

1.4 All the World's a Stage

Warming Up!

1. Pair work

- Talk to your friend about all the things related to 'Seven.'
For example : Seven wonders of the world.
- Pair up with your partner and name those given below all of the under :
 - (a) The seven wonders of the world
 - (b) The seven continents
 - (c) The seven colours of the rainbow
 - (d) The seven notes of the music
 - (e) The seven seas of the world

2. Life is often compared to many things. Write down 7 things that life can be compared to and justify the comparison. For example,

- (a) Life is a keyboard, because if you press the right keys you have typed a good destiny.
- (b)
- (c)
- (d)
- (e)
- (f)
- (g)

3. Match the approximate ages with the stages.

No.	Age-group			Stages
1	Birth to 2 years		a	teenage/adolescence
2	3 years to 12 years		b	old age/second childhood
3	13 years to 17 years		c	middle-age
4	18 years to about 44 years		d	babyhood/infancy
5	About 45 years to 60 years		e	senior citizen/elderly person
6	65 years up to 75 to 80 years		f	adulthood
7	Above 80 years		g	childhood



All the World's a Stage



William Shakespeare (1564-1616) was an English poet, playwright and actor, widely regarded as the greatest writer in the English language and the world's prominent dramatist. He is often called England's national poet and the "Bard of Avon".

This poem is taken from his play 'As You Like It'. Here, he compares the world to a stage where the drama of human life is enacted.

- **players** : actors
- ◆ *What do 'exits' and 'entrances' refer to?*
- **puking** : throwing up, vomiting
- **satchel** : school bag
- **woeful ballad** : sad poem/song
- **pard** : poetical short form of 'leopard'
- ◆ *Why is reputation like a bubble?*
- **cannon's mouth** : facing great danger to life
- **with good capon lined** : with excess fat from careless eating habits
- **saws** : sayings
- **youthful hose** : closefitting covering for legs.
- **shank** : legs (knee to ankle)

All the world's a stage,
And all the men and women merely **players**;
They have their exits and their entrances,
And one man in his time plays many parts,
His acts being seven ages. At first, the infant,
Mewling and **puking** in the nurse's arms.
Then the whining schoolboy, with his **satchel**
And shining morning face, creeping like snail
Unwillingly to school. And then the lover,
Sighing like furnace, with a **woeful ballad**
Made to his mistress' eyebrow. Then a soldier,
Full of strange oaths and bearded like the **pard**,
Jealous in honour, sudden and quick in quarrel,
Seeking the bubble reputation
Even in the **cannon's mouth**. And then the justice,
In fair round belly **with good capon lined**,
With eyes severe and beard of formal cut,
Full of wise **saws** and modern instances;
And so he plays his part. The sixth age shifts
Into the lean and slippered pantaloon,
With spectacles on nose and pouch on side;
His **youthful hose**, well saved, a world too wide
For his shrunk **shank**, and his big manly voice,



Turning again toward childish **treble**, pipes
And whistles in his sound. Last scene of all,
That ends this strange eventful history,
Is **second childishness** and mere **oblivion**,
Sans teeth, sans eyes, sans taste, sans everything.

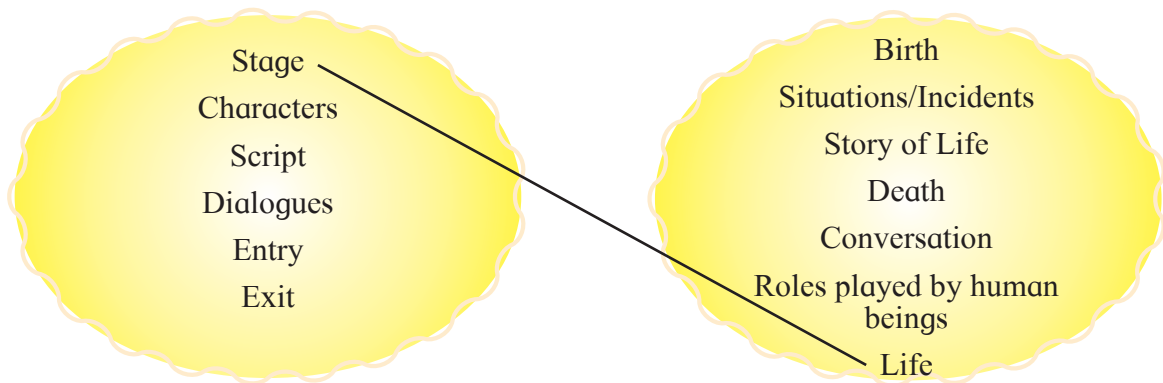
– William Shakespeare

♦ What is the major difference noticed in the 5th and 6th stage of life?

- **treble** : (here) three times weaker than
- **second childishness** : a return to the helpless, ignorant state of a child
- **oblivion** : the state of being unaware or unconscious of surroundings and happenings
- **sans** : without

ENGLISH WORKSHOP

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



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

Ages of Man	Role	Qualities/Actions
1	1. 2.
2	1. 2.
3	1. 2.
4	1. 2.
5	1. 2.
6	1. 2.
7	1. 2.

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

2nd stage and 4th stage

.....

.....

3rd stage and 5th stage

.....

.....

1st stage and 7th (last) stage

.....

.....

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

(a) School boy

(2nd stage)

(b) Soldier

(4th stage)

(c) Judge

(5th stage)

(d) Senior citizen

(6th stage)

5. You will notice that there is no Rhyme-scheme in the poem. It appears similar to the poem 1.1 'Where the Mind is Without Fear' by Tagore.

However Tagore's poem has no steady rhythm/meter either it is called Free Verse. Shakespeare uses lines with a steady rhythm of 5 beats in each. It is termed as Blank Verse. (No rhyme-scheme but uniformity in rhythm)

Copy the lines from "And all the men and women merely players" to "sudden and quick in quarrel". Put a stress mark on each of the syllables stressed in the lines as - for example, And áll the mén and wómen mérely p'layers;

6. Think and write on your own.

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

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

(c) The last (7th) stage of life sounds very sad and miserable. How can you make old age also cheerful and happy ?

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

(a) world

(b) actors

(c) birth and death



- (d) school boy
- (e) the lover's sigh
- (f) spotted leopard
- (g) last stage (old age)

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

- (a) Simile (1)
(2)
- (b) Onomatopoeia (1)
(2)
- (c) Alliteration (1)
(2)
- (d) Metaphor (1)
(2)
- (e) Inversion (1)
(2)
- (f) Transferred Epithet (1)
(2)

8. 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 all the characters of the play.
9. Read the poem again and write an appreciation of the poem in a paragraph format. (Refer to page no. 5)

