

CHAPTER 13 ALL THE WORLD'S A STAGE

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

A1. Answer the following questions.

Q1. What are the seven stages of a person's life? Mention each stage's notable characteristics.

ANS Shakespeare conveys that human life can be divided into seven stages. The first stage is that of an infant who is totally helpless and dependent. Then the second stage is that of the school-going boy. He is unwilling to go to school. In the third stage, man plays the role of a lover who heaves deep sighs in the absence of his beloved. In the next stage, he is an energetic, rash soldier who is ready to sacrifice even his life for short lived reputation. In the fifth stage, he plays the role of prosperous, well fed judge. He shows off his wisdom and knowledge to impress others. Then in the sixth stage he is a weak, thin old man. He looks funny in his loose clothes. The last stage is that of senility when man becomes childlike. He loses his reflexes and senses. Thus, ends the drama of his life.

Q2. Why does the school boy walk at a snail's pace? Is he not happy?

ANS. The schoolboy dislikes going to school whining about it hence walks very slowly to delay it as much as possible.

Q3. What makes the soldier quick in quarrel?

Ans. The youthful energy and a fierce passion within the man as a soldier makes him hot headed and hot blooded hence he is 'quick to quarrel'.

Q4. How does the man play his part as the justice?

Ans. In his fifth age man plays his part as justice by gaining enough knowledge and wisdom throughout the years of his life, thus appearing wise.

A2. Answer these questions with reference to the context.

1. **'All the world's a stage, and all men and women are merely players,
They have their exits and entrances'**

A. What has been the world compared to? How?

Ans. The world has been compared with a stage and the men and women in it are merely playing a part in it like a play. The world like a stage has its exits [deaths] and entrances [births].

B. Explain exit and entrance.

Ans. The world which has been compared to a stage has its exits and entrances for the characters like a real stage. These exits and entrances are the symbolic birth and death of the people who are inhabiting the world in the form of players.

C. Name the figure of speech used in these lines.

Ans. The figure of speech used is Metaphor.

2

Last scene of all

That ends this strange eventful history

Is second childishness and mere oblivion

A. Which scene is been spoken about here?

Ans. The last stage of life is being referred to here that is when the man is far too old and weak.

B. How is the last act like second childhood?

Ans. The last act is like a second childhood because man becomes too weak to be able to fend for himself relying on the care of others in order to survive like a child does.

C. What are the characteristics of this stage?

Ans. The defining characteristics of this stage are extreme weakness with age and loss of teeth and poor sight and hearing. The man becomes significantly vulnerable having lost almost everything that makes life worth living.

A3. Think and answer.

Q. Which stage do you think is the happiest and which is the saddest one? Give reasons for your answer? (Open Response)

Ans: In the 3rd stage of life man might be the happiest full of youthful energy and in love and happy however it is in the 7th and final stage that man is truly sad having grown old and weak and lonely.
