Soln 1-3

Easiest to use length contraction from Astrid's point of view. That is, Astrid is stationary and the sun and Tau Ceti system slides by her at speed 0.99c.

 $L_o = 12$  lyrs

L is the distance between the sun and Tau Ceti as seen by Astrid.  $t_{\circ}$  is the time Astrid measures for this to happen.

From Astrid's POV,

$$L = \gamma^{-1}L_{o} = \sqrt{1 - \beta^{2}}L_{o} = \sqrt{1 - 0.99^{2}}(12) = 1.69 \text{ lys}$$

At 0.99c, it will take

t<sub>o</sub> = L/v = 
$$\frac{1.69 \text{ lyrs}}{.99 \text{c}} = \frac{1.71 \text{ years}}{1.71 \text{ years}}$$

So, she'll be 21 years, 8½ months old.

Alternatively, let's imagine that Astrid has a clock that 'ticks' once during her trip;  $t_o$  is the length of the tick as seen by Astrid, which is what we're trying to find. An observer in the sun-Tau Ceti POV would observe this tick to take time t, where

$$t = \gamma t_o$$
 .

This t is also the time required for Astrid to travel 12 lyrs at 0.99c:

$$t = \frac{12 \text{ lyrs}}{0.99 \text{c}} = 12.12 \text{ years}$$
.

Then,

t<sub>o</sub> = 
$$\frac{t}{\gamma}$$
 = 12.12 $\sqrt{1 - 0.99^2}$  = 1.71 years