



## CLASS NOTES-ANSWERS

### Reading Comprehension

A – Fill in the blanks.

1. The speaker's shadow is like him from his head down to his \_\_\_\_\_.

**Answer:** heels.

2. The shadow jumps into bed \_\_\_\_\_ the speaker.

**Answer:** before

3. At times, the shadow shoots taller like an \_\_\_\_\_.

**Answer:** india-rubber.

4. The speaker calls the shadow a \_\_\_\_\_.

**Answer:** coward

5. The speaker found \_\_\_\_\_ dewdrops on the buttercups.

**Answer:** shining

B – Answer these questions.

1. What according to the speaker is the difference between his shadow's growth and that of proper children?

**Answer:** According to the speaker, the difference between his shadow's growth and that of 'proper children' is that his shadow grows very fast, or disappears as if he didn't exist. There are times when the speaker's shadow grows extremely tall just like an India-rubber ball does when it



bounces while at other times the speaker's shadow gets extremely small as if there was none of him at all.

2. Why does the speaker call the shadow a coward?

**Answer:** The speaker calls his shadow a 'coward' because his shadow stays close to him a lot and cannot seem to stay on his own and depends on the company of the speaker.

3. Why didn't the shadow follow the speaker that morning?

**Answer:** The shadow didn't follow the speaker that morning because he, according to the speaker, was fast asleep in bed.

C – Read these lines and answer the questions.

1) 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.

a. Who is he?

**Answer:** 'He' is the speaker's shadow in the quoted lines.

b. Why doesn't he know how children ought to play?

**Answer:** The speaker thinks that his shadow does not know how children ought to play because the shadow sticks very close to the speaker than giving the speaker the room to play freely.

c. How does he make a fool of the speaker?

**Answer:** The speaker's shadow makes a fool of the speaker by behaving like a coward who seeks refuge in the company of the speaker all the time. This also causes embarrassment for the speaker in front of his friends.



2. I rose and found the shining dew on every buttercup.

a. Who is 'I'?

**Answer:** 'I' is the speaker in the quoted lines.

b. What does 'I rose' refer to here?

**Answer:** The words 'I rose' refer to the speaker waking up and getting out of bed early that morning.

c. When did I spot the dew on the buttercups?

**Answer:** The speaker spotted the shining dewdrops on the buttercups before sunrise.

### **D – Think and answer.**

1) Is the speaker writing as an adult or a child? Give a reason for your answer.

**Answer:** The speaker writes the poem as a child. He feels embarrassed when he sees his shadow clinging to him while playing with his friends. Also, the speaker compares the growth of his shadow to that of 'proper children' giving us a strong indication that he himself is a child.

Moreover, the manner in which the speaker views his shadow as a living being and calls him a 'coward' also tells us that the speaker is not aware that our shadow is formed because of us and is not a different entity that is separate from us.

**Appreciating the poem.**

<b>Word</b>	<b>Rhyming word</b>
me	see
head	bed
grow	slow
ball	all
play	way
up	buttercup

