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CLASS 12TH ENGLISH NOTES

Unit 10: All the World's a Stage (by William Shakespeare)

Complete English to Urdu Translation, Comprehensive Poem Summaries, Complete Exercise Solutions, Vocabulary & Grammar Solutions

Prepared for Academic Session 2026-27

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Pre-Reading Questions

Q1: What do you think Shakespeare means by saying, "All the world's a stage"?

Answer: Shakespeare means that the entire world is like a theatrical stage, and human life is like a play. People are simply actors who enter the stage at birth, perform different assigned roles throughout their lives, and leave the stage at death.

Q2: In what ways is human life similar to a drama or play?

Answer: Human life is similar to a drama because it has a defined beginning (birth/entrance) and end (death/exit). Just like actors change costumes and play different characters in different scenes, humans adopt different roles (infant, student, lover, worker, elder) as they age through time.

Complete Poem Line-by-Line English to Urdu Translation

LINES 1 - 5 (INTRODUCTION & STAGE 1: THE INFANT)

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. At first the infant,
Mewling and puking in the nurse's arms.

یہ تمام دنیا ایک اسٹیج (تھئیٹر) کی طرح ہے،
اور تمام مرد اور عورتیں محض اداکار ہیں؛
ان کے نکلنے (موت) اور داخل ہونے (پیدائش) کے اپنے اپنے اوقات ہیں؛
اور ایک انسان اپنے دور میں کئی کردار ادا کرتا ہے،
اس کا عمل سات ادوار (مرحلے) پر مشتمل ہوتا ہے۔ سب سے پہلے شیرخوار بچہ (شیرخوارگی)،
جو دایہ کی گود میں روتا چیختا اور قے کرتا رہتا ہے۔

LINES 6 - 9 (STAGE 2: THE WHINING SCHOOLBOY)

And then the whining schoolboy, with his satchel
And shining morning face, creeping like snail
Unwillingly to school.

اور پھر شکایتیں کرتا ہوا اسکول کا بچہ، اپنے کتابوں والے بسٹے (سیچل) کے ساتھ
اور صبح کے دھکتے ہوئے چہرے کے ساتھ، گھونگھے (سینیل) کی طرح سستی سے رینگتا ہوا
بلا رغبت اور ناگواری سے اسکول کی طرف جاتا ہے۔

LINES 9 - 11 (STAGE 3: THE LOVER)

And then the lover,
Sighing like furnace, with a woeful ballad
Made to his mistress' eyebrow.

اور پھر عاشق کا کردار،
جو بھٹی (فرنس) کی طرح گرم آہس بھرتا ہے، اور اپنی محبوبہ کی ابرو (بھوؤں) کی تعریف میں
غمگین اور دردناک نظم (گیت) لکھتا ہے۔

LINES 11 - 15 (STAGE 4: THE SOLDIER)

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.

پھر ایک سپاہی (جوان)،
عجیب قسم کی قسموں سے بھرا ہوا، اور چپے (پارڈ) جیسی داڑھی والا،
عزت و غیرت کے معاملی میں حسد کرنے والا، لڑائی جھگڑے میں اچانک اور تیز،
اور عارضی (بلبلے جیسی) شہرت کی تلاش میں رہنے والا
حتیٰ کہ توپ کے منہ (موت کے خطرے) میں بھی کود پڑنے والا۔

LINES 15 - 19 (STAGE 5: THE JUSTICE)

And then the justice,
In fair round belly with good capon lined,
With eyes severe and beard of formal cut,
Full of wise saws and modern instances;
And so he plays his part.

اور پھر منصف (جج / دانشور)،
کھاپی کر موٹے گول پیٹ کے ساتھ،

سخت گیر آنکھوں اور باضابطہ کٹی ہوئی داڑھی کے ساتھ،
حکیمانہ کہاوتوں اور جدید مثالوں سے بھرا ہوا؛
اور اس طرح وہ اپنا یہ کردار ادا کرتا ہے۔

LINES 19 - 25 (STAGE 6: THE OLD MAN / PANTALON)

The sixth age shifts
Into the lean and slipper'd pantaloon,
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
And whistles in his sound.

چھٹا دور منتقل ہو جاتا ہے
ایک دبیلے پتلے اور چپل پہنے ہوئے بوڑھے آدمی (پینٹالون) میں،
ناک پر چشمہ اور سائیڈ پر تھیلی (پوچ) لٹکائے ہوئے؛
اس کی جوانی کی جرابیں / پانچامہ، جو سنبھال کر رکھا گیا تھا، اب اس کی سُکڑی ہوئی ٹانگ کے لیے
حد سے زیادہ کشادہ (کھلا) ہو چکا ہے؛ اور اس کی گر جدار مردانہ آواز،
دوبارہ بچوں جیسی باریک آواز میں بدل جاتی ہے، جو بولتے وقت
سیٹیوں اور باریک سروں جیسی آواز نکالتی ہے۔

LINES 25 - 28 (STAGE 7: SECOND CHILDISHNESS & OBLIVION)

Last scene of all,
That ends this strange eventful history,
Is second childishness and mere oblivion;
Sans teeth, sans eyes, sans taste, sans everything.

سب سے آخری منظر،
جو اس عجیب واقعات سے بھری تاریخ کا خاتمہ کرتا ہے،
وہ دوسرا بچپن اور مکمل فراموشی (بے خبری) ہے؛
دانتوں کے بغیر، آنکھوں کے بغیر، ذائقے کے بغیر، ہر چیز کے بغیر۔

Poem Summary (نظم کا خلاصہ)

Urdu Summary (اردو خلاصہ)

ولیم شکسپیئر کی نظم "آل دی ورلڈ ز اے اسٹیج" (یہ تمام دنیا ایک اسٹیج ہے) میں انسان کی زندگی کا تقابل ایک ڈرامے یا اسٹیج سے کیا گیا ہے۔ شاعر کے نزدیک دنیا ایک اسٹیج ہے اور تمام مرد اور عورتیں محض اداکار ہیں جو اپنی پیدائش کے وقت اس اسٹیج پر داخل ہوتے ہیں اور موت کے وقت رخصت ہو جاتے ہیں۔ اپنے لائف اسپان کے دوران، ایک انسان سات مختلف ادوار یا مراحل سے گزرتا ہے:

1. **شیر خوار بچہ (Infant):** وہ دایہ کی گود میں روتا اور تے کرتا ہے۔
2. **اسکول کا بچہ (Schoolboy):** وہ صبح کے چمکتے چہرے اور بستے کے ساتھ ناگواری سے گھونگھے کی طرح سست روی سے اسکول جاتا ہے۔
3. **عاشق (Lover):** وہ بھٹی کی طرح گرم آہیں بھرتا ہے اور اپنی محبوبہ کے لیے غمگین گیت لکھتا ہے۔
4. **سپاہی (Soldier):** وہ جذباتی، غیر مت مند، لڑائی کے لیے تیار اور توپ کے منہ میں بھی عارضی شہرت تلاش کرتا ہے۔
5. **جج / منصف (Justice):** وہ موٹے پیٹ، سخت نظروں، اور حکمت بھری مثالوں کے ساتھ ایک سنجیدہ اور تجربہ کار انسان ہوتا ہے۔
6. **ضعیف بوڑھا (Pantaloone):** وہ دبلا پتلا، چشمہ لگائے، ڈھلی ہوئی ٹانگوں اور بچوں جیسی باریک آواز والا بوڑھا بن جاتا ہے۔
7. **دوسرا بچپن (Second Childishness):** یہ زندگی کا آخری مرحلہ ہے جہاں انسان دانتوں، آنکھوں، ذائقے اور تمام صلاحیتوں سے محروم ہو کر بالکل شیر خوار بچے کی طرح بے بس اور لاچار ہو جاتا ہے۔

یہ نظم انسانی زندگی کی عارضی نوعیت اور بڑھاپے کی حتمی سچائی کو اجاگر کرتی ہے۔

English Summary

In the celebrated monologue "All the World's a Stage" from his play *As You Like It*, William Shakespeare presents an extended metaphor comparing the world to a theater and human beings to temporary actors. Every individual enters the world through birth, performs seven distinct roles, and exits through death.

The seven stages outlined in the poem are: 1. **The Infant:** Helplessly crying and vomiting in the nurse's arms. 2. **The Schoolboy:** Whining and unwillingly creeping like a snail to school. 3. **The Lover:** Passionate, sighing loudly, and composing romantic, sorrowful ballads. 4. **The Soldier:**

Seeking temporary fame ("bubble reputation") and brave enough to face mortal danger. 5. **The Justice:** Mature, well-fed, dignified, and full of wise proverbs and legal wisdom. 6. **The Pantaloon:** An old, frail man with slippers, spectacles, loose clothes, and a weakened, whistling voice. 7. **Second Childishness:** The final stage of utter helplessness and oblivion, devoid of teeth, sight, taste, and everything else.

The central theme emphasizes the impermanence of human life and the inevitable cyclical journey from childish helplessness back to complete physical decline.

About the Author

William Shakespeare (1564–1616) was a world-renowned English poet, playwright, and actor, widely regarded as the greatest writer in the English language. Born in Stratford-upon-Avon, England, he wrote 37 plays, 154 sonnets, and several narrative poems. His masterpieces include tragedies like *Hamlet*, *Macbeth*, and *Othello*, as well as famous comedies such as *As You Like It* and *Romeo and Juliet*. His works deeply explore timeless themes of human existence, love, ambition, and aging.

Vocabulary Glossary

Word	English Meaning	Urdu Meaning (اردو معنی)
entrances	Coming onto the stage; birth	داخلہ / پیدائش
exits	Leaving the stage; death	رخصت / موت
justice	Judge; a wise and mature person	منصف / جج
mewling	Crying softly like a baby	بچے کی طرح میاؤں میاؤں کرنا / رونا
oblivion	Forgetfulness; loss of awareness	فراموشی / بے خبری

Word	English Meaning	Urdu Meaning (اردو معنی)
pantaloons	An old, foolish, frail man wearing slippers	ضعیف بوڑھا آدمی
pard	Leopard	چیتا / تینڈوا
players	Actors in a play; human beings	اداکار / انسان
quarrel	Fight or argument	لڑائی / جھگڑا
reputation	Fame or respect earned by actions	شہرت / نام و نمود
sans	Without	بغیر / بن
satchel	A small bag used for carrying books	کتابوں والا بستہ
shank	The lower part of the leg	پنڈلی / ٹانگ
stage	A platform for performance; the world	اسٹیج / دنیا
treble	High-pitched voice	باریک آواز
woeful	Full of sorrow or sadness	غمگین / دردناک

Reading and Critical Thinking Exercises

A. Comprehension Questions & Answers

1. Explain the metaphor "All the world's a stage" in your own words.

Answer: The metaphor directly compares the entire physical world to a theater stage. It implies that human lives are scripted performances where individuals take on various roles, enter at birth, act out their designated phases, and leave permanently at death.

2. The poem describes seven stages of life. Pick any three and explain how people might experience them differently.

Answer:

- **The Schoolboy:** Some children may dislike school and drag their feet like the poem's boy, while others might be enthusiastic and eager learners.
- **The Soldier:** Some people seek honor through actual military service and bravery, while others fight energetic battles in careers, business, or competitive sports.
- **The Justice:** Some achieve wisdom, prestige, and stability in middle age, whereas others may struggle financially or face career instability.

3. How does Shakespeare use imagery to show the difference between youth and old age? Give examples from the text.

Answer: Shakespeare contrasts youthful energy with aged frailty through vivid sensory imagery:

- **Youth Imagery:** "Shining morning face", "sighing like furnace", and "bearded like the pard" project vitality, passion, and physical strength.
- **Old Age Imagery:** "Lean and slipper'd pantaloons", "spectacles on nose", "shrunk shank", and "childish treble" paint a clear visual and auditory picture of physical shrinking and vocal weakness.

4. Identify and explain two similes used in the poem and discuss what they reveal about the human stages.

Answer:

1. **"Creeping like snail":** Compares the schoolboy's slow movement to a snail, revealing his reluctance and dread toward going to school.

2. **"Sighing like furnace":** Compares the lover's deep, passionate sighs to a hot furnace, revealing the intense emotional heat and agony of romantic devotion.

5. What does Shakespeare suggest about the transient nature of life?

Answer: Shakespeare suggests that human life is highly temporary, fleeting, and cyclical. No status, youth, or physical power lasts forever. Every role is brief, and every person ultimately returns to a helpless state before exiting the world permanently.

6. Relate any two stages of life from the poem to real-life experiences you have observed or read about.

Answer:

1. **The Whining Schoolboy:** I often see young children crying or walking slowly behind their parents on school mornings, reluctant to leave home.
2. **The Pantaloon / Second Childishness:** I have observed elderly grandparents who require assistance with eating and walking, speaking in feeble voices, mirroring the helplessness described by Shakespeare.

7. Do you think comparing life to a stage is a realistic or symbolic idea?

Answer: It is both symbolic and realistic. Symbolically, it offers a poetic lens to view life's brevity and changing roles. Realistically, it accurately mirrors how humans naturally change responsibilities, appearances, and mindsets as time progresses.

8. Imagine a modern "stage of life". How would you describe the roles and challenges of people today in seven stages?

Answer: Modern stages could be: (1) Toddler, (2) School Student, (3) College Student/Teenager, (4) Career Professional, (5) Parent/Provider, (6) Retired Senior, and (7) Dependent Elder. Today's challenges include digital distractions, career competition, and economic stability.

9. Which stage of life described in the poem do you find most interesting or relatable, and why?

Answer: I find the "Schoolboy" stage most relatable because almost everyone has experienced the morning reluctance to wake up and go to school, making it a universal and humorous human experience.

B. Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs)

#	Question	Options	Correct Answer
1	All the men and women merely <u>players</u> .	a. workers b. actors c. teachers d. leaders	b. actors
2	They have their <u>exits</u> and their <u>entrances</u> .	a. successes b. birthdays c. departures and arrivals d. celebrations	c. departures and arrivals
3	Mewling and <u>puking</u> in the nurse's arms.	a. sleeping b. vomiting c. laughing d. crawling	b. vomiting
4	And then the whining schoolboy, <u>creeping</u> like snail.	a. singing happily b. running quickly c. crawling/moving slowly d. studying seriously	c. crawling/moving slowly
5	Sighing like furnace, with a woeful <u>ballad</u> .	a. a short humorous story b. a sad or romantic song c. a historical speech d. a dramatic play	b. a sad or romantic song

#	Question	Options	Correct Answer
6	Seeking the <u>bubble</u> reputation.	a. permanent b. short-lived / temporary c. noble d. powerful	b. short-lived / temporary
7	And then the <u>justice</u> , in fair round belly.	a. policeman b. judge c. soldier d. farmer	b. judge

Vocabulary, Grammar & Literary Devices Solutions

A. Vocabulary Context Analysis

Word	Definition	Sentence	Context in the Poem
Satchel	A small bag with a shoulder strap for books	The boy picked up his heavy satchel before leaving for school.	Describing the schoolboy carrying his books to school.
Woeful	Full of grief, sorrow, or misery	He sang a woeful tune after losing his beloved pet.	Describing the sad romantic poem composed by the lover.
Pard	A leopard or panther	The soldier kept a fierce beard like a pard.	Describing the wild and fierce beard of the young soldier.
Capon	A fat rooster used as rich food	The prosperous merchant enjoyed a feast of fat capon.	Referring to the rich diet that gave the judge a fat belly.
Oblivion	The state of being unaware or forgotten	In deep sleep, he sank into total oblivion.	Describing the final stage of loss of memory and consciousness.

B. Solved Literary Devices in the Poem

1. Metaphor: Direct comparison without "like" or "as".

Lines 1-2: "All the world's a stage, / And all the men and women merely players."

2. Simile: Comparison using "like" or "as".

Examples: "Creeping like snail", "Sighing like furnace", "Bearded like the pard".

3. Imagery: Sensory language appealing to sight, sound, touch.

Example: "Sans teeth, sans eyes, sans taste, sans everything." (Visual and sensory deprivation).

4. Repetition: Repeated words for rhythmic emphasis.

Example: Repetition of "sans" (without) in the final line.

5. Personification: Giving human attributes to non-human things.

Example: "cannon's mouth" gives a human feature (mouth) to a weapon.

6. Irony: Contrast between expectations and reality.

Example: The last stage returns to "second childishness"—ending life in the same helpless state as it began.

C. Grammatical Aspects Explored

- **Simple Present Tense:** Expresses universal truths (e.g., "*All the world's a stage.*").
- **Possessive Form (Genitive):** Demonstrates ownership (e.g., "*The cannon's mouth.*").
- **Simile Structure:** Prepositional comparison structure (e.g., "*like + noun*" -> "*Creeping like snail*").
- **Participle Phrases:** Present participles (-ing) acting as descriptions (e.g., "*Seeking the bubble reputation*").
- **Ellipsis:** Omission of minor words for rhythm (e.g., "*Creeping like [a] snail*").
- **Negative Preposition ("Sans"):** French origin preposition meaning "without" repeated for dramatic impact.
- **Parallel Structure:** Grammatical balance across a list (e.g., "*Sans teeth, sans eyes, sans taste...*").
- **Contraction:** Combined forms with apostrophes (e.g., "*world's*" = *world is*).

Oral Communication Skills Dialogue Practice

Jahanzeb: Have you understood what Shakespeare means by, "All the world's a stage"?

Hunzala: Yes, he compares life to a stage and people to actors who perform different roles.

Jahanzeb: That's interesting. So, what are the seven stages he describes?

Hunzala: They are the infant, the schoolboy, the lover, the soldier, the justice, the old man, and the second childhood.

Jahanzeb: Why do you think he calls old age "second childhood"?

Hunzala: Because in old age, a person becomes weak and dependent again, just like a child.

Jahanzeb: Which stage do you find the most realistic?

Hunzala: I think the schoolboy stage is very realistic. Shakespeare describes him as unwilling to go to school, which still happens today.

Jahanzeb: True! I also like how he describes the lover, sighing like a furnace. It shows strong emotions.

Hunzala: Yes, and the soldier stage shows ambition and desire for reputation.

Jahanzeb: What message do you think Shakespeare gives through this poem?

Hunzala: He wants to show that life is temporary and full of changing roles. Everyone must pass through these stages.

Jahanzeb: I agree. It also teaches us to understand and accept the different phases of life.

Writing Skills Exercise

Modern Seven Stages of Human Life

Task: Write a descriptive paragraph (120-150 words) depicting 7 modern stages of life using metaphors, similes, and descriptive language.

In today's digital era, human existence remains a dynamic journey composed of seven modern phases. At first, the toddler explores the world, babbling softly in a crib. Soon, the school student emerges, carrying a heavy backpack and rushing **like a busy bee** to catch the morning bus. Next, the teenager navigates identity, scrolling through smartphones while seeking acceptance. Soon after, the ambitious professional enters the corporate arena; **the workplace is an endless battlefield** where they hustle for success. Mid-life brings the dedicated parent, balancing family and finances with steady wisdom. Eventually, the retired senior steps back, enjoying quiet evenings in peaceful contemplation. Finally, the elderly individual returns to complete dependence, relying on loved ones as the final curtain falls on life's digital stage.

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