

## 1.4 All the world's A stage

### Warming up

#### (B) Pair up with your partner and name the following:

(a) **The Seven wonders of the world:** The Great Wall of China, Christ the Redeemer Statue, Machu Picchu, Chichen Itza, The Roman Colosseum, The Taj Mahal and Petra  
Asia, Europe,

(b) **The Seven continents:** Australia, Africa, North America, South America, Antarctica.

(c) **The Seven colours of the rainbow:** violet, indigo, blue, green, yellow, orange, red.

(d) **The Seven notes of the musical scale:** sa re-ga-ma-pa-da-ni./doh-re-me-fa-so-la-ti

(e) **The Seven seas of the world:** Arctic Ocean, Antarctic Ocean, North Atlantic Ocean, South Atlantic Ocean, Indian Ocean, North Pacific Ocean, South Pacific Ocean.

#### 2. Life is often compared to many things. Write down seven things that life can be compared to and justify the comparison:

(a) Life is a keyboard; if you press the right keys. you have typed a good destiny.

(b) Life is a river-always flowing.

(c) Life is like a seed: It will never grow unless planted, nourished and nurtured.

(d) Life is like an elevator, with lots of ups and downs.

(e) Life is like an onion. You peel off layer after layer. Sometimes it makes you weep.

(f) Life is like a jigsaw puzzle. You have all the pieces, but you have to put them together correctly.

(g) Life is like a jack-in-the-box. You never know when you are going to get a box on your chin.

#### 3. Match the approximate ages with the stages:

Age-group	Stages
Birth to 2 years	babyhood/infancy
3 years to 12 years	childhood
13 years to 17 years	teenage/adolescence
18 years to about 44 years	adulthood
About 45 years to 60 years	middle-age
65 years up to 75 to 80 years	senior citizen/ elderly person
Above 80 years	old age/second

## ENGLISH WORKSHOP

1. Read the words in given clouds. Match them with what they signify.

Column A	Column B
a)Stage	1)Birth
b)Characters	2)Situations/Incidents
c)Script	3)Story of Life
d)Dialogues	4)Death
e)Entry	5)Conversation
f)Exit	6)Roles played by human beings
	7) Life

Ans.1)G, 2)F, 3)C, 4)E, 5)A, 6)D

2. Read the poem carefully and complete the following table.

Ages of Man	Role	Qualities/Actions
1	infant	(1) frightened (2) crying, puking
2	schoolboy	(1) unhappy (2) whining, creeping unwillingly to school
3	lover	(1) woeful (2) sighing, singing sad ballads
4	soldier	(1) jealous in honour, ambitious (2) quarrelling, facing danger
5	adult man	(1) fat, serious and wise (2) giving advice
6	middle aged man	(1) thin and shrunken (2) talking in a shrill-voice
7	very old man	(1) senile, child-like (2) oblivious to his surroundings

3. Write down in your own words the differences between the stages of a man's life:

1) 2nd stage and the 4th.

Ans. The second stage is that of a school boy, complaining and crying. He goes to school early in the morning, with a well-scrubbed, shining face. He carries his school bag and

creeps slowly, like a snail, unwilling to go to school.

The fourth stage is that of an aggressive soldier, bearded like a leopard and full of oaths. He is jealous where his honour is concerned, and is quick to quarrel. He is ambitious, and does useless things for his reputation, even endangering his life for it.

## **2) 3rd stage and 5th stage:**

**Ans.** The third stage is that of a lover, who is breathless and sighing with passion. He sings sad songs to the beauty of his lover.

The fifth stage is that of a mature middle-aged man with a round belly. He is stern and formal and full of wisdom. He is keen on justice, is fat, and has opinions on bribery, a system which was prevalent at that time. He is full of wise sayings and gives modern examples.

## **3) 1st stage and 7th (last) stage:**

**Ans.** The first stage is that of an infant, crying weakly and throwing up in his nurse's arms. He is unaware of what is happening around him. The baby, at this stage, is without teeth, without vision, without taste and without anything.

The last stage of all, which ends this eventful life, is when man becomes senile and enters his second childhood. He is again unaware of what is happening around him. This final stage is when he is once more without teeth, without vision, without taste and without anything.

## **4. Pick out the lines that contain Imagery (a picture created in the mind by using words) of the following people:**

### **(1) School (2nd stage)**

**Ans.** (1) The whining schoolboy, with his satchel and shining morning face,  
(2) creeping like a snail unwillingly to school.'

### **(ii) Soldier (4th stage)**

**Ans.** (1) 'Full of strange oaths and bearded like the pard,  
(2) Jealous in honour, sudden and quick in quarrel.'

### **(iii) Judge (5th stage)**

**Ans.** (1) In fair round belly with good capon lined  
(2) With eyes severe and beard of formal cut

### **(iv) Senior citizen (6th stage)**

**Ans.** (1) His youthful hose, well-saved, a world too wide  
(2) For his shrunk shank<sup>6</sup>. Think and write on your own.

## **(a) What is the theme/central idea of the poem?**

**Ans.** The theme of this poem is the cycle of life. It tells us how one starts out an infant, helpless and without understanding, and ends the same way. without being aware of what is happening around one.

## **(b) Which two stages of man, described by Shakespeare, sound humorous? Say why.**

**Ans.** The second and third stages are humorous. One can just imagine the school boy, complaining and whining, creeping to school slowly with a well-scrubbed and shining face.

The third stage, where the lover sighs loudly and sings sad poems and songs. is also humorous.

**(c) 1st stage and 7th (last) stage:**

**Ans.** The first stage is that of an infant, crying weakly and throwing up in his nurse's arms. He is

unaware of what is happening around him. The baby, at this stage, is without teeth, without vision, without taste and without anything.

The last stage of all, which ends this eventful life, is when man becomes senile and enters his second childhood. He is again unaware of what is happening around him. This final stage is when he is once more without teeth, without vision, without taste and without anything.

**7. (A) The poem is entirely metaphorical. Pick out the comparisons from the extract:**

- (a) world - stage
- (b) actors - players
- (c) births and deaths - entrances and exits
- (d) school boy - a snail
- (e) the lover sigh- a furnace
- (f) spotted leopard– bearded soldier
- (g) last stage (old age)– The second childishness

**(B) Pick out from the poem two examples of each.**

**(a) Simile**

- Ans.** 1) And shining morning face, creeping like snail.  
2) Sighing like furnace, with a woeful ballad

**(b) Onomatopoeia**

- Ans.** 1) Mewling and puking in the nurse's arms.  
2) And whistles in his sound. Last scene of all,

**(c) Alliteration**

- Ans.** 1) They have their exits and their entrances  
2) For his shrunk shank, and his big manly voice,

**(d) Metaphor**

- Ans.** 1) All the world's a stage  
2) And all the men and women merely players

**(e) Inversion**

- Ans.** 1) Made to his mistress' eyebrow. Then a soldier  
2) With eyes severe and beard of formal cut,

**(f) Transferred Epithet**

- Ans.** 1) Into the lean and slippered pantaloons,

2) His youthful hose, well saved, a world too wide

**Read the summary of the play 'As You Like It' by William Shakespeare using the Internet.**

**Find out which character has narrated the above poem and on what occasion. Also, make a list of the characters of the play.**

**Ans.** The character who has narrated the above poem in the play 'As You Like It' by William Shakespeare is Jacques. He narrates it in Act II, Scene VII in reply to an idea given by Orlando.

Some of the other characters in the play are: Celia, Rosalind, Orlando, Oliver, Duke Senior, Duke Frederick, Touchstone, etc.

**9. Read the poem again and write an appreciation of the poem in paragraph format.**

**Ans. Paragraph Format**

The poem 'All the World's a Stage' by William Shakespeare is taken from Shakespeare's play 'As you like it'. It is a monologue (a loud speech to oneself) by one of the characters in the play. In this poem Shakespeare compares life to a stage. He has divided life into seven stages, each having its own varied qualities and features. The theme of the poem is the cycle of life. It tells us how one starts out an infant helpless, without understanding, and ends the same way, without being aware of what is happening around one.

The poem is written in blank verse i.e. there is no rhyme scheme, but there is a steady rhythm of five beats in each line. There are many figures of speech like Simile, Alliteration and Repetition, but the one that stands out is Metaphor. In the lines 'All the world's a stage. And all men and women are merely players', there is an implied comparison between two different things.

The special feature of the poem is the imagery

Many of the lines create a picture before our eyes and help us to imagine the seven stages in man's life. The narrative style used by the poet gives continuity to the poem, where one stage smoothly goes into the next. This is one of the most famous and quoted poems of Shakespeare. It is entirely metaphorical. My favourite line is 'All the world's a stage, And all men and women are merely players'. I like this line because it describes correctly how we must look at life. Like the poem because it shows us the cycle of life, of which everyone is a part.