

Reading Comprehension: My Shadow

*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 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.*

—Robert Louis Stevenson



Answer the following questions.

1. Describe the characteristics of the shadow.

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2. What does the narrator find funny about the shadow?

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3. Why does the narrator think that the shadow is a coward?

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4. What did the narrator notice about the shadow when he woke up before sunrise?

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Find the words in the poem that rhyme with the words given below and write them in the right-hand column:

Word	Rhyming Word
Bread	
Pup	
Slay	
Throw	
Mall	