

Name: _____

Falling Asleep

By B. J. Lee



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.

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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

ANSWER KEY

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