

St. Andrews Scots Sr. Sec. School
9th Avenue, I.P. Extension, Patparganj, Delhi 110092
Session 2024-2025 Notes

Class: IX

Subject: English

Topic: The Seven Ages (Poem)

Q1. What character does the poet associate with the fourth and the fifth stages of man?

Ans. The fourth stage is of a soldier He is fierce like a leopard, full of vigour and can easily be provoked he is jealous and always defensive to save his honour. In the fifth stage he is fat and huge. There is somberness in his eyes and his beard gives him as formal look. He is always full of advice for others and performs the role of a justice.

Q2. What universal themes does the poem explore?

Ans. The poem the Seven Ages by william Shakespeare touches on themes like the passage of time, mortality, the universalisality of human experience and the changing nature of identity. The poem underscores the rapid and inevitable nature of time passage. Each 'part" Is fleeting, leading inexorably to the next.

Q3. In what sense are men and women are merely players on the stage of life?

Ans. Men and women on earth are merely players in the drama of life. At birth, they enter the stage and on their death they leave it. They play seven roles on the stage depending on their age. Man passes through seven stages according to his age. Each stage has certain special characteristics that man follows. Thus, he plays the part assigned to him.

Q4. Describe in brief the seven stages in man's life.

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. The second stage is that school going boy. He is unwilling to go to school and is creeping like a snail. 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 a Soldier who is ready to sacrifice even his life for short lived reputation. In the fifth stage he plays role of prosperous, well fed judge. He shows off his wisdom and knowledge to impress others. Then in the sixth stage he is weak, thin old man. He looks funny in his loose clothes. The last stage is that of salinity when a man becomes

child like. He loses his reflexes and senses. Thus, ends the drama of his life.

Q5. Last scene of all,

That ends this strange eventful history,

Is second childishness and mere oblivion,

Sans teeth, sans eyes, sans taste, sans everything.

A) What does the actor do after this scene?

Ans. After this scene the actor makes his exit that is he dies.

B) Why does the poet call this stage “ second childishness”?

Ans. The poet calls this stage second childishness as the man needs to be cared for like a child.

C) Why does the poet call life “strange eventful history”?

Ans. The poet calls life a strange eventful history as life is full of unseen incidents and occurrences which cannot be pre - determined.