

Ime: _____ Priimek: _____ Razred: _____

The following is an extract from Shakespeare's comedy *As You Like It*. Read it first, then do the exercises.

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,
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,
Sighing like furnace, with a woeful ballad
Made to his mistress' eyebrow. 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 canon's mouth. 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. The sixth age shifts
Into the lean and slippered pantaloone
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. Last scene of all,
That ends this strange eventful history,
Is second childishness and mere oblivion,
Sans teeth, sans eyes, sans taste, sans everything.

(As You Like It, 2. 7. 139-167)

to mewl (archaic): to cry
to puke: to vomit.
bearded like the pard: with a beard like a priest
capon: a castrated and fattened cock; considered a delicacy
wise saws: well-tried proverbs (clichés perhaps), contrasted
with modern examples.
pantaloone: trousers (archaic)
A reference to the figure of Pantalone in the Italian
Commedia dell' Arte tradition. The trousers from the earlier years
are now much too big for his bony body.
sans (French): without

**I. Shakespeare speaks of seven ages in our lives. Which?
Find and highlight them, then list them below.**



1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

7. *the last scene of all*

II. What is characteristic of each of them?

- in Shakespeare's opinion
- in your own opinion (Hopefully, your opinion is different from Shakespeare's. He is not serious; the play is a comedy.)

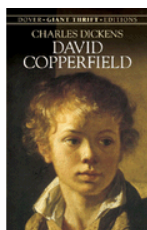
III. Which of the ages do you find best for yourself? Why?

IV. What are the *many parts* we play in these seven acts of our lives?

e.g. as the infant you can be: _____
a son / a daughter
a brother / a sister
a grandson / a granddaughter, etc. _____

Read the following extract from *David Copperfield* written by Charles Dickens and do the exercises.

CHAPTER 1
I AM BORN



Whether I shall turn out to be the hero of my own life, or whether that station will be held by anybody else, these pages must show. To begin my life with the beginning of my life, I record that I was born (as I have been informed and believe) on a Friday, at twelve o'clock at night. It was remarked that the clock began to strike, and I began to cry, simultaneously.

In consideration of the day and hour of my birth, it was declared by the nurse, and by some sage women in the neighbourhood who had taken a lively interest in me several months before there was any possibility of our becoming personally acquainted, first, that I was destined to be unlucky in life; and secondly, that I was privileged to see ghosts and spirits; both these gifts inevitably attaching, as they believed, to all unlucky infants of either gender, born towards the small hours on a Friday night.

http://www.ellopos.net/dickens/copperfield_text.htm

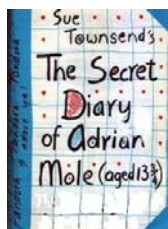
Answer the following questions with short answers (note form).

1. Which part of Dickens's book is the extract from? _____
2. When exactly was the person from this text born? _____
3. When did some women from the neighbourhood start to be interested in the baby?

4. What were the two predictions about the baby's future life?
The baby would a) _____
b) _____
5. Do you know on which day of the week you were born? _____
6. Are you superstitious? _____

Have you ever read the famous book *The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole Aged 13 ¾*?

Read the description of the book from <http://en.wikipedia.org/> and then fill in the table about the book.



It is the first book in the Adrian Mole series of comedic fiction, written by Sue Townsend. It focuses on the worries and regrets of an English teenager who believes himself to be an intellectual. It describes Adrian's desires and ambitions in life (to marry Pandora Braithwaite, become a published writer of poetry and novels, obtain financial security), and his complete failure to achieve them. The book is written in a diary style and set in 1981 and 1982. It chronicles the supposed intellectual awakening of Adrian Albert Mole, and his wonderings, worries and woes.

Author		Topic	
Fiction type		Main character	
Style of writing		Main character's age	
Setting		Main character's description	