

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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