

Name: _____

Date: _____

Inference: 5th Grade

Remember that **inference** is when you use the details given in a text to draw a conclusion about something that is not explicitly stated in the text.

Read “My Shadow” by Robert Louis Stevenson and answer the questions that follow.

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

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.
He stays so close beside me, he's a coward you can see;
I'd think shame to stick to nursie as that shadow sticks to me!

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

What do you infer is happening with the shadow in stanza 2? Why does the shadow sometimes get taller and then smaller?

What is the speaker's "notion" of how "children ought to play"? What is his shadow doing that is not the way to "play"? Include at least one detail from the text to support your answer.

In stanza 4, why is the shadow "fast asleep in bed"? Include at least one detail from the text to support your answer.

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Answers--Inference: 5th Grade

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Answers will vary. Students should be able to support answers with details when asked.

What do you infer is happening with the shadow in stanza 2? Why does the shadow sometimes get taller and then smaller?

Depending on where the light is, the shadow sometimes "shoots up taller" and "sometimes gets so little". When the light is overhead, the shadow will be little.

What is the speaker's "notion" of how "children ought to play"? What is his shadow doing that is not the way to "play"? Include at least one detail from the text to support your answer.

Children should run around and play. His shadow "stays so close beside" him that he calls the shadow a "coward."

In stanza 4, why is the shadow "fast asleep in bed"? Include at least one detail from the text to support your answer.

The sun is not up yet. He went outside "before the sun was up," so because there is no sun, he has now shadow. There must be light for someone or something to cast a shadow.
