



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 its name? 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 be asked to 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.



C. The Poem

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 ball¹,
And he sometimes gets so little that
There's none of him at all.

He hasn't got a notion² 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 coward³ you can see,
I'd think shame to stick to nursie⁴
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-cup⁵,
But my lazy little shadow, like an
arrant⁶ 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 ✓ against the right answer)

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

- 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
- the shadow has become very small.
 - the shadow was really sleeping.
 - 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 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

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

G. Let's write

- In which ways is the shadow very much like the child ?
.....
.....
.....
- "And what can be the use of him is more than I can see" What does this line mean ?
.....
.....
.....
- The child in the poem says that the shadow is not at all like proper children. Why does the child say so ?
.....
.....
.....
- 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

