

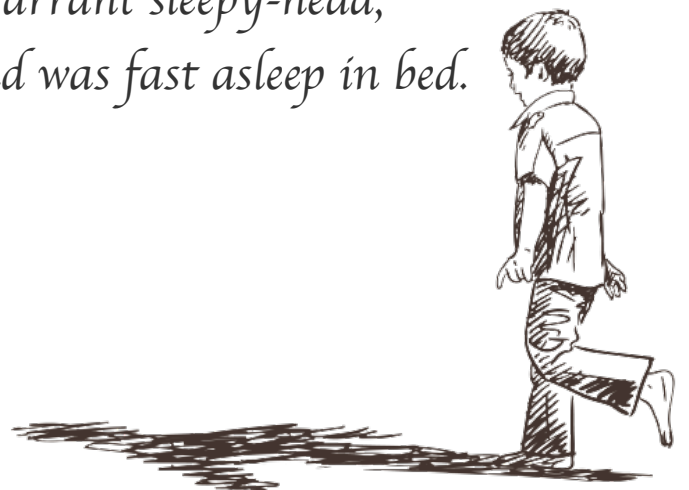
My Shadow by R L Stevenson

I have a little shadow that goes in and out with me,
And what can be the use of him is more than I can see.
He is very, very like me from the heels up to the head;
And I see him jump before me, when I jump into my bed.

The funniest thing about him is the way he likes to grow—
Not at all like proper children, which is always very slow;
For he sometimes shoots up taller like a rubber ball,
And he sometimes gets so little that there's none of him at all.

He hasn't got a notion of how children ought to play,
And can only make a fool of me in every sort of way.
He stays so close beside me, he's a coward you can see;
I'd think shame to stick to nursie as that shadow sticks to me!

One morning, very early, before the sun was up,
I rose and found the shining dew on every buttercup;
But my lazy little shadow, like an arrant sleepy-head,
Had stayed at home behind me and was fast asleep in bed.



Questions

Q: Why is the shadow little?

V: where are your heels?

R: When does the person in the poem see their shadow jump before them?

R: What is the funniest thing about the shadow?

Q: Why does this shadow grow faster than children?

V: what is a 'notion'?

Q: How does the shadow embarrass the child?

V: Find and copy a word that means a drop of moisture in the final stanza.

V: Define 'arrant'.

I: Why does the shadow stay at home in the last stanza?

E: How can you tell this poem is from the perspective of a child?

P: Imagine if the author wrote a follow up poem ten years later. How might it be different?

S: Summarise what the poem is about in one sentence.

