

Name _____

Echoing Fear

Short Answer Key

1. He hears a heartbeat, which frightens him because he believes it is coming from the old man beneath the floorboards.
2. The police do not react because the sound is not real—it exists only in the narrator's mind.
3. At first, the narrator feels confident, but as the sound grows louder, his guilt takes over and makes him panic.
4. He believes they must hear the sound too and are pretending not to, just to torment him.
5. The narrator cannot stand the sound of the heartbeat, and his paranoia makes him confess to the crime.

