

Y4 – Reading – Thursday - ANSWERS

1. Who is 'he' in the poem?

The narrator's shadow.

2. How many rhyming couplets are there in the poem?

Six

3. Why does the poet describe the shadow as a coward?

Because he sticks so close to the child and never leaves him. The shadow is compared to a child who sticks to and never leaves their nurse (childminder or guardian).

4. Does the language in the poem tell us that this is an old or new poem? Give one example to back up your answer.

Various answers which suggest that the language is old rather than modern, e.g. words such as notion, arrant, ought and nursie indicate that the poem is old as these words aren't commonly used today.