I go to bed.
I close my eyes, but specters in my mind arise.
I punch my pillow, toss and moan.
Clearly, I am not alone.
I crack an eyelid, scan the room – that’s when I see dark shadows loom.
I rub my eyes so hard they burn.
I crumple up my sheets and turn.
I struggle, wrestle through the night, then, finally, at dawn’s first light:
as sunbeams ‘cross my window creep, I shudder twice and fall asleep.
Falling Asleep

By B. J. Lee

1. Why can’t the person in this poem fall asleep?
   a. He or she is not tired.
   b. He or she is feeling afraid.
   c. He or she is in an uncomfortable bed.
   d. He or she is worried about school.

2. How long does the person in the poem stay awake in bed?
   a. an hour or two
   b. until midnight
   c. until morning
   d. until dusk

3. Which word is a synonym for specter?
   a. dream
   b. sleep
   c. headache
   d. ghost

4. What does the word loom mean?
   a. to move about
   b. to tower over
   c. to come closer
   d. to make quiet sounds

5. Which word is a synonym for shudder?
   a. tremble
   b. blink
   c. snore
   d. breathe
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