

# My shadow

These questions will help you practise:

- ★ explaining vocabulary in context
- ★ explaining how information contributes to meaning
- ★ summarising main ideas
- ★ retrieving information.

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 errant sleepy-head,  
Had stayed at home behind me and was fast asleep in bed.

Robert Louis Stevenson



## Glossary

- **nursie** a nurse

1 The shadow goes in and out with the poet.

Give **two different** ways it does this.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

1  
(2 mark)

2 Look at verse 2.

**Find and copy one** word that is closest in meaning to *actual*.

\_\_\_\_\_

2  
(1 mark)

3 Look at the second paragraph.

... like a rubber ball

What does this description suggest about how the shadow moves?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3  
(1 mark)

4 Look at verse 3.

**Find and copy one** word that is closest in meaning to being *really afraid or scared of doing something*.

\_\_\_\_\_

4  
(1 mark)

5 Look at the last verse.

Why had the shadow stayed at home?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5  
(1 mark)

6 What is the main idea of the poem?

Tick **one**.

to describe the difference between night and day

to describe how the shadow follows the poet

to describe different types of shadows

to describe how the poet feels

6  
(1 mark)

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### My shadow (pages 50–51)

- 1 2 marks – 1 mark each for the following: he is like the poet from heels to head; he jumps in front of him (also accept quotes from the text).
- 2 1 mark – *proper*
- 3 1 mark for answers that refer to the ball moving quickly and high up. Do not accept direct quotes from the text without explanation, e.g. 'it is tall/taller'.
- 4 1 mark – *coward*
- 5 1 mark for an answer that acknowledges that the poet had got up before the sun had risen, which is why he wasn't casting a shadow when he went outside.
- 6 1 mark – to describe how the shadow follows the poet