



“The Seven Ages of Man” depicting William Shakespeare’s As You Like It, Act 2, Scene 7

Ca. 1838

Oil on canvas, Height: 89.5 cm estimate, Width: 113.4 cm estimate

Artist: William Mulready (1786-1863)

Location: Victoria and Albert Museum

William Shakespeare’s As You Like It, Act 2,
Scene 7

Speaker: Jaques

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.
And then the whining school-boy, 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 cannon'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 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. Last scene of all,
That ends this strange eventful history,
Is second childishness and mere oblivion,
Sans teeth, sans eyes, sans taste, sans everything.



“The Lady of Shalott” created 1888

Oil on canvas, 5'0" x 6'7"

Artist: John William Waterhouse

Location: Tate Britain, London

“The Lady of Shalott” (1842) by Alfred, Lord Tennyson

The picture illustrates the following lines from part IV of Tennyson’s ‘The Lady of Shalott’:

And down the river’s dim expanse
Like some bold seer in a trance,
Seeing all his own mischance –
With glassy countenance
Did she look to Camelot.
And at the closing of the day
She loosed the chain, and down she lay;
The broad stream bore her far away,
The Lady of Shalott.

Song version

“The Lady of Shalott” is sung by Loreena McKennitt. It was released in her 1991 album The Visit

Ekphrastic Poems Activity Partner: Words that Inspire Art

AP English Language or AP English Literature activity from Melissa Padilla, NBCT (James Campbell High School)



The scene depicted is from Shakespeare's Hamlet, Act 4, Scene 7, where Gertrude describes Ophelia's fate.

Speaker: Gertrude

There, on the pendant boughs her coronet weeds
Clambering to hang, an envious sliver broke;
When down her weedy trophies and herself
Fell in the weeping brook. Her clothes spread wide,
And, mermaid-like, awhile they bore her up;
Which time she chanted snatches of old lauds,
As one incapable of her own distress,
Or like a creature native and indued
Unto that element; but long it could not be
Till that her garments, heavy with their drink,
Pull'd the poor wretch from her melodious lay
To muddy death.

"Ophelia" created 1851-1852

Oil on canvas, 2'6"x3'8"

Artist: John Everett Millais

Location: Tate Gallery, Britain