

ALL THE WORLD'S A STAGE

- WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

Textual Questions

2. Answer the following questions briefly in a sentence or two.

. ***"And they have their exits and their entrances"***

a) What do the words 'exits' and 'entrances' mean ?

'Entrance' and 'exit' mean birth and death respectively.

b) What is the world compared to?

The world is compared to a stage.

c) What is the first stage of a human's life?

'Infant' is the first stage of a human's life.

d) Describe the second stage of life as depicted by Shakespeare.

The second stage is that of a school boy. He has a shining face yet is unwilling to go to school.

e) How does a man play a lover's role?

Man as a lover sighs like a furnace. He makes a woeful ballad to attract the attention of his mistress.

f) Bring out the features of the fourth stage of man as described by the poet.

The fourth stage of man is a soldier. He is full of strange oaths for the country. He has a beard like a leopard. He is jealous for honour and violent at times.

g) When does a man become a judge? How?

A man becomes a judge when he becomes mature. He has a large belly and a beard of formal cut. He is serious and firm.

h) Which stage of man's life is associated with the 'shrunk shank'?

"Shrunk - shank' is associated with the stage of old age. He has his manly voice turned into a childish treble.

i) Why is the last stage called second childhood?

The last stage is called the second childhood because as in the case of a child, the old man has no teeth, no vision, no taste and has nothing. He is forgotten by all.

4. Read the poem once again carefully and identify the figure of speech that has been used in each of the following lines from the poem.

(a) *All the world's a stage*

Metaphor

(6) *And all the men and women merely players*

Metaphor

(c) *And shining morning face, creeping like snail*

Simile

(d) *Full of strange oaths, and bearded like the pard,*

Simile

(e) Seeking the bubble reputation

Metaphor

(f) *His youthful hose, Well sav'd, a World too wide*

Alliteration

(g) *and his big manly voice, Turning again toward childish treble*

Antithesis (use of opposite words)

Pick out the words in 'alliteration in the following lines.

(a) *And all the men and women merely players*

(i) men, merely

(ii) and, a11

(b) And one man in his time plays many parts,

Plays, Parts

(c) Jealous in honour, sudden and quick in quarrel.

quick, quarrel

6. Read the given lines and answer the questions that follow:

(a) Then the whining school-boy, with his satchel

And shining morning face, creeping like snail

Unwillingly to school.

(i) Which stage of life is being referred to here by the poet?

The poet is referring to the second stage of life.

(ii) What are the characteristics of this stage?

At this stage, as a school-going boy, he has a bright face in the morning. But he shows his reluctance to go to school by creeping like a snail. He is not ready to take up his responsibility as a student.

(iii) How does the boy go to school?

He slings his bag over his shoulders, and goes to school slowly like a snail.

(iv) Which figure of speech has been employed in the second line?

The figure of speech used in the second line is simile. The school boy is compared to a snail.

(b).... 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.

(i) What is the soldier ready to do?

The soldier is ready to stand in front of the gun for the sake of protecting honour and reputation.

(ii) Explain 'bubble reputation'.

A bubble is empty. So by 'bubble reputation', the poet means that reputation or glory is short-lived.

(iii) What are the distinguishing features of this stage?

In the fourth stage of life, a man exhibits distinguishing features. He is aggressive and ambitious by nature. He takes great care of reputation and he is even ready to face the cannon to protect it. His temper is unpredictable and becomes violent during arguments.

(c)And then the justice,

In fair round belly with good capon lin'd,

With eyes severe and beard of formal cut,

Full of wise saws and modern instances

(i) Whom does 'Justice' refer to?

'Justice' refers to a man who has maturity and wisdom to know what is right and wrong.

(ii) Describe his appearance.

He has become fat from eating good chicken. He has sharp eyes and his beard is cut of a formal style.

(iii) How does he behave with the people around him?

He is firm and serious with the people around him.

(iv) What does he do to show his wisdom?

He makes use of lot of wise sayings in his speech. He quotes instances from modern times to prove his point.

ADDITIONAL

Read the lines and the questions that follow.

1. All the world's a stage,

And all the men and women merely players;

(a) What is the world compared to?

The world is compared to a stage.

(b) Who are compared to players or actors?

Men and women are compared to players or actors.

(c) Name the figure of speech.

Metaphor-The world is compared to a stage.

2. They have their exits and their entrances,

And one man in his time plays many parts,

His acts being seven ages.

(a) Trace the words that stands for birth and death.

The word "entrances" stands for birth and the word "exits" stands for death.

(b) What does the word 'time' mean in this context?

The word 'time' means lifetime.

(c) What does the word 'parts' mean?

The word 'parts' means characters / roles.

(d) How many characters does a man have to play during his lifetime?

During his lifetime, a man has to play seven characters.

3. At first the infant

Mewling and puking in the nurse's arms;

(a) What is the first role that a man has to perform?

The first role that a man has to perform is that of an infant.

(b) What is the characteristic of this stage?

At the first stage as an infant, he mewls and pukes in the nurse's arms. He is completely dependent.

(c) What is 'mewling'?

"Mewling" is a small weak noise that a cat makes.

(d) What does the word 'puking' mean?

The word 'puking' means vomiting.

4. Then the whining school-boy, with his satchel

And shining morning face, creeping like snail

Unwillingly to school.

(a) What is a 'satchel'?

A 'satchel' is a shoulder bag.

(b) How does the school-boy appear in the morning?

In the morning, the school-boy appears happy with a shining face.

(c) Is the boy happy to go to school?

No, the boy is not happy to go to school.

(d) What is the school-boy compared to?

The school-boy is compared to a snail.

(e) Bring out the meaning of 'whining'.

The word 'whining' means expressing unhappiness / complaining.

(e) Bring out the meaning of 'whining'.

(f) Write down the words in alliteration.

school, satchel

(9) Trace an instance of Internal Rhyme.

The words (i) 'whining', 'shining', (ii) 'morning' and 'creeping' are instances of internal rhyme.

(h) Pick out the rhyming words.

The rhyming words are 'satchel' and 'snail'.

(i) Bring out the meaning of 'creeping' and what does it suggest?

The word 'creeping' means walking slowly. It suggests that the school-boy is unwilling to attend school and hence walks slowly to the school.

5. And then the lover,

Sighing like furnace, with a woeful ballad

Made to his mistress 'eyebrow.

(a) Which stage of man's life is depicted in these lines?

The third stage of man's life is depicted in these lines.

(b) What is a 'ballad'?

A ballad is a slow sentimental, romantic song.

(c) What does the word 'woeful' mean?

The word 'woeful' means unhappy.

(d) Identify the figure of speech in the second line.

Simile-sighing like a furnace.

(e) How does the lover express his unhappiness?

The lover expresses his unhappiness by sighing like a furnace and by writing sorrowful ballads.

(f) What is a furnace?

A furnace is a place where fire is made.

**6. 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.**

(a) Which stage of life is being described here?

The fourth stage of life is being described here.

(b) What is the soldier compared to?

The soldier is compared to a leopard.

(c) Bring out the meaning of 'oaths'.

The word 'oaths' means promises.

(d) Explain 'jealous in honour'.

It means that the young man takes great care of his honour as a good man.

(e) Explain the phrase 'sudden' and 'quick in quarrel'.

It means that in an argument, the young man might suddenly become violent.

(f) What does 'quarrel' mean in this context ?

Here, the word 'quarrel' means argument.

