b) in the fields
 - c) on a hill
 - d) in the rose garden of Mrs. Spelding

- iv. Can the people of the Earth compete with those of Kreton?
- v. How damaging is violence in life? Write five sentences.
- vi. What type of life do you foresee in the year 5000?
- vii. How impressive were the morals of Kreton?
- viii. What is the role of General Powers in the play?
- ix. What is the theme of Kreton's study?
- x. How does Kreton impress General Powers?

4. Answer the following questions in 100-150 words.

- i. Write a note on
 - a) Mr. Spelding b) Mrs. Spelding c) Ellen
 - d) John e) General Powers f) Kreton
- ii. How does the playwright expose the inferiority of the present race to that of the future?
- iii. Describe the arrival of the flying saucer in your own words.
- iv. Compare and contrast the people of the two planets.
- v. Write a story of your visit to a far off place in the north of Pakistan.

5. Fill in the blanks:

- i. It's not very flattering when one's own daughter won't listen _____ what one says. (for, to)
- ii. He doesn't want to get _____. (up, setup)
- iii. There is nothing wrong _____ marrying a wealthy man. (with, for)
- iv. There is something wrong _____ the way that creature looks. (without, with)
- v. I'm sure you're teasing us and this is _____ some kind of publicity stunt. (none, all)
- vi. You'd be surprised what a _____ study I've made. (thorough, through)
- vii. As you see I am _____ a hundred years too late. (above, about)
- viii. It's possible that I could explain it to a mathematician but I'm afraid I couldn't explain it _____ you. (about, to)
- ix. I must've known the theory _____ which they operate. (on, at)
- x. I wonder how _____ damage he did to my rose garden. (many, much)

6. Use the following phrasal verbs in your own sentences.

- a) pass on b) pass through c) pass over d) pass down

7. Punctuate the following lines:

the odds against being hit by a falling object that size are i should say roughly ten million to one