

Session 1, Reading Selection #3

The following selection is from William Shakespeare's play *As You Like It*. Read the selection below. Use information from the selection to answer the questions that follow.

The Seven Ages of Man

from *As You Like It*
by William Shakespeare

- Jacques*: 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,
5 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,
10 Sighing like furnace, with a woeful ballad
Made to his mistress' eyebrow. Then a soldier,
Full of strange oaths and bearded like the pard¹,
Jealous in honour, sudden and quick in quarrel,
Seeking the bubble² reputation
15 Even in the cannon's mouth. And then the justice,
In fair round belly with good capon³ lined,
With eyes severe and beard of formal cut,
Full of wise saws and modern instances⁴;
And so he plays his part. The sixth age shifts
20 Into the lean and slippered pantaloon⁵
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
25 And whistles in his sound. Last scene of all,
That ends this strange eventful history,
Is second childishness and mere oblivion,
Sans⁶ teeth, sans eyes, sans taste, sans everything.

¹ *pard* — leopard or large cat

² *bubble* — short-lived

³ *capon* — a young, fattened chicken

⁴ *instances* — examples to prove a point

⁵ *pantaloon* — foolish old man in Italian comedy

⁶ *sans* — without

“The Seven Ages of Man” from *AS YOU LIKE IT* by William Shakespeare. In the public domain.

English Language Arts, Grade 10

Session 1, Multiple-Choice Questions

- 14 In line 3, what do the words “exits” and “entrances” represent in this selection?
- A. sorrow and love
 - B. illness and health
 - C. death and birth
 - D. misfortune and happiness

Reporting Category/Learning Standard for Item 14: *Literature/Learning Standard 12*

- 15 How does Shakespeare characterize a soldier in lines 11–15?
- A. A soldier is short-tempered and eager for fame.
 - B. A soldier is loving and faithful to his mistress.
 - C. A soldier is honorable and loyal to the throne.
 - D. A soldier is jealous and cowardly in battle.

Reporting Category/Learning Standard for Item 15: *Literature/Learning Standard 12*

- 16 In lines 23–25, what does Shakespeare **most likely** mean by “his big manly voice, / Turning again toward childish treble, pipes / And whistles in his sound”?
- A. The aging man plays many musical instruments.
 - B. The aging man’s voice changes from deep to high.
 - C. The aging man snores loudly in his sleep.
 - D. The aging man sings playful songs to his grandchildren.

Reporting Category/Learning Standard for Item 16: *Literature/Learning Standard 15*

- 17 In line 27, the word *oblivion* **most likely** means
- A. liveliness.
 - B. courage.
 - C. nothingness.
 - D. misery.

Reporting Category/Learning Standard for Item 17: *Language/Learning Standard 4*

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Session 1, Open-Response Question

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.

- 18 Explain what Shakespeare means by the lines above. Use evidence from each of the ages to support your answer.

Reporting Category/Learning Standard for Item 18: Literature/Learning Standard 12