

1. **Central Idea:** Life is like a stage where people play different roles at different ages.
2. **Seven Stages of Life:**
 - **Infant:** A crying and helpless baby who needs care (mewling and puking).
 - **School-boy:** A young boy who doesn't like going to school, walks slowly like a snail.
 - **Lover:** A young man in love, writing sad love songs for his beloved.
 - **Soldier:** A brave but reckless man, seeking fame, ready to fight.
 - **Justice:** A wise, middle-aged judge with a round belly, giving advice.
 - **Old Man (Pantaloon):** An old person who becomes weak, wears loose clothes, and has a childish voice.
 - **Second Childhood:** The final stage where a person becomes weak, forgets things, and loses senses (sans teeth, sans eyes, sans everything).
3. **Figures of Speech:**
 - **Simile:** Comparing two things using "like" or "as."
Example: "Creeping like snail" (school-boy walks slowly like a snail).
 - **Metaphor:** Comparing two things without using "like" or "as."
Example: "All the world's a stage" (world = stage, people = actors).
4. **About the Author:**
 - William Shakespeare (1564–1616), known as the "Bard of Avon," was a famous English poet, playwright, and actor.
 - His works include 37 plays, 154 sonnets, and two long poems, translated into many languages.

Meanings of Important Words and Phrases

1. **Mewling:** Crying softly (like a baby).
2. **Puking:** Vomiting (what babies often do).
3. **Whining:** Complaining or crying in a low voice.
4. **Satchel:** A small school bag.
5. **Furnace:** A noisy boiler (used to describe the lover's loud sighs).
6. **Woeful ballad:** A sad love song.
7. **Pard:** A leopard (describes the soldier's beard).
8. **Bubble reputation:** Fame that doesn't last long.
9. **Capon-lined:** A belly full of rich food like chicken (describes the justice).

10. **Saw:** A wise saying or advice.
 11. **Pantaloon:** A foolish old man wearing loose trousers.
 12. **Hose:** Tight stockings or pants worn in the past.
 13. **Shank:** The part of the leg between the knee and ankle.
 14. **Treble:** A high-pitched, childish voice.
 15. **Oblivion:** Forgetting everything or being forgotten.
 16. **Sans:** Without (French word used in English).
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Key Questions and Answers

1. **How is infancy described?**
 - Infancy is the first stage where a baby cries (mewling) and vomits (puking) in the nurse's arms, showing helplessness and dependency.
 2. **Which stage do you identify with?**
 - As an 8th-grade student, you might relate to the "school-boy" stage because you go to school with a bag (satchel) and may not always enjoy it.
 3. **Qualities of the soldier?**
 - The soldier is brave, uses strong words (strange oaths), has a beard like a leopard, is quick to fight, and seeks short-lived fame (bubble reputation).
 4. **How is the sixth age described? How is it different?**
 - The sixth age is the "pantaloon" (old man) who is weak, wears loose clothes, has glasses, and a childish voice. It contrasts with earlier stages (like the strong soldier or wise justice) because the person becomes frail and childlike again.
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Figures of Speech Examples

- **Simile:**
 - "Creeping like snail" (school-boy's slow walk).
 - "Sighing like furnace" (lover's loud sighs).
 - "Bearded like the pard" (soldier's beard compared to a leopard).
- **Metaphor:**
 - "All the world's a stage" (world = stage).
 - "All the men and women merely players" (people = actors).
 - "The bubble reputation" (fame = fragile bubble).

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