

WORDS TO KNOW

As you read, look inside, around, and beyond these words to figure out what they mean.

- **assured**
- **complained**

Anna's MONSTERS

by Justin Nuñez



- 1 I'm scared of the darkness, I don't care who knows it,
I don't like the darkness at all.
I sleep with the lights on—two lights in my room,
And a much brighter light in the hall.
5 I'm frightened of monsters that might come and get me,
Whenever I climb into bed.
My mother says, "Anna, you're just being silly,
The monsters are all in your head!"

But I don't think that's true, because of what happened

- 10 Last night, the first day of the week.
I put on my nightgown, got under the covers—
Rolled over, and heard a strange squeak.
It wasn't a mouse, and it wasn't a rabbit,
It wasn't a dog or a cat.
15 So I screamed out in terror. My mother came running!
"Whatever," she asked me, "was that?"

"I heard a strange noise!" I explained to my mother,
I was almost too frightened to talk.

I *knew* it was monsters, some big hungry monsters,

- 20 It was all I could do not to squawk!
"I *don't* like the darkness," I said to my mother,
"I don't like the dark and the night.
Can't I get up and sit with you out on the couch,
In a room that's all cheery and bright?"

25 “Oh, *Anna*,” Mom said, and she looked at me sadly.

“Do we need to go through this once *more*?

Last night you assured me that you saw a monster—

It turned out to be socks on the floor.”

“But this one was real!” I complained to my mother.

30 “I heard it squeak loudly and clear!

I don’t like the darkness, the monsters will eat me—

Don’t let them come anywhere near!”

My mother explained that the noises weren’t monsters;

She showed me some interesting things.

35 For example, I learned that my bed makes a squeak

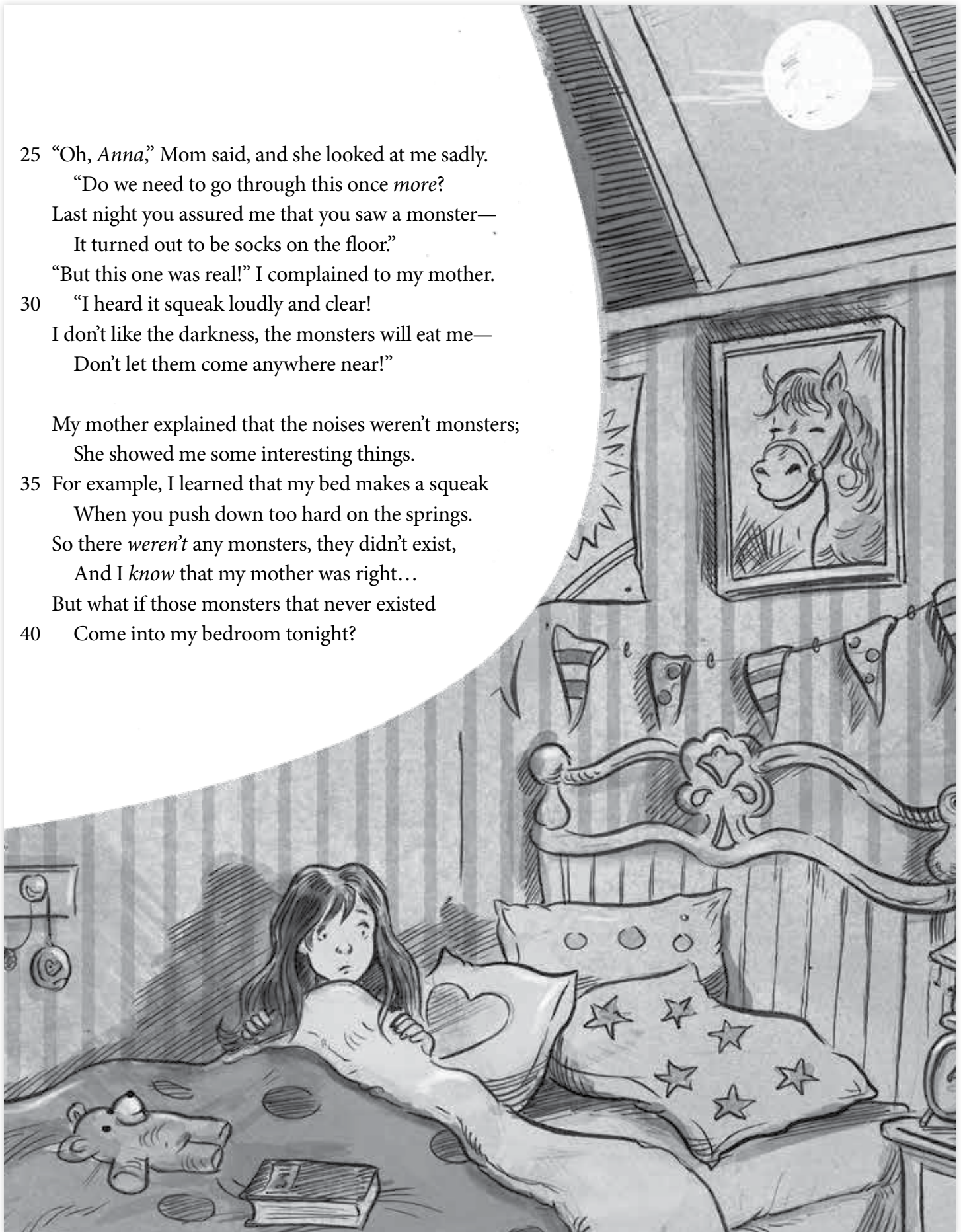
When you push down too hard on the springs.


So there *weren’t* any monsters, they didn’t exist,

And I *know* that my mother was right...

But what if those monsters that never existed

40 Come into my bedroom tonight?



 **Think** Use what you learned from reading the poem to answer the following questions.

- 1** This question has two parts. First, answer Part A. Then answer Part B.

Part A

Read the line from the first stanza of the poem.

The monsters are all in your head!

Which phrase **best** states the meaning of all in your head?

- A** easy to see
- B** ready to attack you
- C** only imagined
- D** giving you a headache

Part B

Which detail in the first stanza **best** helps the reader understand the meaning of all in your head?

- A** "I'm scared of the darkness, . . ."
- B** "I sleep with the lights on, . . ."
- C** "Whenever I climb into bed."
- D** "'Anna, you're just being silly, . . .'"

- 2** Which statement **best** summarizes the speaker's message about fears?

- A** For most people, nighttime is scary because it is dark and quiet and nobody is awake.
- B** Many people are much too fearful, and some are even afraid of their own surroundings.
- C** It can be hard to stop being afraid, even when someone proves that what you fear is not real.
- D** It is easy to get over a fear once someone shows you that your fear is based on something that is not real.

- 3** This question has two parts. First, answer Part A. Then answer Part B.

Part A

How are the events in stanzas two and three important to the poem's theme?

- A** These events show Anna doesn't like the dark of night because that is when she sees the monsters.
- B** These events show Anna remembers it was last night that she heard a squeak.
- C** These events show Anna's mother comes running in fear when Anna screams.
- D** These events show Anna believes that monsters make the noises that scare her in the dark.

Part B

Select **one** choice from **each** stanza that **best** supports the answer to Part A.

- A** "... because of what happened. ..." (stanza two)
- B** "... I screamed out in terror." (stanza two)
- C** "... 'Whatever,' she asked me, 'was that?'" (stanza two)
- D** "I *knew* it was monsters, ..." (stanza three)
- E** "It was all I could do. ..." (stanza three)
- F** "... a room that's all cheery and bright?" (stanza three)

- 4** Which line from the poem **best** summarizes a theme of the poem?

- A** "'The monsters are all in your head!'" (line 8)
- B** "Rolled over, and heard a strange squeak." (line 12)
- C** "So I screamed out in terror. My mother came running!" (line 15)
- D** "'I *don't* like the darkness,' I said to my mother," (line 21)