

My shadow by Robert Louis 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 than a bouncy 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 someone 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 last little shadow, like a naughty sleepy-head,

Had stayed at home behind me and was fast asleep in bed.

Write the answer to each question in your books. Make sure you take notice of the number of marks available for each answer.

1. Do you think the poet is a boy or a girl? Support your answer with evidence from the poem. (3 marks)
2. How is it possible that the poet saw the shadow jump into bed before he/she jumps into bed? Explain your answer as fully as you can. (4 marks)
3. How would you describe the poet's own feelings towards the shadow? Support your answer with evidence from the poem. (4 marks)
4. What do you think the poet thought when he found his shadow was still fast asleep in bed ? (3 marks)

