

Name: _____

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ELA Worksheet – Poem “My Shadow”

Read the poem below before you answer the following questions.

My Shadow

BY ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON

I have a little shadow that goes in and out with me,¹
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.⁴

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.⁸

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!¹²

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.¹⁶



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SOURCE: *The Golden Book of Poetry* (1947)

Questions:

Answer the following questions in sentences.

1. In your own words, summarize the poem “My Shadow”.

2. What is the title of this poem?

3. What is the main idea of this poem?

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4. Who wrote this poem?

5. **Research questions:**

a. What is a shadow?

b. What makes a shadow?

6. Write the meaning of the following words or phrases:

a. Shoot up _____

b. Notion _____

c. Proper children _____

d. Make a fool of someone _____

e. Coward _____

f. Arrant _____

g. Sleepy-head _____

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7. What does the following lines mean?

a. “...only make a fool of me in every sort of way.” (Lines 10)

b. “He hasn't got a notion of how children ought to play...” (Lines 9)

8. How many stanzas does the poem “*My shadow*” contain?

9. This poem has examples of similes. Can you find one examples? Write it below.

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10. What words rhyme in this poem?

STANZA ONE	
STANZA TWO	
STANZA THREE	
STANZA FOUR	

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Literal Questions

11. Where does the *shadow* goes and with whom?

12. What happens when the poet jumps on the bed?

13. What does the poet think of the *shadow*?

14. What is funny about the *shadow*?

15. What is the two things the “shadow” is compared to?

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16. What did the poet find on the buttercups?

17. Why does the poet consider the shadow a “coward”?

18. Do you like this poem? Why?

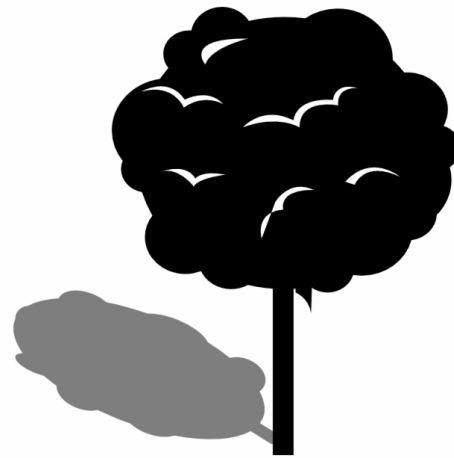
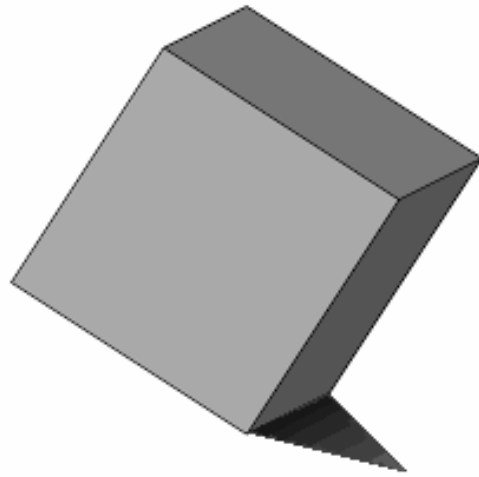
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VAPA

Draw a cube or a tree and show the side where light is and the side where the shadow is. See the samples below.



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SPELLING- Words to learn and find in the puzzle below.

shadow, funniest, children, sometimes, proper, notion, fool, beside, coward,
shame, morning, behind sleepy, arrant, asleep

C	L	N	M	F	S	H	A	D	O	W	S
H	O	Z	O	B	U	B	U	E	R	O	S
I	O	Q	R	I	E	N	S	V	M	Y	W
L	F	T	N	H	T	B	N	E	H	P	S
D	S	N	I	T	B	O	T	I	W	L	A
R	U	N	N	L	N	I	N	C	E	B	D
E	D	K	G	X	M	A	Z	J	E	S	E
N	S	Y	R	E	P	O	R	P	X	D	T
J	Y	H	S	I	Z	X	E	R	I	N	Y
C	O	W	A	R	D	H	F	S	A	R	T
V	R	A	C	M	Y	P	E	E	L	S	A
Z	O	R	V	R	E	B	V	K	R	X	T

