

## Y4 – Reading – Thursday

In today's lesson, I'd like you to read an extract of a poem about a shadow and answer the questions. This learning links in with our science learning about light and shadows.

### 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!

By Robert Louis Stevenson

1. Who is 'he' in the poem?
2. How many rhyming couplets are there in the poem?
3. Why does the poet describe the shadow as a coward?
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.