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B.A Part-1, S.No 20, Subsidiary English, Topic: Summary of *All the World's a Stage*

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Summary of the poem *All the World's a Stage*

The present poem is an extract from Shakespeare's *As you Like It*. These lines are spoken by Jaques in the original drama. He is a man with reflective melancholy and rather cynical turn of mind. In this poem he describes the seven ages in the life of every man. As it is viewed by Jaques men's life on earth is like a representation of a role on a stge. Men and women are no better than the actors who take part in the stage-play. At birth, they enter the play on death they exit it. Every man in his life plays seven roles. Human life is generally speaking is divided into seven parts in which he plays a particular role. These seven stages in human life are, as it were, seven acts of drama that everybody has to play in his or her life time.

The first stage of life is when he is an infant. In his stage of infancy every child is doing a similar activity that is puking and mewling in the nurse's and mother's arm. In this stage of life human beings are quite helpless creatures depending on others.

The second stage of life is childhood. In this stage every child is a whining schoolboy who is unwilling to go to school. He moves very slowly like a snail to his school with a bag on his back. His face is very shining and fresh.

Then in the third stage of life is filled with human desire of love. A boy becomes a lover. He writes poem in the praise of his beloved and sighs like a furnace for his beloved. It is the most passionate period of life. His sentimentalism then drives him to the strange follies and he pours out his heart on such fatuous theme such as the beauty of his Mistress eye-brow.

Then in the fourth stage of life everyman behaves like a soldier. He grows shaggy beard. He is filled with strange oath. He swears in an outlandish language. He becomes violent like a tiger. He is filled with human weakness of jealousy in honour.

Everybody is jealous of other's honour. They seek their own honour even at the great cost. He is only eager to pick up a quarrel.

Then in the fifth stage of life a man behaves as a judge. Like a judge he becomes corrupt and wise. He began to earn money even by wrong means but speaks like a wise man full of instances. He lives in a formal style of life so that no one might mistake his official position.

Then in the sixth stage of life a man finds himself a feeble man .He begins to shrink. It is a stage of life when a man loses his desire for power and whatever he has acquired in life, begins to lose. His body is withered up like a comic figure. He moves about his house in slippers. His eyesight is dim and he wears spectacles. He lives a stingy life.

The last stage of man's life is extreme old age. This may be called the return childhood. At this stage he loses all memory of the past His voice turns into a child's voice and events of past becomes a history. He is again without teeth, without taste, without eyes. This is a stage all that he made is gone.