



45 motion, and at another the lock of her door was agitated, as if by the attempt<sup>24</sup> of somebody to enter. Hollow murmurs<sup>25</sup> seemed to creep along the gallery, and more than once her blood was chilled<sup>26</sup> by the sound of distant moans<sup>27</sup>. Hour after hour passed away, and the wearied<sup>28</sup> Catherine had heard three proclaimed by all the clocks in the house before the tempest subsided or she unknowingly fell fast asleep.

- 24 **attempt.** Tentativo.  
25 **Hollow murmurs.** Cupi mormorii.  
26 **chilled.** Raggelato.  
27 **moans.** Lamenti.  
28 **wearied.** Esausta.

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## COMPREHENSION

### 1 **READ** lines 1–15 and answer these questions.

- 1 What did Catherine find inside the cabinet?
- 2 How did she feel?
- 3 What did she resolve to do?
- 4 What happened to the candle?
- 5 What was her reaction?

### 2 **READ** the text to the end and say:

- the noises which frightened Catherine;
- where she looked for safety;
- what she wondered about;
- what prevented her from sleeping;
- whether she finally fell asleep or not.

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## ANALYSIS

- 3 **HOW** do Catherine's actions and reactions differ from what the reader expects from her, given the initial presentation provided in the first chapter (→Text Bank 56)?
- 4 **EXPLAIN** in what sense the passage can be read as a parody of the Gothic novel.
- 5 **WHAT** do you think is the message Austen wants to convey in this passage?

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## YOUR TURN

- 6 **COMPARE.** Jane Austen's particular target was the eighteenth-century heroine of sensibility to be found in the sentimental and Gothic novels. Write a short essay in which you compare Marianne, Elizabeth and Catherine with the heroines you studied in the 18<sup>th</sup>-century novels. Then discuss the authors' aims in each work.