##### DIRECTIONS

1. Read the questions. They point you to specific sections of text. Before you even read the article, find the sections of the text that the questions refer to, and underline them with your pen or pencil.
2. Read carefully and closely. Take your time.
3. Mark the text using your Avid strategies
4. Respond to the questions only when you are certain you are correct.

*The speakers of “Insomnia” and “When They Sleep” describe their different nighttime experiences. Read both poems and answer the questions that follow.*

*Insomnia*

Even though the house is deeply silent and the room, with no moon,

is perfectly dark,

even though the body is a sack of exhaustion

5 inert on the bed,

someone inside me will not get off his tricycle,

will not stop tracing the same tight circle on the same green threadbare carpet.

10 It makes no difference whether I lie staring at the ceiling

or pace the living-room floor,

he keeps on making his furious rounds, little pedaler in his frenzy,

15 my own worst enemy, my oldest friend.

What is there to do but close my eyes and watch him circling the night, schoolboy in an ill-fitting jacket, leaning forward, his cap on backwards,

20 wringing the handlebars, maintaining a certain speed?

Does anything exist at this hour in this nest of dark rooms

but the spectacle of him

25 and the hope that before dawn

I can lift out some curious detail that will carry me off to sleep—

the watch that encircles his pale wrist, the expandable band,

30 the tiny hands that keep pointing this way and that.

—*Marge Piercy*

#### When They Sleep

All people are children when they sleep. There’s no war in them then.

They open their hands and breathe

in that quiet rhythm heaven has given them.

5 They pucker their lips like small children and open their hands halfway,

soldiers and statesmen, servants and masters.

The stars stand guard and a haze veils the sky,

10 a few hours when no one will do anybody harm.

If only we could speak to one another then when our hearts are half-open flowers.

Words like golden bees would drift in.

15 - God, teach me the language of sleep.

—*Rolf Jacobsen*

* + 1. In “Insomnia,” the change from the first stanza to the second stanza can **best** be described as a transition from
	1. darkness to light.
	2. acceptance to denial.
	3. stillness to movement.
	4. desperation to excitement.
		1. Read lines 6 and 7 of “Insomnia” in the box below.

someone inside me will not / get off his tricycle,

The “someone” in line 6 **most likely**

refers to

1. an old friend of the speaker’s.
2. the force keeping the speaker awake.
3. a childhood memory of the speaker’s.
4. the conflict the speaker has with her child.
	* 1. Read lines 5–7 of “When They Sleep” in the box below.

They pucker their lips like small children / and open their hands halfway, / soldiers and statesmen, servants and masters.

The **most likely** reason the poet includes the pair of contrasts in line 7 is to

show that

1. sleep makes all people equal.
2. sleep helps people to do their work.
3. children never outgrow their need to sleep.
4. adults are as troubled by dreams as children are.
	* 1. In “When They Sleep,” stars are personified as
5. servants.
6. teachers.
7. protectors.
8. statesmen.
	* 1. What does the speaker wish for in lines 11 and 12 of “When They Sleep”?
9. someone to talk to at night
10. a closer relationship with nature
11. an appreciation for the benefits of rest
12. peaceful communication among people