

Name _____

Slipping Away

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. At the beginning, he feels in control and clever, but by the end, he is overwhelmed by guilt and loses his grip on reality.
2. Guilt builds inside the narrator, making him imagine sounds that drive him to confess.
3. Poe uses suspense by slowly revealing the narrator's madness and describing the sound of the heartbeat growing louder and louder.
4. Answers will vary, but some may argue that the heartbeat was imagined due to guilt, while others may think it was real in his mind.

