

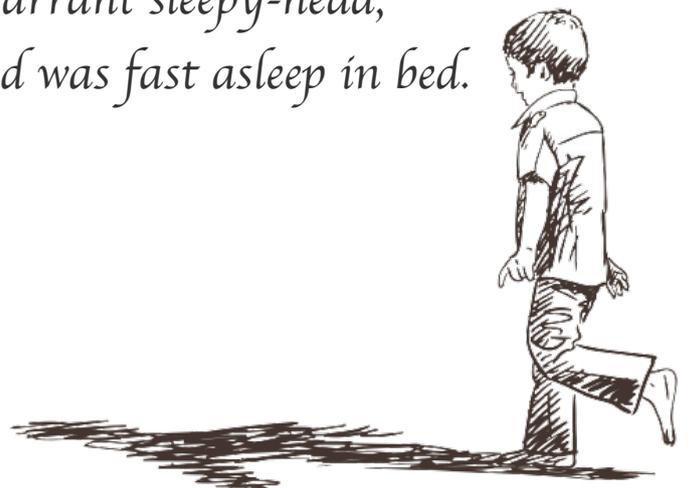
## My Shadow by R L Stevenson

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

**I:** Why is the shadow little?

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**V:** where are your heels?

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

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**R:** What is the funniest thing about the shadow?

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**I:** Why does this shadow grow faster than children?

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**V:** what is a 'notion'?

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**I:** How does the shadow embarrass the child?

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

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**V:** Define 'arrant'.

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

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

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

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

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