**COMMENT ON A DRAMATIC INCIDENT (from Jane Eyre)**

**COMPREHENSION**

1. Jane is thinking about Rochester. **The first time they met**, she thought he was rude and not very handsome, but **now** she has changed her mind because she has known him for some time. She is fascinated by him, she is happy when she finds him in a room (l. 3). In short, she is falling in love with him. She is very **grateful** to him (l.1) because he is kind to her (l. 6) and he has given her a **house** where she feels happy. She knows that he is **not perfect**, he is proud (l.4), very severe (l. 6) (but not with Jane), moody (l.6) and he seems unhappy (l.8-9). Jane justifies his defects because she has understood that he must have a sad and difficult past that has partly damaged his good nature. She would like to help him (l. 15). She is **sensitive** and **generous**
2. Jane wonders if **R. will leave the house** soon. She thinks that she will miss him a lot if he goes away (even the sunshine days will be joyless without him, l. 23-24). R. usually stays in the house only some days, this time he has remained there much longer because he has met Jane and he is falling in love with her, too
3. She is probably sleeping, when she hears a strange noise, a **murmur** (l. 26) just above her
4. It’s 2 o’clock and everyone is sleeping, apart from Jane who can’t fall asleep again because she is afraid
5. She hears something outside the door of her bedroom and she thinks it may be Pilot, Rochester’s dog. Even if she has many reasons to be afraid, she can still use her **rationality** to find a reasonable explanation to the noises she hears; so, she manages to calm down and feel a bit better
6. While she is falling asleep again, she hears a **demoniac laugh**, just outside her bedroom. It seems so near that she thinks there may be a goblin (an evil spirit) on her pillow (l. 44-45). She tries to keep calm and maintain her rationality, so she asks who is there, but no-one answers; she hears other strange and frightening noises just outside her bedroom. Finally, she hears some steps going away to the stairs (l. 48-49), then a door opens and closes upstairs (l. 50)
7. At this point, she is sure there is something wrong, so she gets dressed and she goes out of her bedroom (l. 52-53). Her hands are trembling because she is terrified (l. 53), but she shows **courage**, she doesn’t hide, she is ready to face the danger
8. She smells some smoke that is coming from R’s bedroom. When she sees it, she forgets everything else (l 59-60) and she immediately runs to his bedroom where she finds that the curtains of his bed are burning (l. 61) and R. is sleeping on the bed

The **narrator** is first person, Jane explains everything and the readers identify with her and share her feelings and fear. In line 1 the narrator speaks directly to the readers, to involve them more

R. is presented through Jane’s words (l. 1-16), while Jane is presented directly through her words and actions

R. has some characteristics of the **Romantic hero:** he has a very mysterious past and he is attractive and fascinating; in fact, both Jane and Blanche fall in love with him

The **setting** is described in a **subjective way**, through Jane’s impressions and thoughts. For ex. she defines the laugh “demoniac” (l.42). In general, the **atmosphere** is frightening, full of horror and mystery and it suggests the presence of supernatural elements (ghosts and so on)

There are several characteristics in common with the **gothic novels**, for ex.

* **The setting**: it’s night, Jane is in complete darkness because she has extinguished the candle; the house is old, big, isolated and full of frightening noises, there are locked rooms (as in the attic) where Jane can’t go and that hide terrible secrets.
* **The characters**: R. has a mysterious past; he doesn’t want to speak about it, but sometimes he suggests that destiny is against him (l.18-19) and he can’t be happy. Therefore, this past must be bad and dangerous.
* **The situation**: In the middle of the night, after hearing the demoniac laugh, Jane finds a fire in R’s bedroom and she saves his life.