Here are some suggestions for 'Talking In Bed'.

1. Look at the title of the poem. Does this give you any clue as to what the poem is about? Does what the title suggests occur in the poem? Write a paragraph in which you give reasons for your answer.
   - The title of the poem would suggest it would be about a couple having a conversation, however this is not what the poem is about. Ironically, the poem is about not talking in bed.

2. Identify an example of repetition in line four and explain its effect.
   - ‘more and more’ enforces the idea that the speaker & partner no longer ‘talk’ in bed which reveals that they have drifted apart and have become disconnected and alienated.

3. Read the definition of ‘tone’ on page 47 of Introduction of English Literary Studies. What is the tone created in lines 4 to 7? Identify words in this section that helped you in determining the tone. Write a paragraph in which you describe how these words relate to the title of the poem.
   - the tone of the poem is perhaps guilt/remorse and melancholic/sorrow – ‘more and more time passes silently’
   - the language emphasizes the feelings of what an empty marriage may feel like – ‘Lying together there goes back so far’ (lying = polysemy / two meanings to one word)
   - ‘it becomes still more difficult’

4. What is the setting of lines 8 to 12? How do you know this?
   - the specific setting would be the couple’s home or place they live in together
   - generally, we could say that they must be somewhere in England, as we know Larkin was born in and worked in England
   - ‘dark towns’ could represent the pain and loneliness, or impediments to their marriage which build up causing them to feel so isolated.

5. Look at the last three lines of the poem. What kinds of words does the speaker want to speak to his or her partner? Why is this difficult?
   - the last three lines would suggest that the speaker finds it difficult to engage in any conversation, even the mundane, ‘words at once true and kind’ / Or not untrue and not unkind’ – repetition suggests mundane – the double negative suggests that it is difficult to be neutral
   - it seems the speaker does not understand why words do not come to them - why have they nothing left to say? He has trouble remembering kind words.

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1. It is on the topic of talking in bed as compared to an actual act of talking in bed literally.

The title is ironic in the sense that it is the absence of talking that highlights the core of the poem.
Larkin seems to be highlighting that the closeness of being together in bed should make it easy to talk. It should be easy rather than difficult. This couple seems to have a problem of communicating as it is shown in line 2 "lying together there goes far back", as they do not say a word to each other.

2."yet more and more time passes silently" the poet gives us a sense of human stagnation and time passing slowly.

3. the tone of the poem is probably disillusionment/lost hope.

4. I think the setting here is in bed or a place where they live together which might be their house.