STUDENT NAME: ENGLISH I READING PRACTICE DATE:

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.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

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EXTENDED QUESTIONS:

5. What is the overall TONE of "My Shadow"?	
6. Write down at least TWO LINES from the poem that support your answer to question 5 AND explain how these lines support your answer.	LINE 1: LINE 2: Explanation:
7. What do you think is the poet's PURPOSE in writing this poem AND how does the poet achieve this purpose?	
8. Either SUMMARIZE this poem in your own words or visualize this poem by sketching a picture that represents the poem. Write your summary or sketch your visual in the space to the right.	

LIVEWORKSHEETS