

## The Seven Ages of Man From "As You Like It" by William Shakespeare

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, (4)  
His acts being seven ages. At first the infant,  
Mewling and puking in the nurse's arms.  
Then, the whining school-boy 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's eyebrow. Then a soldier, (11)  
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 (19)  
Into the lean and slipper'd 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, (25)  
That ends this strange eventful history,  
Is second childishness and mere oblivion,  
Sans teeth, sans eyes, sans taste, sans everything.

### Vocabulary

Players—actors  
Satchel—bookbag  
Pard—leopard  
Jealous—jealousy  
Capon lined—stomach lined with a rooster (well fed)  
Saws—wise sayings (advice)  
Instances—examples  
Pantaloons—weak foolish man  
Shank—calf of the leg  
Sans—without (French word)



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### Metaphor

- A direct comparison between two unlike nouns (persons, places, things) without using the words "like" or "as".
- A metaphor can be single word, but it can also run throughout out a sentence, a paragraph, or even a poem.
- Metaphors that run throughout a poem are called **extended metaphors**.

A *metaphor* makes a comparison, and in doing so shapes our perception of something.

- If we say, "Time is a river," we're noting a certain similarity between the two. Yet we know they aren't identical. We may mean that time is fluid, it flows by, has currents, and perhaps empties into some vast ocean (future), but we know that time is not actually composed of water.

### Student Activities

**Directions:** Answer the questions below in your poetry notebook.

1. **Read lines 1-4. What is the main metaphor** (what two things are being compared)? Is this an effective comparison? Why? Why not? **Hint:** \_\_\_\_\_ is compared to \_\_\_\_\_.
2. **Read lines 25-28. Identify the metaphor** (what two things are being compared)? Is this an effective comparison? Why? Why not?
3. Complete the **figurative language chart** (handout)
4. Complete the **Power of Three** group activity project.

**Directions:** Answer the question below in a well-developed paragraph 10-12 sentences.

5. **What is the main metaphor** of this excerpt? Make sure you **identify** what **two things** are **being compared** throughout the poem. **Is it an effective** comparison? Explain.
6. **Do you agree with the main message** of this selection? Why? Why not? Use specific details to support your response.

#### **Think about the following:**

- Do you like the way you felt after reading the poem?
- Do you have a positive or negative reaction to the subject of the poem?
- Does the speaker of the poem have a positive attitude?

## Power of Three: Group Activity



**Form groups of three and do one (1) of the following:**

- (A) Produce a graphic narrative of the *Seven Ages of Man* using figures of speech in the original text.
- (B) Produce a modern version (manga, etc.) of the *Seven Ages of Man* including updated figures of speech
- (C) Produce a caricature/cartoon version of the *Seven Ages of Man* including figures of speech

Remember to include the following:

1. A drawing (newly created main images—figures of speech)
2. A caption (the heading for each picture)
3. Speech or thought bubbles
4. Appropriate design features (color, close-up, sound devices, onomatopoeia, etc.)
5. Show whether you agree or disagree with Shakespeare's rather bleak outlook on life.
6. **The final product should be about the size about 11 by 14 (half a piece of bristle board)**

### **Optional Projects (School and Home-based)**

- (D) Produce and present a movie-maker style project with images and music created on your cell phones
- (E) Produce and present to class a video dramatization based on the images in the *Seven Ages of Man*.

Remember to include the following before starting:

1. A script or storyboard
2. Visual representations of each stage
3. Speech, Costumes, Music, Sound FX, etc.
4. Appropriate design features (color, lighting, close-up, sound )
5. Show whether you agree or disagree with Shakespeare's rather bleak outlook on life.
6. The final product should be as professional as possible—use apps there are some good ones for iPads.
7. **Projects D&E must be approved by your teacher and group members are responsible for providing technology (cameras, etc.), locating editing programs and uploading presentations.**