

# YEAR 8 CHALLENGE

## LITERARY APPRECIATION

***Write an appreciation of Jacques's 'All the World's A Stage' speech, indicating clearly what comments you think he is making on the nature of life.***

Follow these simple points for an accurate and detailed answer.

- **Introduction** - What you will be looking at in your essay, and who wrote it, e.g.:  
We have been reading Shakespeare's play, 'As You Like It', in which is the famous speech by Jacques - an outlaw in the forest of Arden. Jacques has some interesting ideas in his 'All The World's A Stage' speech, which I shall be discussing in this essay.
- **Paragraph 2** - Explain briefly (no more than 50 words) what the speech is about. Don't just copy it out - if your reader wants, they can find the speech for themselves!
- **Paragraph 3** - Comment on the types of language used in the speech, and what is the reason why each technique has been used. E.g.
  - The final line symbolises the final stage of a man's life - death. Repetition has been used: "*sans teeth, sans taste, sans eyes, sans everything*". Shakespeare has possibly chosen to use the French word for 'without' because...
  - The repeated use of 'sans' emphasises the finality - the word tends to slow the pace of the speech, which is in keeping with the pace of the man - which we assume is dead.
  - Do the same thing for: similes, metaphors, assonance, alliteration, onomatopoeia
- **Conclusion** - Comment on how life would have been for Elizabethan men and women - it would have been natural for men to have progressed from the lover to the soldier, to a good job etc, but why is this not an accurate picture for all men?
  - What are the stereotypes in Jacques's speech?
  - What would a modern version of the speech have to include for it to be relevant today?
  - N.B. In the Bible it refers to man living to 'three score years and ten' (a score = 20). Shakespeare possibly kept that in mind when writing the speech - hence the 7 ages, each age lasting 10 years.
  - What has changed in today's society and why?

**AIM FOR BETWEEN 500 - 1000 WORDS - AND GOOD LUCK!**

# YEAR 8 CHALLENGE

## LITERARY APPRECIATION - HELP SHEET

Use this page to help you write your essay. Copy out the sheet and fill in the gaps.

This is your title:

***Write an appreciation of Jacques's 'All the World's A Stage' speech, indicating clearly what comments you think he is making on the nature of life.***

As a class, we have been reading "As You Like It" by William Shakespeare. We have been looking closely at the speech by Jacques, who is an outlaw in the Forest of Arden. Jacques has some interesting ideas in his speech, and I am going to be looking at these ideas in my essay.

The speech is about \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

In the first age...(what happens?) \_\_\_\_\_

In the second age...(what happens?) \_\_\_\_\_

In the third age...(what happens?) \_\_\_\_\_

In the fourth age...(what happens?) \_\_\_\_\_

In the fifth age...(what happens?) \_\_\_\_\_

In the sixth age...(what happens?) \_\_\_\_\_

In the seventh age...(what happens?) \_\_\_\_\_

Shakespeare used many writing techniques in his speech.

The first example of a simile is \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

This helps us to imagine the picture. It describes \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

The second example of a simile is \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

It describes \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

The third example of a simile is \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

It describes \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Shakespeare uses an 'extended metaphor'. This is a metaphor which is referred to through the whole idea. This metaphor is \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

It describes \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Other examples of metaphors are \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Shakespeare uses alliteration in the speech. For example in the line " \_\_\_\_\_"  
\_\_\_\_\_

This speeds up / slows down / (choose which one you want) the rhythm of the lines and makes the reader able to see / hear / imagine / \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Shakespeare also uses assonance in the speech, for example in the line "  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_"

This speeds up / slows down / (choose which one you want) the rhythm of the lines and makes the reader able to see / hear / imagine / \_\_\_\_\_

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An example of onomatopoeia in the speech is \_\_\_\_\_

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This has been used because \_\_\_\_\_

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In the last line, Shakespeare uses the French word 'sans' four times. This is repetition. I think he uses French instead of English because \_\_\_\_\_

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The effect of repetition on the speech in the final line is very dramatic. It speeds up / slows down / (choose which one you want) the rhythm of the speech and emphasises what has happened to the man in the seventh age: he has \_\_\_\_\_

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In Elizabethan times, men and women had specific roles in life. It would have been expected for the man to grow up, fight for his country and then get a job - but in Shakespeare's speech, it is explained that the man will become a judge - have a good job. This would not have been what happened to everyone because \_\_\_\_\_

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If the speech was written today, it would have to be changed in a number of ways. In the Bible it refers to man living to 'three score years and ten' (70 years old). This is different to today because \_\_\_\_\_

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Shakespeare only refers to the ages of man because \_\_\_\_\_

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This is different to today because \_\_\_\_\_

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We also have different expectations and jobs today - for example not every young man is expected to fight for his country.

To conclude, I think Shakespeare's message in the speech was \_\_\_\_\_

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