



Wilson, George. The female seven ages. London: Ashton & Co., 1797. Folger ART File S497.5 no.1 (size L)

The Seven Ages of Man speech (act 2, scene 7, lines 139-166) is a famous and often-reproduced metaphor for a complete life. In this late-eighteenth gender-swapped version, the life depicted is that of a young gentlewoman, from babyhood, through schooling (in sewing), to love, marriage, children, and, in a particularly gendered twist, regret and resignation, rather than wisdom in old age.

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