

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

From *A Child's Garden of Verses* by Robert Louis Stevenson

1. How many stanzas are in the poem? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Use letters to show the rhyme scheme of the poem. \_\_\_\_\_
3. What kind of figurative language is used in this poem? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Explain the literal meaning of the last stanza. Why is the speaker's shadow still "Fast asleep in bed"?  
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## **ANSWERS**

1. Four
2. AABBCCDDEEAFFBB
3. Personification
4. The speaker doesn't have a shadow because the sun is not yet up to cast a shadow.