

My Shadow

by Robert Louis Stevenson

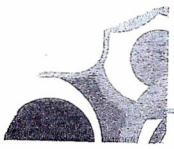
READING PACKET # 7

Read the poem. Then, answer the questions.

- 1 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.
- 5 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;
- 15 But my lazy little shadow, like an arrant* sleepy-head,
Had stayed at home behind me and was fast asleep in bed.

* that is, extreme (a real sleepy-head)

- Which sentence best tells what the poem is about?
A. A child goes to school and discovers his shadow.
B. A child thinks about bird and animal shadows.
C. A child describes his relationship with his shadow.
- Which word best describes how the speaker feels about his shadow?
A. quiet B. amused C. bored
- The shadow is different from the speaker because it can
A. get bigger and smaller.
B. jump up and down.
C. play outside and inside.
- What happens in the last stanza of the poem (lines 13–16)?
A. The speaker goes to sleep.
B. The speaker meets a new friend.
C. The shadow stays at home.
- Why did Stevenson write this poem?
A. to explain how to make shadow animals on a wall
B. to entertain readers with a familiar topic
C. to inform readers about the types of shadows



Colorful Bait

Read the passage. Then, answer the questions.

A clown fish has **vibrant** stripes and colors just like a clown. That is probably where it got the name. There are many different patterns and colors on the bodies of clown fish. The most common is orange with white and black stripes.

Real clown fish are not funny. They are **fierce**. They protect their homes and their eggs with care. A female clown fish lays between 300 and 700 eggs at one time. But, a male clown fish takes care of the eggs. He watches them until they hatch.

Clown fish have strange homes. They live in the **tentacles** of a sea animal called an anemone. These two animals have made a deal with each other. The anemone provides a safe home and does not eat the clown fish. In return, a clown fish does three things for the anemone. The clown fish cleans the anemone's tentacles by eating leftover bits of food. It guards the anemone against some enemies. And, the clown fish acts as bait. The clown fish's bright stripes **tempt** other fish to come toward the poisonous tentacles. Then, the anemone stings these fish and eats them. The **alliance** between these two sea animals works very well for both of them.

1. What does the word **vibrant** mean as it is used in the passage?
A. white B. colorless C. bright
2. What does the word **fierce** mean as it is used in the passage?
A. powerful B. lazy C. weak
3. What does the word **tentacles** mean as it is used in the passage?
A. arms B. eyes C. stomachs
4. What does the word **tempt** mean as it is used in the passage?
A. frighten B. attract C. bore
5. What does the word **alliance** mean as it is used in the passage?
A. conversation B. fight C. agreement

Colorado Attractions

Read the passage. Then, write the topic sentence from each paragraph and two details that support the topic sentence.

Pike's Peak is located in the Rocky Mountains of Colorado. The Rocky Mountains are a mountain range in the western part of the United States. Pike's Peak is not the highest mountain peak in the state. But, it is well known for the view from the top of the mountain. You can visit the peak and climb the mountain. People get to the top by walking, riding the cog railway, or driving a car.

Pike's Peak was named after the first American explorer to see it. His name was Zebulon Pike. He explored the southwestern area of the United States. He first saw the mountain in 1806.

The Royal Gorge is a deep canyon. The canyon was created by the rain and snow that run off the mountains and into the rivers. The Arkansas River runs through the bottom of the canyon. The bottom of Royal Gorge is more than 1,000 feet (305 m) deep! There is a bridge that crosses the canyon. Visitors like to walk out on the bridge to enjoy the view.

Paragraph 1

Topic Sentence:

Supporting Detail:

Supporting Detail:

Paragraph 2

Topic Sentence:

Supporting Detail:

Supporting Detail:

James Cook

Read the passage. Then, answer the questions.

In 1768, James Cook sailed a long way for a strange reason. Scientists found a way to see how far the sun was from the earth. To help them test this idea, Cook would sail from England to an island in the South Pacific Ocean. He and his crew would then measure the time it took the planet Venus to move across the sun.

There were 94 people on Cook's ship. Eleven of the people on the ship were scientists. The ship's name was the *Endeavor*. Their trip was very long. Cook did everything he could to keep his crew healthy. He made the crew keep their beds clean. He brought fruits and vegetables for them to eat. Cook even kept a goat onboard to give them milk!

They reached the island of Tahiti after eight months at sea. They found friendly people there. The crew watched Venus as they were told. Then, it was time to go. Cook had a new mission for them. They wanted to see if they could find a new **continent**. For many years, mapmakers believed that there was another continent the size of Asia. Cook did not find what he was looking for. Instead, he landed on New Zealand and the eastern coast of Australia.

When Cook returned home, he was famous for his discoveries. James Cook was a new kind of explorer. He did not want to harm the people he met during his travels or take away their land. Instead, he looked for new things to learn about.

1. Choose a good title for this passage.
 - A. The Path of Venus
 - B. Exploring for Science
 - C. The Lost Continent
2. How long did it take the *Endeavor* to reach Tahiti?

3. What was Cook unable to find after they left Tahiti?

4. What did Cook have on the ship to keep the crew healthy?

5. What was the *Endeavor's* crew supposed to do in Tahiti?

6. Number the events in the order in which they happened.
____ Cook became famous for the things he discovered.
____ The *Endeavor* started searching for a new continent.
____ Cook left England for the South Pacific.
____ The *Endeavor* reached Tahiti.
____ The *Endeavor* reached Australia.
7. What does the word **continent** mean?
 - A. a major landmass
 - B. an ocean
 - C. a mountain

Now or Then?

Read the passage. Then, answer the questions.

Have you ever been in a convertible car? If you had lived long ago when Henry Ford started making cars, you probably would have been in a convertible car. Ford built the first cars that many people could afford to buy. He made cars in a new way that cost less money. That made the cars cheaper for people to buy. The cars could not go as fast as the cars we drive today. But, they did help people get where they needed to go.

Ford's cars were a little different from today's cars. The gas tank was under the driver's seat. A person had to lift the seat out to put gas in the car! Sometimes, a car would not start in cold weather. So, people had to pour hot water under the hood. Many of the cars did not have bumpers or mirrors. That was because they cost extra money. Ford's cars were a way to move people around, just like our cars today.

Would you rather have a car from the past or a car from today? Make a list of similarities and differences to help you decide.

1. How cars of the past and cars of today are alike:

2. How cars of the past and cars of today are different:

3. Based on your lists, would you rather have a car from the past or a car from today?
