



## LESSON -14

# MY SHADOW

### A. Pre-reading

You may have seen something whenever you stood against the light. Whenever there is light, that thing follows you. That thing is dark in colour and changes its shape and size from time to time as you move nearer to or farther from the light. Can you tell me what it is ? Let us now read an interesting poem about it.

### B. Let's listen

Now close your books and listen to the poem. The teacher reads the poem aloud. After he has recited the whole poem, (s)he will ask the following questions :

- (i) What is the poem about ?
- (ii) Is it interesting and funny ?
- (iii) Can you say two words from the poem which you remember ?

The students will then open their books and the teacher will read the poem aloud for a second time while the students listen to the teacher and look at the text of the poem.

Next, they read the poem silently.

## 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 like me from the  
heels up to the head;  
And I see him jump before me,  
when I jump into my bed.



1. a ball that  
can bounce  
very high

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<sup>1</sup>,  
And he sometimes gets so little that  
There's none of him at all.

He hasn't got a notion<sup>2</sup> of how  
Children ought to play,  
And can only make a fool of me  
in every sort of way.  
He stays so close behind me  
he's a coward<sup>3</sup> you can see,  
I'd think shame to stick to nursie<sup>4</sup>  
As that shadow sticks to me.

2. idea

3. fearful person

4. a woman or a  
girl who takes  
care of small  
children in their  
homes.

5. a yellow flower

6. complete

One morning, very early before  
the sun was up,  
I rose and found the shining dew  
on every butter-cup<sup>5</sup>,  
But my lazy little shadow, like an  
arrant<sup>6</sup> sleepy head,  
Had stayed at home behind me and was  
fast asleep in bed.

Robert Louis Stevenson

D. Let's understand

- 1. Whom does 'I' refer to in the first line of the poem ?  
.....  
.....  
.....
- 2. Does the poet find any similarity between him and the shadow ?  
What is that ?  
.....  
.....  
.....
- 3. When does the shadow jump before the speaker ?  
.....  
.....  
.....
- 4. In which way is the shadow different from children?  
.....  
.....  
.....

5. The poet describes the shadow as a living being. Which words in the poem show this ?

.....

.....

.....

6. The word little in line 1 means

- a) small in size
- b) affectionate
- c) poet

(put a tick mark ( ✓ ) against the right answer)

7. At what time of the day does the shadow become very tall?

- a) In the afternoon.
- b) At noon
- c) Early in the morning

(choose the right alternative)

8. At what time does the shadow become the shortest ?

.....

.....

.....

9. How does the shadow behave when the child goes out to play ?

.....

.....

.....

10. The shadow never comes before the poet. It always follows him and never leaves him. Therefore, the poet calls the shadow a \_\_\_\_\_.

(Fill in the blank with the right word from stanza 3)



11. The speaker calls it “my lazy little shadow” in the last stanza because the shadow
- a) the shadow has become very small.
  - b) the shadow was really sleeping.
  - c) the shadow is not seen before sunrise.

## E. Let's look at the words.

1. Pick out the last words in the first two lines of the poem – me/see. Have you noticed that both the words end with the same sound. Such words are called rhyming words. Now look at the boxes below. Each box has a pair of words. Colour the boxes that have rhyming words.

*shoot*  
*get*

*me*  
*see*

*shadow*  
*home*

*my*  
*way*

*way*  
*play*

*head*  
*bed*

*grow*  
*slow*

*children*  
*rubber*

*ball*  
*pull*

2. What does each of these words describe in the poem ? (Look at the word which comes after each)

little .....

funniest .....

proper .....

3. What are the describing words used in the poem for the following ? (Look for the word which comes before each. )

.....dew

.....sleepy-head

.....morning

**F. Let's talk**

The teacher will say the words aloud and the students will repeat. Then the teacher will ask individual students to pronounce them.

Sh in each pronounced /S/ in contrast /s/

For example, said / shade, sea/she

shade	shoe	dish	hush
sharp	shark	wish	rush
shake	sheep	fish	rash
shallow	shine	finish	cash

**G. Let's write**

1. In which ways is the shadow very much like the child ?  
.....  
.....  
.....
2. "And what can be the use of him is more than I can see" What does this line mean ?  
.....  
.....  
.....
3. The child in the poem says that the shadow is not at all like proper children. Why does the child say so ?  
.....  
.....  
.....
4. Why does the child think that the shadow was fast asleep in bed' ?  
.....  
.....  
.....

## H. Let's read a similar poem

When the sun shines, I can see  
My shadow right in front of me.  
When I walk, my shadow walks !  
When I hop, my shadow hops !  
When I jump, my shadow jumps  
An when I stop, my shadow stops.

Louise Binder Scott

