

N.C. ENGLISH I FINAL EXAM READING PRACTICE: POETRY

DIRECTIONS: READ EACH POEM BELOW AND ANSWER THE QUESTIONS THAT FOLLOW:

My Shadow

by Robert Louis Stevenson

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 goes so little that there's none of him at all.

1. Why does the speaker compare his shadow to "an India-rubber ball"?

- A. His shadow is the same color as the ball.
- B. Shadows bounce like a ball.
- C. His shadow bounces up tall like a rubber ball.
- D. Children like balls and shadows.

2. Which best explains why the author uses rhyme in the poem?

- A. Similar-sounding words are easy to pronounce.
- B. Rhyme creates a rhythm in the poem.
- C. It is easier to understand a poem that rhymes.
- D. Most famous poems rhyme.

3. Why does the speaker think of his shadow as a person?

- A. His shadow speaks to him.
- B. His shadow dresses and eats like a person.
- C. All people have shadows.
- D. His shadow looks like him and follows him around.

4. Why does the speaker's shadow get so small that "there's none of him at all"?

- A. Sometimes shadows are very small or do not appear.
- B. The narrator loses his shadow and is unable to find it.
- C. The shadow runs away.
- D. The shadow is only a dream.

