

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# The Race

by Liana Mahoney

I'm running a race!  
It's a game I play –  
A game for sun-lit  
Summer days.

My heart is pumping.  
*Will I win this race?*  
My legs are flying  
In a high-speed chase.

I'm really fast,  
But he's *still* ahead!  
Wish I were winning  
This race instead!

I'm tiring out;  
My running slows.

He slows down, too.  
I think he knows...

I just can't catch him.  
I admit defeat.  
My shadow's so fast,  
He can't be beat!



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1. Who is the boy in the poem racing against?

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2. Which of these statements is probably true about the race in the poem?

- a.** The boy is a slow runner.                      **b.** It is impossible for the boy to win the race.  
**c.** The boy gets tired quickly.                      **d.** The boy will probably win next time.

3. Why does the poem state that this is a game for "sun-lit summer days"?

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4. Do you think the boy really expected to win the race? Why or why not?

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5. List four pairs of rhyming words the poet uses in this poem.

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_,                      \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_,                      \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

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# The Race

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1. Who is the boy in the poem racing against?

**The boy is racing against his shadow.**

2. Which of these statements is probably true about the race in the poem? **b**
- a. The boy is a slow runner.                      b. **It is impossible for the boy to win the race.**
- c. The boy gets tired quickly.                      d. The boy will probably win next time.

3. Why does the poem state that this is a game for “sun-lit summer days”?

**The poem states that this is a game for sun-lit summer days because there are no shadows when the sun is not out.**

4. Do you think the boy really expected to win the race? Why or why not?

**(Answers will vary.) Possible answer: The boy probably knew he could not win a race against his shadow because he has played this game before. He is probably running just for fun.**

5. List four pairs of rhyming words the poet uses in this poem.

**race** and **chase**,                      **ahead** and **instead**,  
**slows** and **knows**,                      **defeat** and **beat**

**Note: You may also want to accept play and day(s)**