

Instructions:

Read the poem carefully, and then answer the questions on the next page.

Use complete sentences. *Remember to use capitals and proper punctuation.*

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 an India-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 be ashamed to stick to Nanny as that shadow sticks to me!

One morning, very early, before the sun was up,
I arose 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.

("arrant" means total or complete)



Name: _____

Date: _____

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1. What could be an appropriate title for the above poem? Tell what made you choose this title.

2. What does the shadow do when the author jumps into his or her bed?

3. Which of the following is compared with the "India-rubber ball"?

☐ A) The height of the author.

☐ C) The weight of the shadow.

☐ B) The height of the shadow.

☐ D) The laziness of the shadow.

4. Why does the author think that the shadow is coward?

5. According to the poem, how do proper children grow?

6. Is the author of this poem a boy or a girl? How old is he or she? How do you know?

7. What season or time of year is the poem set in? How do you know?
