



ABOUT YOU

Answer the questions and talk about your ideas.

- 1 Do you like old buildings? Why? Why not?
- 2 How would you feel about spending a night in an old castle?
- 3 Think of a time when you spent the night in a new room. How did you feel?

1 Read the text. As you read, think about this question.

How does Catherine feel about being in the room?

Northanger Abbey (1817)

Jane Austen

She looked round the room. The curtains seemed to move. She stepped forward ... She looked behind each curtain but saw nothing on either low window seat to make her afraid, she placed her hand against the window, she felt

- 5 the wind's force ... But she would not make up her fire; wanting the protection of light after she went to bed meant she wasn't **brave**. The fire therefore died, and Catherine was beginning to think of getting into bed, when, looking round the room, she saw a high, **old-fashioned** black and gold cupboard ... She took her candle and looked closely
- 10 at it ... The key was in the door, and she wanted to look into it ... she could not sleep till she had studied it. So, placing the candle carefully on a chair, she tried to turn the key but it did not work. Surprised, she tried it another way
- 15 ... how strange! The door still did not move. She waited for a moment, not **breathing**. She heard the wind blowing down the **chimney**, the rain **beat** against the windows ... Again she used the key, and after moving it in every possible way for some moments, the door suddenly opened. Small
- 20 drawers appeared in view, with some larger drawers above and below them; and in the centre, a small door, closed also with a **lock** and key.

This story takes place around 1800. At that time, stories about old castles with secrets were very popular. They were called *Gothic* stories and Catherine, a young woman and the main character in the story, loves them. One day, she is invited to stay in an old **abbey** with some friends. After a long day, she goes to her bedroom. It's windy outside but there is a fire in the room ...



Catherine's heart beat quickly, but she felt brave. Her fingers **seized** the handle of a drawer and opened it ...

GLOSSARY

abbey	a religious building like a church – sometimes used as a house
brave	showing no fear of dangerous or difficult situations
old-fashioned	not modern
breathing	process of taking air in and out of your body
chimney	wide pipe that allows smoke from a fire to go out through the roof
beat	made a continuous or regular sound
lock	something you open and close with a key
seized	took hold of something quickly

2 Read the text again and answer the questions.

- 1** Why do you think Catherine wants to open the cupboard?

.....

.....

- 2 Do you think she is a brave person?

.....

.....

- ### 3 What would you do in her situation?

- 4 What do you imagine she finds in the drawer?

.....

.....

VOCABULARY

- 3** Match the phrase in *italics* (1–4) to a word or phrase (A–D).

- 1** The clothes he wears are *not fashionable*. **A** an abbey

- 2 That large building is *a kind of church*. B seized

- 3 He *took* my bag and ran! C old-fashioned

- 4 He *isn't afraid of anything!* D is very brave

- 4** Put the words in order.

Example: abbey / was / the / old / very

The abbey was very old.

- 1 likes / old-fashioned / he / music / very

2 smoke / up / the / chimney / went / the

- 2 smoke / up / the / chimney / went / the

3 she / door / put / lock / a / on / the

- 3 she / door / put / lock / a / on / the

4 fingers / he / the / rhythm / his / beat / with

- 4 fingers / he / the / rhythm / his / beat / with

5 dirty / breathing / air / not / is / healthy

- 5 dirty / breathing / air / not / is / healthy

WRITING

- 5** Imagine you are staying the night in an old building. Write a description of the room – think about the furniture, the colours and the size of the room. What can you see from the window? What is the weather like outside? Are there pictures on the walls? Is the room old-fashioned? How do you feel in this room?

[illegible]

SPEAKING

- 6** In the drawer Catherine finds this note with a key.

Please help me. I am in the room at the top of the abbey. I am a prisoner. I did nothing wrong. You are in danger. Help me and I can help you.

Work in a group. Put these ideas in order from 1-5 (1 = best, 5 = worst).

- A** Do nothing. Go to bed.
- B** Go to the room at the top of the abbey.
- C** Tell someone about the letter.
- D** Wait until morning and decide then.
- E** Go home now.