



Year 8

English Homework Booklet



Half Term 2

Name:

Student Information for KS3 English Homework



This homework booklet will support with your foundational skills in English:

- Reading
- Writing
- Spelling, grammar and punctuation
- Vocabulary

The booklet contains a mixture of different activities linked to these skills. You are expected to complete 1 activity a week.

You can write in the booklet. For some tasks, you will need paper to write on. For this we have put lined paper at the back of the booklet for you to use.

We will provide you with the answers for each half term's activities the following half term. This means you can self-assess your work and reflect on strengths and areas of improvement.

There is also a reading list attached to help you choose a variety of books from different genres to boost your reading.

We will upload a copy of your reading homework to Satchel should you need to access the work online. You will then need a notebook to write your answers in.

Any questions, don't hesitate to ask your English teacher for support.

Have fun!

The English Team

READING LIST

Below is a list of some authors and books that you might like to try. Of course, it only contains a few suggestions. There are hundreds of other books out there to try.



One good source for recommendations is a library. Ask the librarian for help. Look for reading lists and suggestions that might be there in the library. Look at the books that are on display.

Another place to look is the internet. For example, try browsing on amazon.com – not to buy something, necessarily, but just to get ideas.

- When you look up an author or a book you like, amazon often gives you suggestions near the bottom of the page under headings like “Customers who bought this book, also bought...” You can now look up these books.
- Also, alongside the books there are often “lists” of similar, relevant books. Once you get into these lists, they’ll lead to more and more. Keep pursuing things and you’ll have a thousand books to read in no time!

Alan Gibbons

Alan Gibbons has written a variety of exciting and interesting books, including horror stories – so beware! His *Shadow of the Minotaur* is a powerful take on the famous Greek myth.

Neil Gaiman

Gaiman writes very imaginative, original books that are weird and sometimes disturbing. Worth a look if you like that sort of thing.

Eoin Colfer

Colfer’s *Artemis Fowl* books are popular fantasy books with an interesting twist.

J. R. R. Tolkien

Now might be the time to tackle *The Lord of the Rings*. It is monstrously long, but it will be worth the effort. Then you can watch the DVDs and pick out all the differences from the book.



Jean M Auel

Clan of the Cave Bear is the first in her series about pre-historic people. It’s exciting and imaginative. Definitely something different.

Philippa Gregory

Gregory is a well-respected author. She specialises in historical fiction. Her book *The Other Boleyn Girl*, about the court of Henry VIII, was made into a film starring Scarlett Johansson and Natalie Portman.

Darren Shan

Shan is very popular. His books deal with vampires and other spooky stuff!

Anthony Horowitz

Horowitz's *Alex Rider* books are very popular. They feature a boy who is a spy and who gets up to all sorts of James Bond type adventures.

Michelle Paver

Paver writes pre-historic adventures. *Chronicles of Ancient Darkness* is one series that she has written.

Julia Golding

Golding writes interesting books that mix legends with contemporary settings. She also writes historical adventures, which feature a young girl, Cat Royal.

Adeline Yen Mah

Chinese Cinderella tells the story of an unwanted child in China.

Lian Hearn

Brilliance of the Moon and several other books tell tales about medieval Japan. The books give an exciting insight into another world.

Sarah Mlynowski

Her books about the teenage witch Rachel are fun, modern and lively.

Brian Keaney

The Hollow People begins a series of books about a parallel world in which magic is key. The lowly hero sets himself against the all powerful Dr Sigmundus.

Cornelia Funke

Inkheart is an interesting, weird book about people who love books. Definitely worth a look.

CLASSICS

Charles Dickens

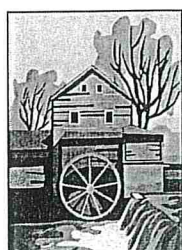
Try *Dombey and Son* – it's big and brilliant; there's an especially likeable dog in it too.

Charlotte Bronte

Jane Eyre – the romantic tale of Jane's struggles and her encounters with the dashing, smouldering Rochester.

George Eliot

The Mill on the Floss tells the story of a passionate and brilliant girl, growing up to be a frustrated woman, in a male-dominated society.



CORRECTING A PASSAGE

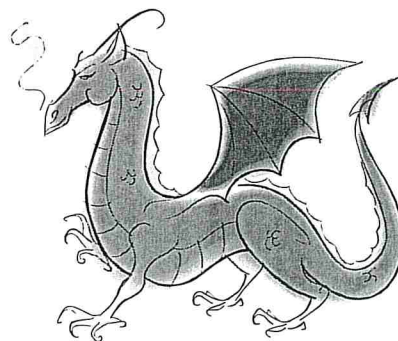
Here's a test for you! Try to put all the skills you have used in the preceding exercises together here.

TASK

Copy the passage below into your English book. Correct all the mistakes:

- Full stops
- Capital letters
- Apostrophes
- Speech
- Commas
- Colons
- Semicolons
- Agreement
- Dashes
- Paragraphs

beowulf were a happy successful kings for many year and the people loved him he were his peoples protector they relied on him when the winters nights were cold he would recalls his adventure's once he said i was a young warriors who could defeat anyone imagine me then a strong athletic arrogant heroes these was the stories he would tell the killing of the sea monster the battle with grendel the fight with grendels mother he loved to tell tales those were his glory day as he got older his people began to forgets his many youthful exploit they saw him as an old man few peoples could imagine that he were ever a mighty fighter he seemed so frail then one day a terrible events took place from nowhere a dragon appeared the dragons breath was fire and his bite was bitter he preyed on beowulfs lands the dreadful dragon layed waste to many villages how the people complained help us king beowulf they cried send for a warrior who can rid us of this terrible threats beowulf old as he was rose to answer his subject i will fights this terrible beast he promised wishing to be respectful the people did not laugh but they felt that beowulf was being ridiculous they could not believe whatever he said that beowulf could fight any kind of beast the next day beowulf set out to the dragons layer sure that he could kill it he was brave perhaps he was foolish his people followed him they hoped he would fulfil his promise but they feared that he would fail miserably how could such an old men fight such a grim monster

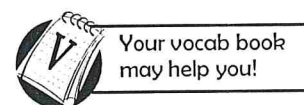
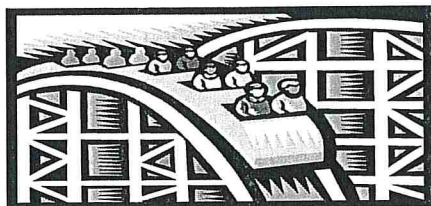


EXTENSION

Write your own description of the fight between Beowulf and the dragon – he wins, but is wounded and dies afterwards.

WRITING TASK 7

- TASK:** Write a guide to a theme park.
- AUDIENCE:** Families – make it appeal to parents and kids.
- FORM:** Leaflet – vary presentation.
- PURPOSE:** To persuade, advise, inform – make them want to come.



ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

LEVEL THREE

- Simple sentences will be correct.
- Some full stops will be used.
- There may be some sense of an opening and conclusion.
- The vocabulary may be too basic for the task.

LEVEL FOUR

- Some long sentences will be used.
- A few commas will be included.
- There will be some paragraph breaks.
- The vocabulary will be more suitable for the purpose.

LEVEL FIVE

- A variety of sentences will be used: long and short.
- Commas will be used to divide different clauses.
- Paragraphs will mark changes in topic – there will be headings and boxes.
- Interesting vocabulary will appeal to parents and kids.

LEVEL SIX

- Longer sentence structures will be used accurately.
- Commas will be used effectively.
- Paragraphs will be linked into a coherent overview of the park.
- More varied and exciting vocabulary will be used to impress the visitors.

LEVEL SEVEN

- A full range of sentence types and structures will be included.
- Commas will be used to create interesting effects.
- Paragraphs will be used in creative ways to create surprises and emphasis.
- Very impressive vocabulary will be included to persuade the parents and kids to come.

SEMICOLONS

Semicolons are not as difficult as some people seem to think. They can be used to separate parts of a sentence. They provide a stronger break than a comma, but one that is not as strong as a full stop. Elegant, sophisticated writers use semicolons.



A semicolon can be placed between items in a list, where each item has several parts. If the list is a list of sentences, semicolons should be used to separate each item. If the items in the list have commas in them already, then semicolons should be used. More simply, they are used in long lists.

A semicolon can also be used to divide two closely related sentences. They are used to replace a full stop in these cases.

Examples:

- My favourite meals are: fish, chips and peas; pizza, beans and salad; curry, rice and garlic bread; choc ice, snails and raw onions.
- My brother likes jam; I like marmalade.

TASK

Copy the sentences below into your English book. Add the semicolons where they belong. This is a very good opportunity to practise your handwriting.

1. The key facts about Rembrandt are: he was born in 1606 he lived in Amsterdam he was a famous painter he is most remembered for his self-portraits.
2. Some of his best self portraits are: one in which he is young, dashing and handsome one in which he is holding his painting materials one in which he is old, troubled and rather bewildered.
3. Rembrandt's painting of Abraham is powerful it shows Isaac's terror and Abraham's intensity.
4. Rembrandt's painting of The Night Watch is well regarded it features vivid portraits of the men of Amsterdam.
5. Rembrandt's paintings feature: dramatic, powerful effects of light realistic, detailed and thoughtful portrayals of people a forceful, expressive and free handling of paint.
6. Rembrandt expresses human experiences directly he captures what it is to be human on canvas.



EXTENSION

Write your own sentences that feature semicolons. Make the topic: the life and works of Pieter Brueghel the Elder. You'll need to do some research.

SPELLING 2: Drop the -e



When you add a suffix to a word ending in '-e', you sometimes drop the '-e'.
The rule is: if the suffix begins with a vowel ('-ing', '-ish'), you drop the '-e'.
If the suffix begins with a consonant ('-ful', '-ness'), you keep the '-e'.

TASK

Choose the correct spelling of each word below and write it in your English book. Check your answer in a dictionary or at dictionary.com.



1. a) excitement
b) excitment
c) ecxitement
d) excitemant
2. a) sensible
b) sensible
c) sensable
d) sensubel
3. a) raceing
b) racking
c) raicing
d) racing
4. a) moveing
b) moving
c) mooving
d) movng
5. a) motivation
b) motiveation
c) motifation
d) motivasion
6. a) desireable
b) desirable
c) dezirable
d) disireable
7. a) lateness
b) latness
c) leightness
d) latenes
8. a) safety
b) safty
c) saffty
d) savety
9. a) commencement
b) commencment
c) commensement
d) comensement
10. a) sliccing
b) sliceing
c) slicing
d) slising

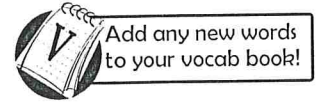


Add any new words to your vocab book!

EXTENSION

- a) Design some posters to illustrate the rule.
- b) Think of some mnemonics to help students remember the correct spellings. Remember, a mnemonic is a sentence which helps you remember a spelling – e.g. George Eliot's Old Grandfather Rode A Pig Home Yesterday – GEOGRAPHY!

VOCABULARY 2: Subject Words



Here's a list of some key words for each subject in school.

TASK

Choose three of your favourite subjects and look up the meanings of each of the words in a dictionary or on dictionary.com. Write the definitions in your English book.



Art

acrylic	collection	dimension	exhibition	gallery	impasto
palette	portrait				

D and T

brief	design	evaluation	flour	ingredient	linen
mineral	polyester	production	sew	tension	

Drama

character	director	exit	inspire	perform	rehearse
script	stage				

Geography

amenity	climate	county	erosion	globe	international
location	physical	provision	settlement	transport	weather

History

bias	Catholic	civilisation	constitution	defence	dynasty
government	independence	parliament	propaganda	reign	revolution
trade					

ICT

byte	cartridge	connection	delete	electronic	icon
interface	keyboard	modem	multimedia	password	program
server	virus				

Mathematics

adjacent	amount	axis	circumference	decimal	diameter
equilateral	fraction	horizontal	kilometre	metre	parallel
percentage	positive	radius	reflection	rotation	symmetry
vertices	weight				

Music

chord	crotchet	instrument	major	minor	orchestra
pitch	scale	synchronise	ternary	vocal	

PE

agile	exercise	hamstring	medicine	personal	qualify
tactic					

RE

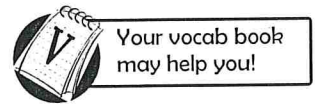
biblical	celebration	commandment	disciple	festival	hymn
Israel	miracle	parable	prejudice	shrine	special
synagogue	worship				

Science

acid	apparatus	combustion	digestion	exchange	friction
hazard	liquid	nutrient	particles	reproduce	temperature
vessel					

WRITING TASK 2

- TASK:** Write a description of your idea of a perfect birthday party.
- AUDIENCE:** Boys or girls of your age – make it appeal to one particular gender.
- FORM:** This would go in a collection of descriptions published as a book.
- PURPOSE:** To entertain and describe – make it detailed.



ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

LEVEL THREE

- Simple sentences will be correct.
- Some full stops will be used.
- There may be a sense of an opening and conclusion.
- The vocabulary will include obvious objects appropriate to a party.

LEVEL FOUR

- Some long sentences will be used.
- A few commas will be included.
- There may be an opening paragraph that sets out key points.
- The vocabulary may include references to feelings.

LEVEL FIVE

- A variety of sentences will be used: long and short.
- Commas will be used to divide different clauses.
- Paragraphs will be used to show changes in topic.
- Interesting vocabulary about personal interests will be included.

LEVEL SIX

- Longer sentence structures will be used accurately.
- Commas will be used effectively.
- Paragraphs will focus on opinions and emotions.
- Vocabulary will be clever and personal.

LEVEL SEVEN

- A full range of sentence types and structures will be included.
- Commas will be used to create interesting effects.
- Paragraphs will be used to create expectations and surprises.
- Impressive vocabulary about people, places and ideas will be used.

READING 2: 'All the World's a Stage'

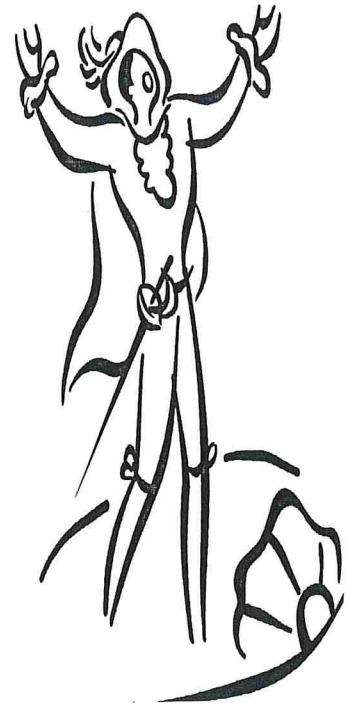
Read the passage below. Look up any words you don't understand in a dictionary or on dictionary.com.
Complete the task that follows.



This speech is taken from Shakespeare's *As You Like It*. In the speech, the generally miserable Jaques compares a man's lifetime to various roles that an actor might take on stage. "Sans" (from the last line) means "without".

- The difficulty of this passage is: MEDIUM

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.



Add any new words
to your vocab book!

TASK

Answer **at least one** question in each section. Answer questions at different levels if you wish.

SELECT AND RETRIEVE

LEVEL 4: Select four words from the first three lines that refer to the theatre.

LEVEL 5: What are the seven separate ages?

LEVEL 6: Select five descriptive phrases that have a memorable effect.

LEVEL 7: Explain the effect of five key phrases from the passage.

INFER AND DEDUCE

LEVEL 4: Which is the best age to be at?

LEVEL 5: How does the speech suggest that different ages might be more or less enjoyable?

LEVEL 6: What opinions does the passage suggest?

LEVEL 7: What view of human existence does the passage convey?

STRUCTURE

LEVEL 4: How does the passage begin?

LEVEL 5: Why does the passage end as it does?

LEVEL 6: How does the passage create tension and expectations?

LEVEL 7: How does the passage rise to a climax?

LANGUAGE

LEVEL 4: Select one simile from the passage.

LEVEL 5: How does Shakespeare use similes and metaphors in the passage?

LEVEL 6: Explain three examples of powerful language from the passage.

LEVEL 7: What techniques does Shakespeare use? To what effect?

OVERALL EFFECT

LEVEL 4: What is Shakespeare telling us here?

LEVEL 5: Why might Shakespeare have chosen to use plays and players as his central metaphor for life?

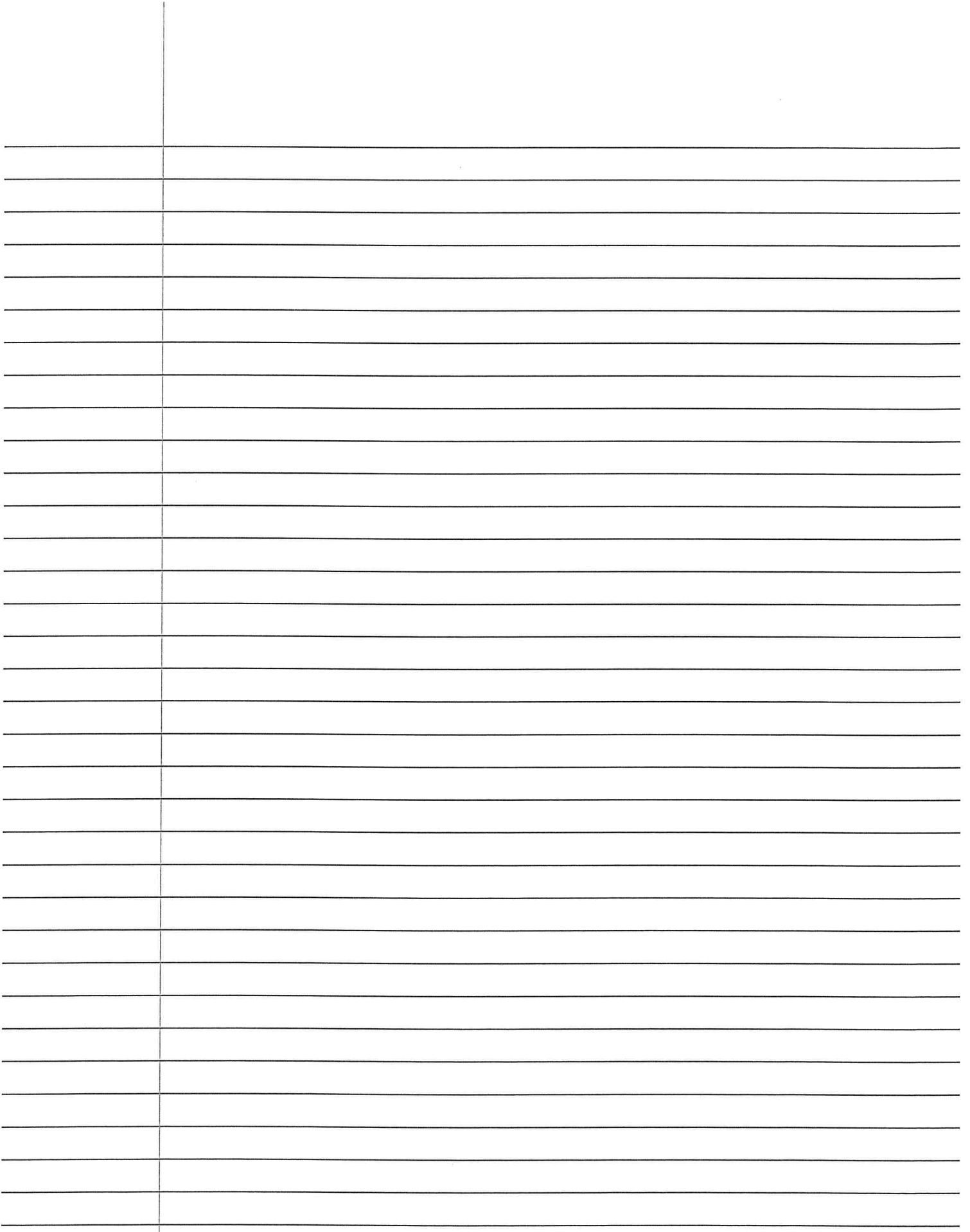
LEVEL 6: What is Shakespeare's message?

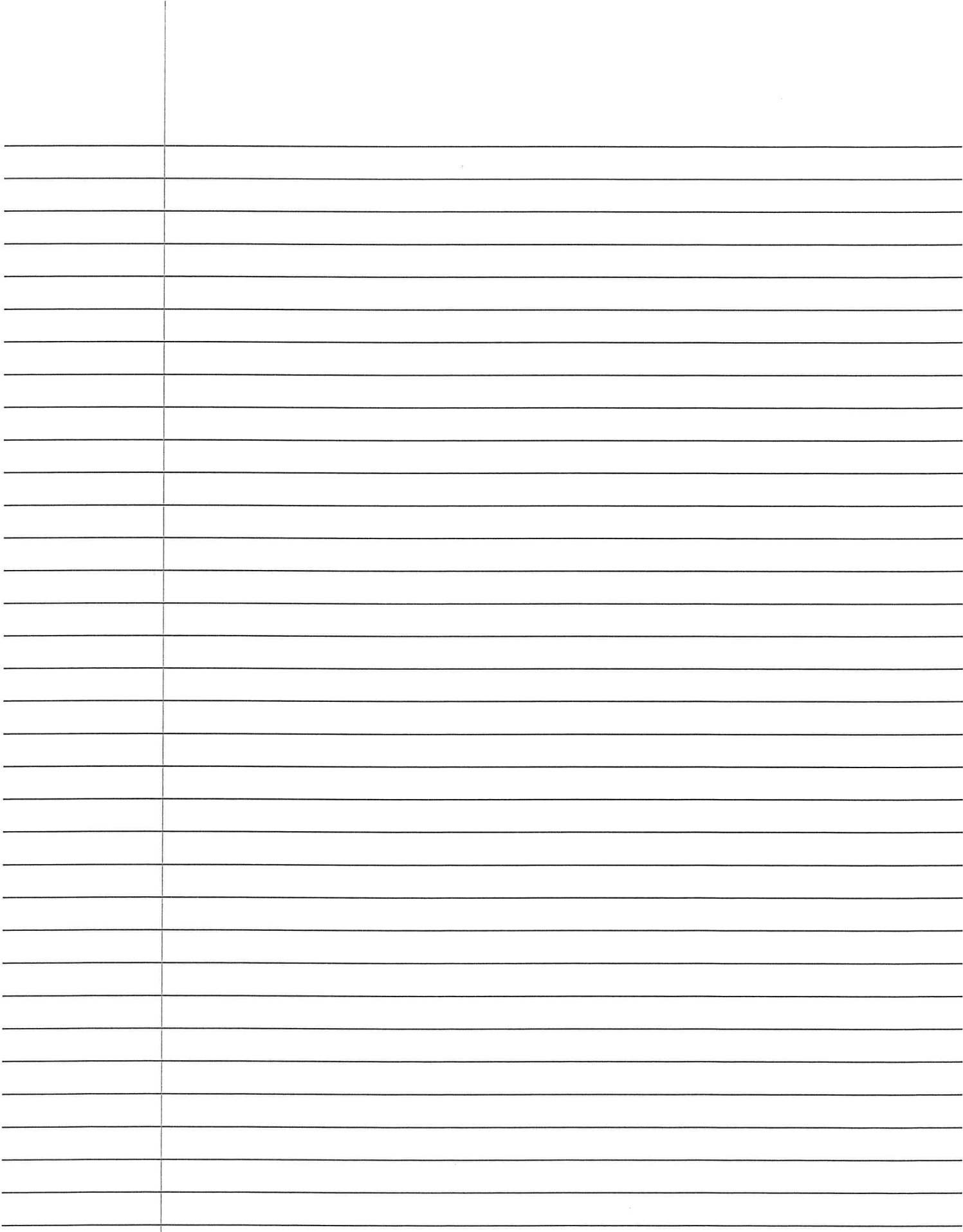
LEVEL 7: How does Shakespeare reflect the character's misery here?



EXTENSION

- Read *As You Like It*. Write a review of the play, as if you had seen it at the theatre.
- Write your own poem about life. What could you compare the stages of life to? School subjects? Weather? Animals?





A blank sheet of white paper with a vertical margin line on the left side. The rest of the page is filled with horizontal ruling lines, creating a series of rows for writing. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page.

A sheet of lined paper with a vertical margin line on the left side and horizontal ruling lines for writing.