

*The Story of an Hour*



*by  
Kate Chopin*



## Day 3 Lesson Objectives

**I will be able to:**

- **Understand and describe analogy**
- **Analyze the use of analogies in the text**
- **Use evidence to support an analysis of what the text says**
- **Understand key words from the story**
- **Determine a theme in the text and analyze its development**
- **Use language effectively for different tasks**



# ANALOGY



She sat with her head thrown back upon the cushion of the chair, quite motionless, except when a sob came up into her throat and shook her, *as a child who has cried itself to sleep continues to sob in its dreams.*




She was beginning to recognize this thing that was approaching to possess her, and she was striving to beat it back with her will – *as powerless as her two white slender hands would have been.*



There was a feverish triumph in her eyes, and she carried herself unwittingly *like a goddess of Victory*.



# GLOSSARY

Word	English Definition	Example from Text	Picture	Personal Example
abandonment	<i>taken over with great emotion</i>	She wept at once, with sudden, wild abandonment.		<i>At the concert, we danced around with abandonment.</i>



**THE STORY OF AN HOUR**

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*Kate Chopin*



## reveal



To **reveal** is to let people know something.

[*She revealed the difficult information to her sister slowly.*]

**En español:** revelar

Now, let's look at a picture that demonstrates the word **reveal**. This doctor has just revealed some bad news to the elderly woman.

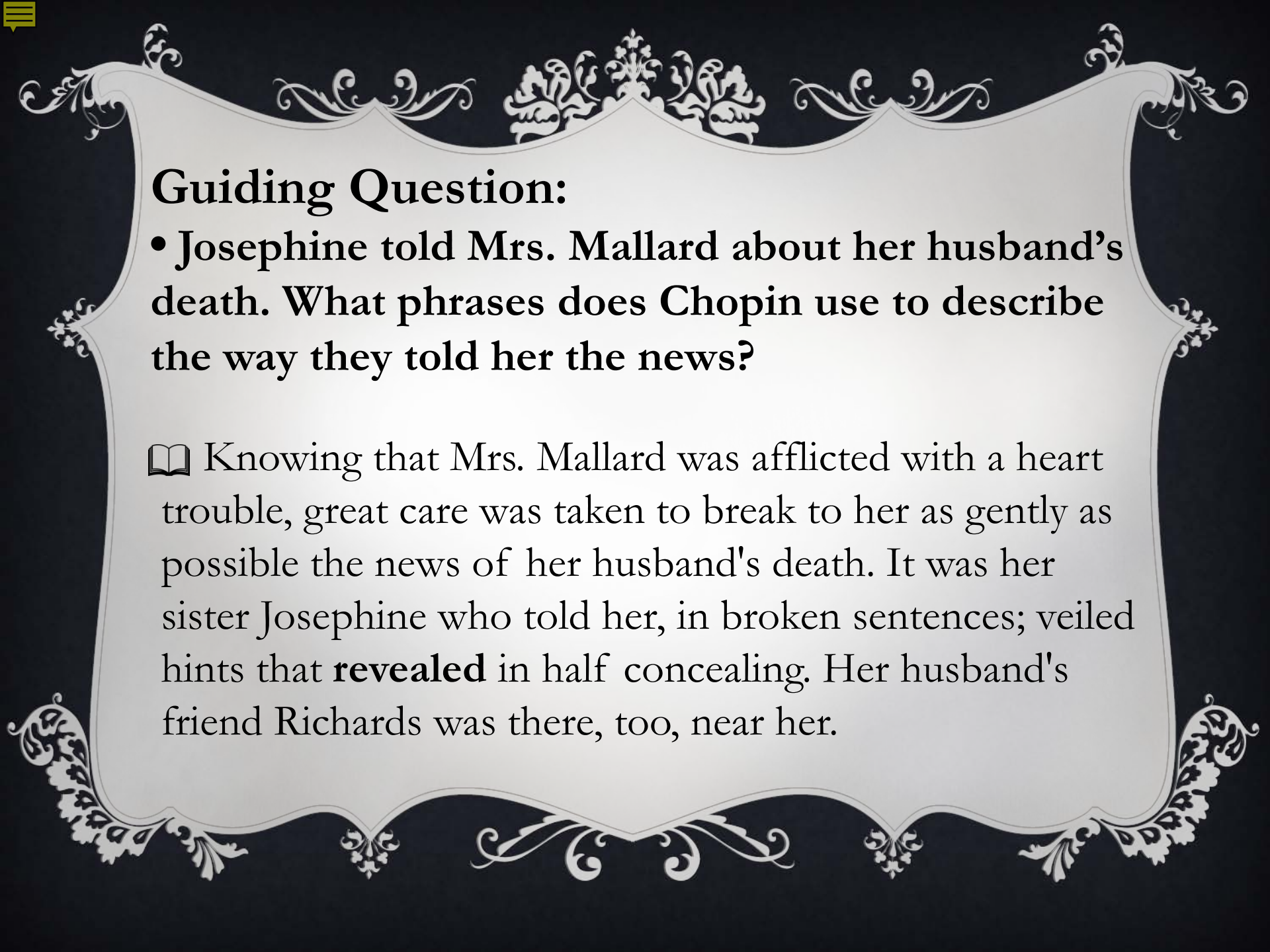
🗨️ **Partner talk:** Describe some interesting information that a friend revealed to you.

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Let's look at another picture that demonstrates the word **reveal**. You can also reveal an object, like when you open a present to see what is inside.

🗨️ **Partner talk:** What do you think the girl is revealing, and why do you think that?

A decorative scrollwork border in a light gray color frames the text on a dark gray background. The border features intricate floral and vine patterns, with larger central medallions at the top and bottom. In the top-left corner, there is a small yellow icon of a speech bubble with three horizontal lines inside.

## Guiding Question:

- Josephine told Mrs. Mallard about her husband's death. What phrases does Chopin use to describe the way they told her the news?

📖 Knowing that Mrs. Mallard was afflicted with a heart trouble, great care was taken to break to her as gently as possible the news of her husband's death. It was her sister Josephine who told her, in broken sentences; veiled hints that **revealed** in half concealing. Her husband's friend Richards was there, too, near her.

## Guiding Question:

- Josephine told Mrs. Mallard about her husband's death. What phrases does Chopin use to describe the way they told her the news?

great care was taken

as gently as possible

in broken sentences

veiled hints

half concealing

**intelligence**



**Intelligence** is information or news.

[He received *intelligence* of the accident from the newspaper.]

**En español:** información o noticias

Now, let's look at a picture that demonstrates the word **intelligence**, or news. This woman is reading a newspaper. A newspaper is a good source of intelligence.

**Partner talk:** What is another source of intelligence besides a newspaper?



**Intelligence** also has another meaning.

**Partner talk:** Say what else intelligence can mean. Look at the picture if you need a clue.

## assure



To **assure** yourself is to be certain about something.  
[*He took time to assure himself that the information was true.*]

**En español:** asegurarse

Now, let's look at a picture that demonstrates the word **assure**. The girl is checking her homework to assure herself that she didn't make any mistakes.

🗨️ **Partner talk:** Name something you have assured yourself about.




You can also **assure** someone else. When you assure someone, you make them feel safe or good. In the picture, the girl is assuring her friend.

🗨️ **Partner talk:** What might the girl be assuring her friend about?

A decorative scrollwork border in a light gray color frames the text on a dark blue background. The border features intricate floral and vine patterns, with a central crest-like element at the top and bottom.

## Guiding Question:

- What is the literal meaning of the second sentence? **Literal means exact. Explain the exact meaning of the second sentence in your own words.**

 It was he who had been in the newspaper office when **intelligence** of the railroad disaster was received, with Brently Mallard's name leading the list of “killed.” He had only taken the time to **assure** himself of its truth by a second telegram, and had hastened to forestall any less careful, less tender friend in bearing the sad message.

## Guiding Question:

- What is the literal meaning of the second sentence? Literal means exact. Explain the exact meaning of the second sentence in your own words.

Mr. Richards sent a second telegram to be sure Mr. Mallard had died.

He quickly went to tell Mrs. Mallard.

He wanted to tell her in a way that didn't upset her.

## significance



The **significance** of something is its meaning.

[*She understood the significance, or meaning, of the message.*]

**En español:** significado

Now, let's look at a picture that demonstrates the word **significance**. Almost every package has a bar code with some significance, or meaning.

🗨️ **Partner talk:** What else has a hidden significance?



Let's look at another picture of **significance**. Americans celebrate July 4<sup>th</sup> with fireworks because it has great significance. Something that has significance is something that is very important.

🗨️ **Partner talk:** Why does July 4<sup>th</sup> have great significance, or importance to Americans?



## abandonment



If you do something with **abandonment**, it means you let your emotions take over completely.

[*She cried with wild abandonment.*]

**En español:** falta de control

Now, let's look at a picture that demonstrates the word **abandonment**. This woman is crying with abandonment, or with great emotion.

Now raise your hands in the air and wave them around with abandonment.



Let's look at another picture of **abandonment**. It can also mean leaving something behind, the way the people who lived in this house left it behind.

**Partner talk:** What are the clues of abandonment in this picture?

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## Guiding Question:

- What does this paragraph mean?

📖 She did not hear the story as many women have heard the same, with a paralyzed inability to accept its **significance**. She wept at once, with sudden, wild **abandonment**, in her sister's arms. When the storm of grief had spent itself she went away to her room alone. She would have no one follow.

## Guiding Question:

- What does this paragraph mean?

She was unlike most women. She did not freeze. She cried right away while her sister held her. When she was calm, she went to her room alone.

## physical



If something is **physical**, it means it has something to do with the body.

[*She experienced physical exhaustion.*]

**En español:** físico

Now, let's look at a picture that demonstrates the word **physical**. This man has great physical tiredness because he has exercising for a long time.

🗨️ **Partner talk:** Name a time that you felt physical tiredness.



Let's look at another picture of **physical**.

🗨️ **Partner talk:** Why does this picture demonstrate the word physical?

## Guiding Question:

- How does Chopin stress that her exhaustion was physical? In other words, what words and phrases tell you she is tired?

📖 There stood, facing the open window, a comfortable, roomy armchair. Into this she sank, pressed down by a **physical** exhaustion that haunted her body and seemed to reach into her soul.

## Guiding Question:

- How does Chopin stress that her exhaustion was physical? In other words, what words and phrases tell you she is tired?

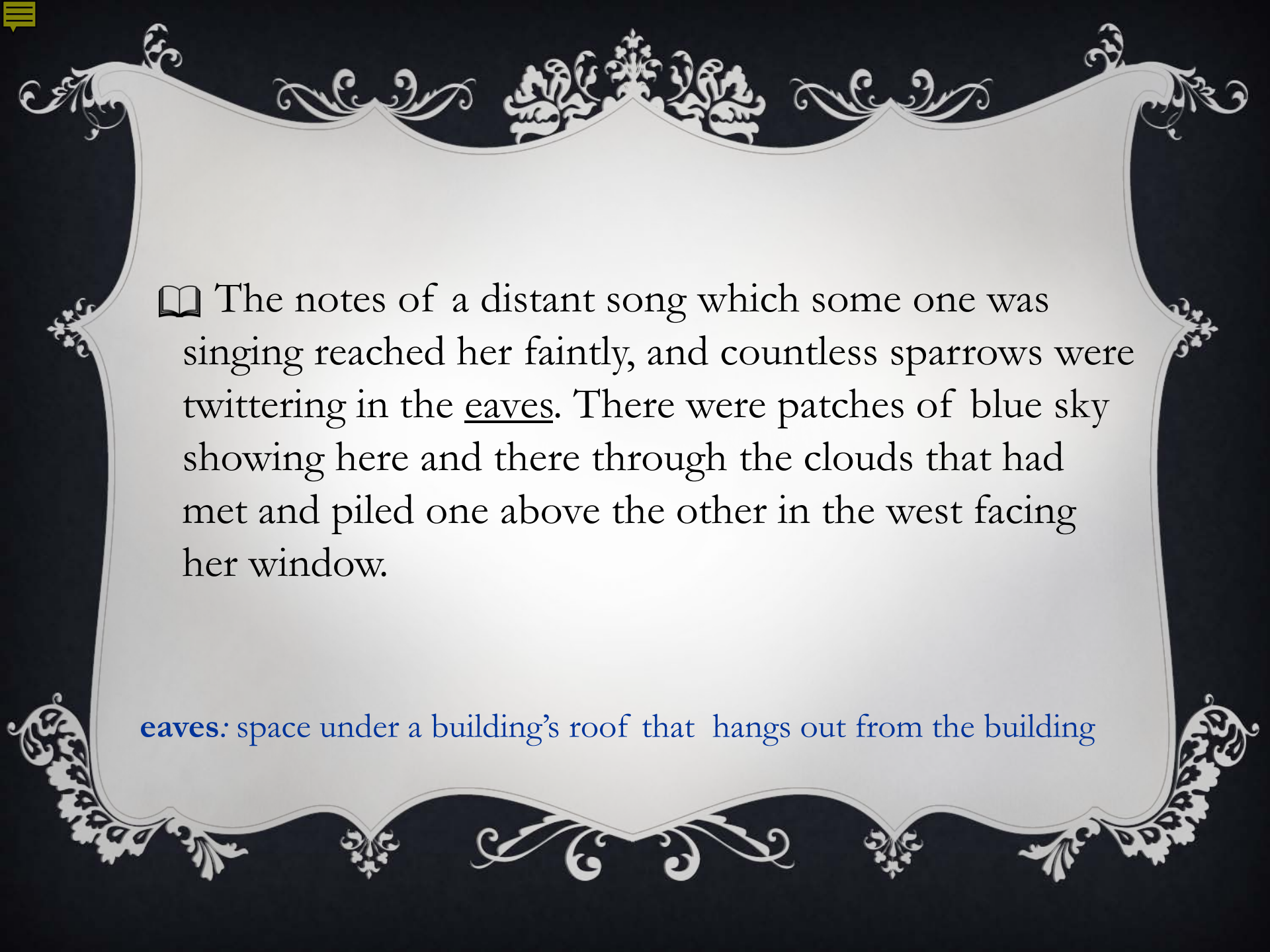
Her body was pressed down as she sank into the chair. She was so tired that she appeared to be spiritually exhausted as well.


## Guiding Questions:

- How would you characterize the description of the natural world portrayed in these two slides? In other words, what words and phrases describe the natural world? Are these words and phrases positive or negative? Happy or sad?

📖 She could see in the open square before her house the tops of trees that were all aquiver with the new spring life. The delicious breath of rain was in the air. In the street below a peddler was crying his wares.

**crying:** calling out

A decorative border with intricate scrollwork and floral patterns surrounds the text. The border is white and set against a dark background. It features a central floral motif at the top and bottom, with elegant scrolls and leaves extending outwards.

 The notes of a distant song which some one was singing reached her faintly, and countless sparrows were twittering in the eaves. There were patches of blue sky showing here and there through the clouds that had met and piled one above the other in the west facing her window.

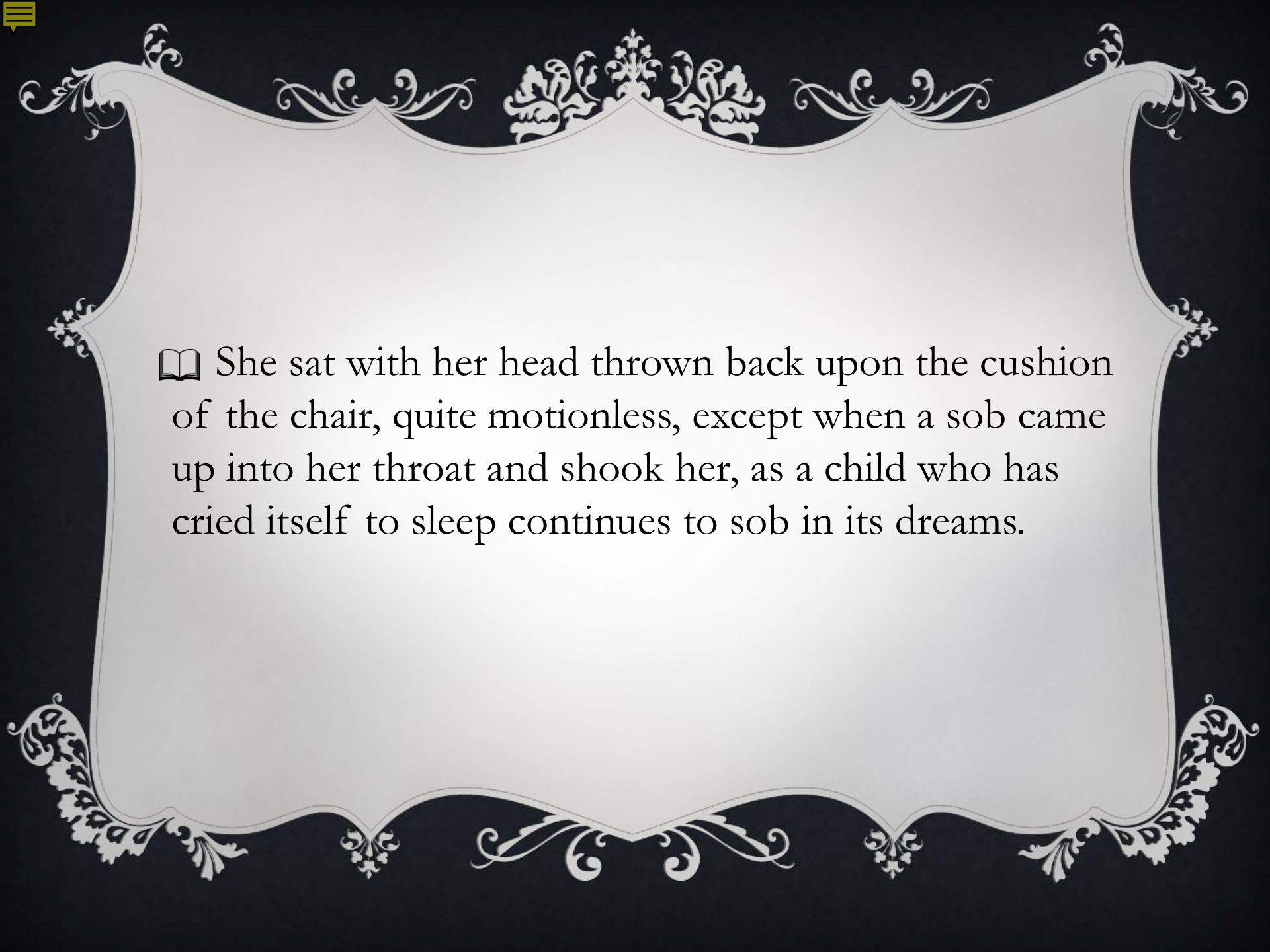
**eaves:** space under a building's roof that hangs out from the building



## Guiding Questions:

- How would you characterize the description of the natural world portrayed in these two slides? In other words, what words and phrases describe the natural world? Are these words and phrases positive or negative? Happy or sad?

Phrases like all aquiver with the new spring life, delicious breath of rain, countless sparrows were twittering, and patches of blue sky are all very positive, upbeat, and even hopeful.



She sat with her head thrown back upon the cushion of the chair, quite motionless, except when a sob came up into her throat and shook her, as a child who has cried itself to sleep continues to sob in its dreams.

indicate



To **indicate** is to show or signal something.

[*Her face indicated that she had stopped thinking about the tragedy.*]

**En español:** indicar

Now, let's look at a picture that demonstrates the word **indicate**. This man's face indicates, or shows that he is happy or relieved.

**Partner talk:** How do you indicate that you are sad?



**Partner talk:** What does this sign indicate? How do you know?

## suspension



A **suspension** means a short break or a pause in something.

[*There was a suspension in her thinking.*]

**En español:** suspensión

Now, let's look at a picture that demonstrates the word **suspension**. There has been a suspension of the soccer game.

**Partner talk:** Name a time you've seen a **suspension** of something.



Let's look at another picture of **suspension**. It can also mean a type of mixture where solid particles float in liquid.

**Partner talk:** Describe the suspension in this picture.

## Guiding Question:

- How does Chopin (the author) characterize Mrs. Mallard's gaze? In other words, what words does the author use to describe her gaze or the way she is looking?

📖 She was young, with a fair, calm face, whose lines bespoke repression and even a certain strength. But now there was a dull stare in her eyes, whose gaze was fixed away off yonder on one of those patches of blue sky. It was not a glance of reflection, but rather **indicated a suspension** of intelligent thought.

## Guiding Question:

- How does Chopin (the author) characterize Mrs. Mallard's gaze? In other words, what words does the author use to describe her gaze or the way she is looking?

She is gazing into the distance, with a suspension of thought.

## Guiding Question:

- Mrs. Mallard's thoughts were suspended, or stopped. What do we learn in this paragraph about why Mrs. Mallard's thoughts were stopped?

📖 There was something coming to her and she was waiting for it, fearfully. What was it? She did not know; it was too subtle and elusive to name. But she felt it, creeping out of the sky, reaching toward her through the sounds, the scents, the color that filled the air.

## Guiding Question:

- Mrs. Mallard's thoughts were suspended, or stopped. What do we learn in this paragraph about why Mrs. Mallard's thoughts were stopped?

She is waiting for an insight to come to her.



## approaching



**Approaching** means coming towards something.

[*Something was approaching her.*]

**En español:** acercarse

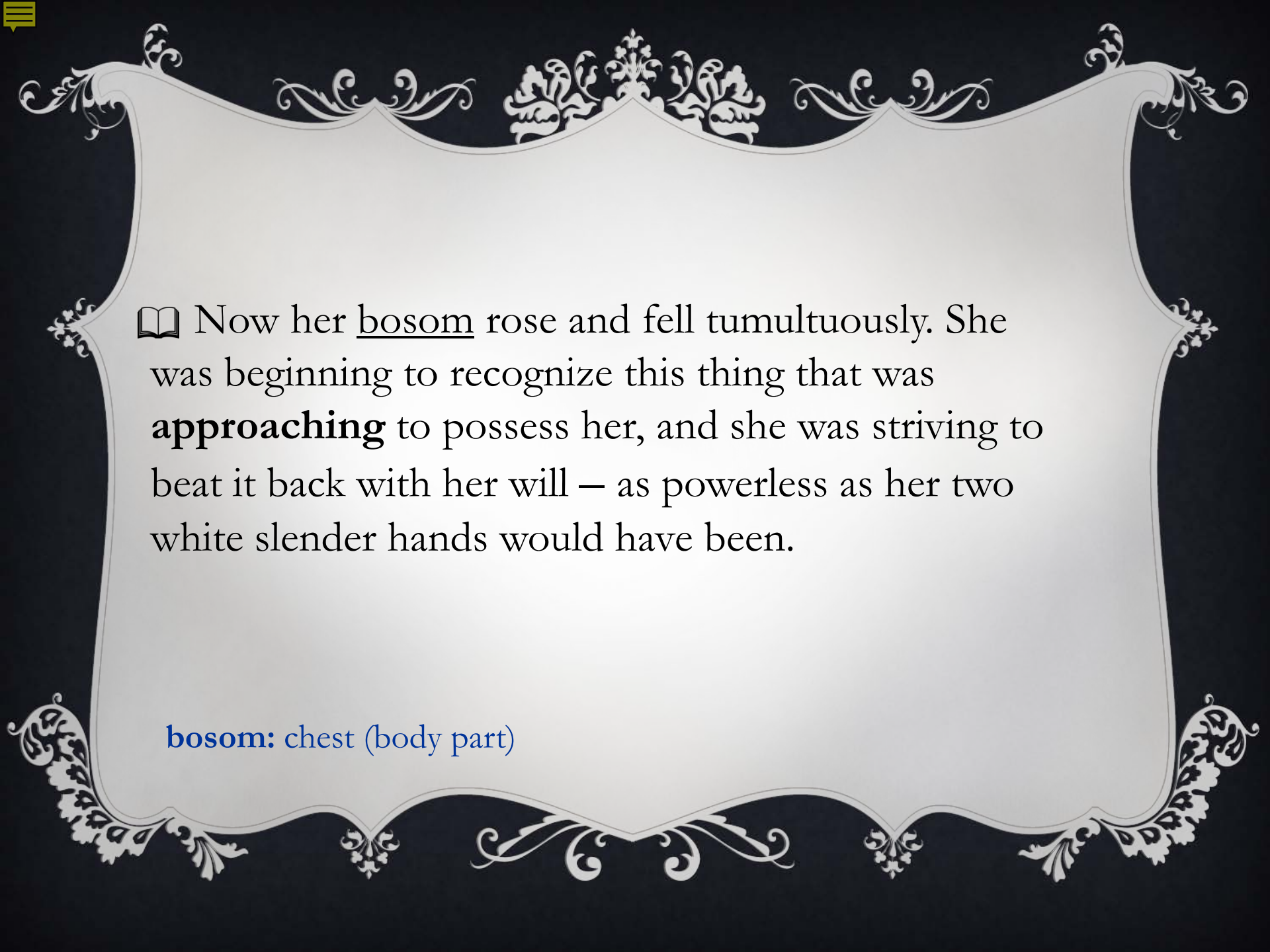
Now, let's look at a picture that demonstrates the word **approaching**. The airplane is approaching, or coming towards the airport.

🗨️ **Partner talk:** If you're on a road, what kinds of vehicles might approach you?



Let's look at another picture of **approaching**. This is a speedometer. It measures speed. The speed that it is measuring is approaching, or almost 50 mph.

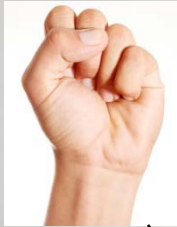
🗨️ **Partner talk:** If you were going fast in a vehicle, what speed would you be approaching?



📖 Now her bosom rose and fell tumultuously. She was beginning to recognize this thing that was **approaching** to possess her, and she was striving to beat it back with her will — as powerless as her two white slender hands would have been.

**bosom:** chest (body part)

**relax**



To **relax** means to make something loose or less stiff.  
[*Her entire body relaxed.*]

**En español:** relajar.

Now, let's look at a picture that demonstrates the word **relax**. This is a hand that is in a fist. Then it relaxes, or loosens up.

Make a fist with your own hand and then relax it. Tell a partner what you feel.



Let's look at another picture of **relax**. It can also mean to spend time doing enjoyable things. This boy is taking time to relax in the pool.

**Partner talk:** What do you do to relax?

## Guiding Question:

- Chopin uses the word “abandon” in the third paragraph and again in this section. How is Mrs. Mallard’s reaction (how she feels and acts) different in the third paragraph from this section?

📖 When she abandoned herself a little whispered word escaped her slightly parted lips. She said it over and over under her breath: "free, free, free!" The vacant stare and the look of terror that had followed it went from her eyes. They stayed keen and bright. Her pulses beat fast, and the coursing blood warmed and **relaxed** every inch of her body.

## Guiding Question:

- Chopin uses the word “abandon” in the third paragraph and again in this section. How is Mrs. Mallard’s reaction different when compared with this section?

Earlier, Mrs. Mallard was overcome with grief and physically oppressed.

Now, she is liberated and physically stimulated.

## perception



**Perception** means having a good understanding or knowledge about something.

*[She had a clear perception of her feelings.]*

**En español:** percepción o comprensión

Now, let's look at a picture that demonstrates the word **perception**. This mother has a good perception, or understanding of her daughter's feelings.

🗨️ **Partner talk:** What is your perception of the daughter's feelings? Why do you think that?



**Perception** can also mean to be able to sense something. Dogs have good perception. They smell and hear well.

🗨️ **Partner talk:** What other animals have good perception, and what is their strongest sense?

## enable



To **enable** something means to allow it or make it possible.

[Her *perception* enabled her to understand her feelings.]

**En español:** permitir, hacer posible

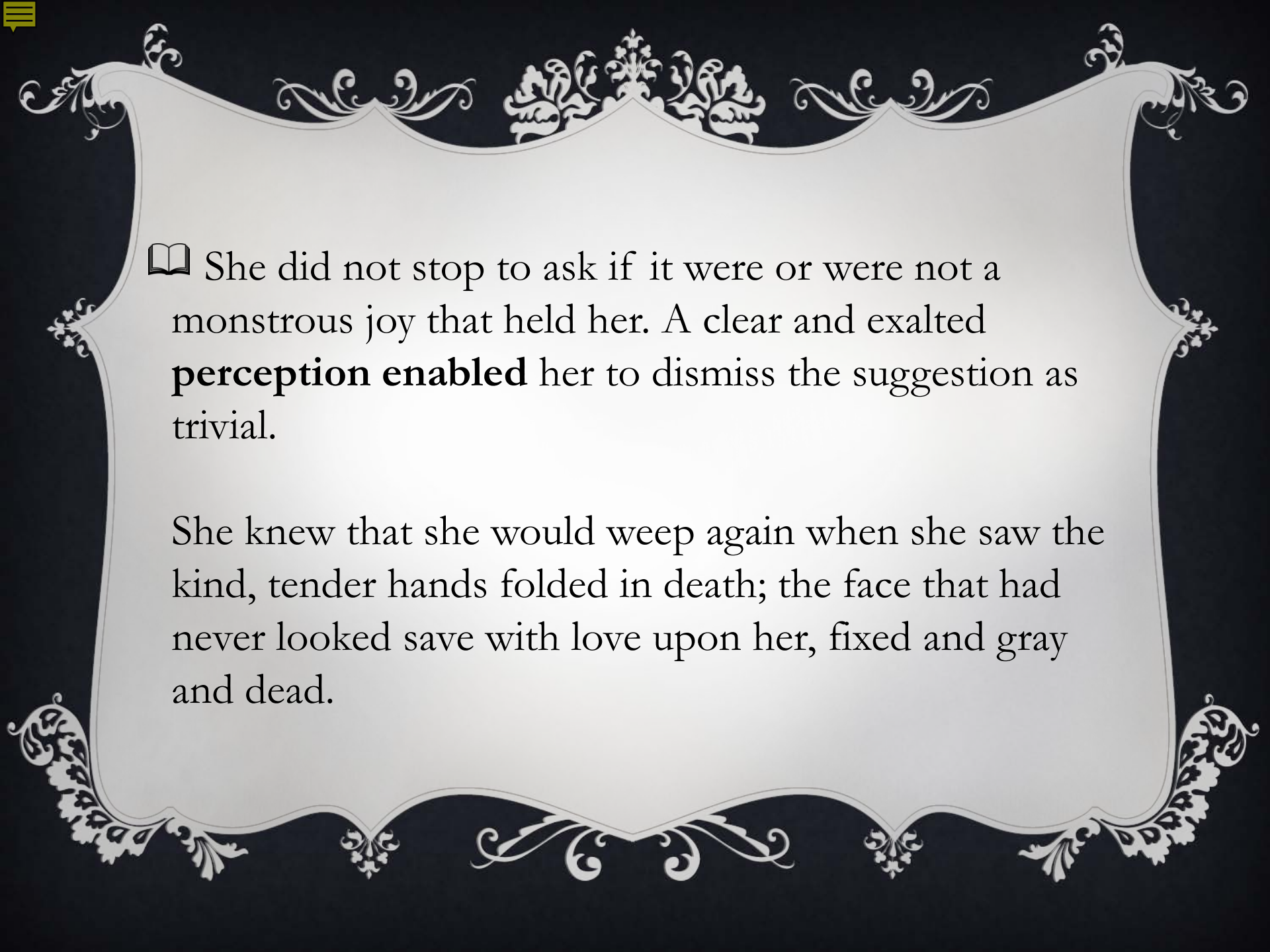
Now, let's look at a picture that demonstrates the word **enable**. This man's heart is beating very fast. It enables, or allows him, to know that his body needs a rest.

🗨️ **Partner talk:** What enables you to know when you are hungry?



Let's look at another picture that demonstrates the word **enable**. The parachute will enable the person to float safely to the ground.

🗨️ **Partner talk:** What can enable humans to move across water?

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📖 She did not stop to ask if it were or were not a monstrous joy that held her. A clear and exalted **perception enabled** her to dismiss the suggestion as trivial.

She knew that she would weep again when she saw the kind, tender hands folded in death; the face that had never looked save with love upon her, fixed and gray and dead.



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## Guiding Question:

- How should the reader interpret Mrs. Mallard's sobs from before? In other words, what is the difference between her sobs when she first found out about her husband's death and her sobs in this part of the story?

📖 But she saw beyond that bitter moment a long procession of years to come that would belong to her absolutely. And she opened and spread her arms out to them in welcome.

## Guiding Question:

- How should the reader interpret Mrs. Mallard's sobs from before? In other words, what is the difference between her sobs when she first found out about her husband's death and her sobs in this part of the story?

She felt true sadness about her husband's death.

However, now she also feels relief and joy.

## persistence



**Persistence** means continuing to do something without stopping.

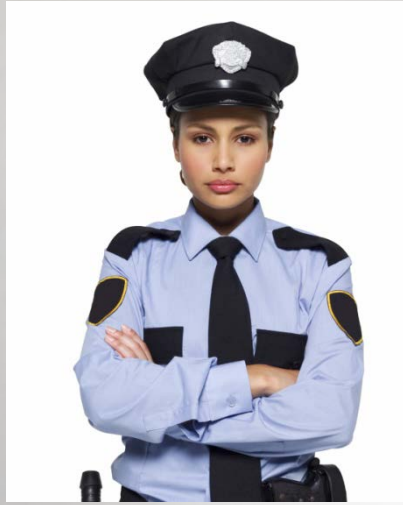
*[He tried to get her to do what he wanted with great persistence.]*

**En español:** perseverancia

Now, let's look at a picture that demonstrates the word **persistence**. This man is climbing a very high mountain. He will need persistence to reach the top.

**Partner talk:** What is something you can complete with persistence?

## impose



To **impose** means to force someone to do something.  
[*People believe they can impose what they want on others.*]

**En español:** imponer

Now, let's look at a picture that demonstrates the word **impose**. A police officer can impose, or force order by making people follow the law.

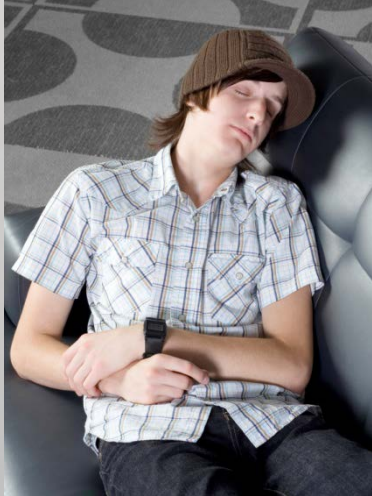
🗨️ **Partner talk:** Who imposes rules at the school?



To **impose** can also mean to bother another person by making them do something for you.

🗨️ **Partner talk:** Imagine if five of your friends came to your house without telling you ahead of time. Why would this be imposing?

## brief



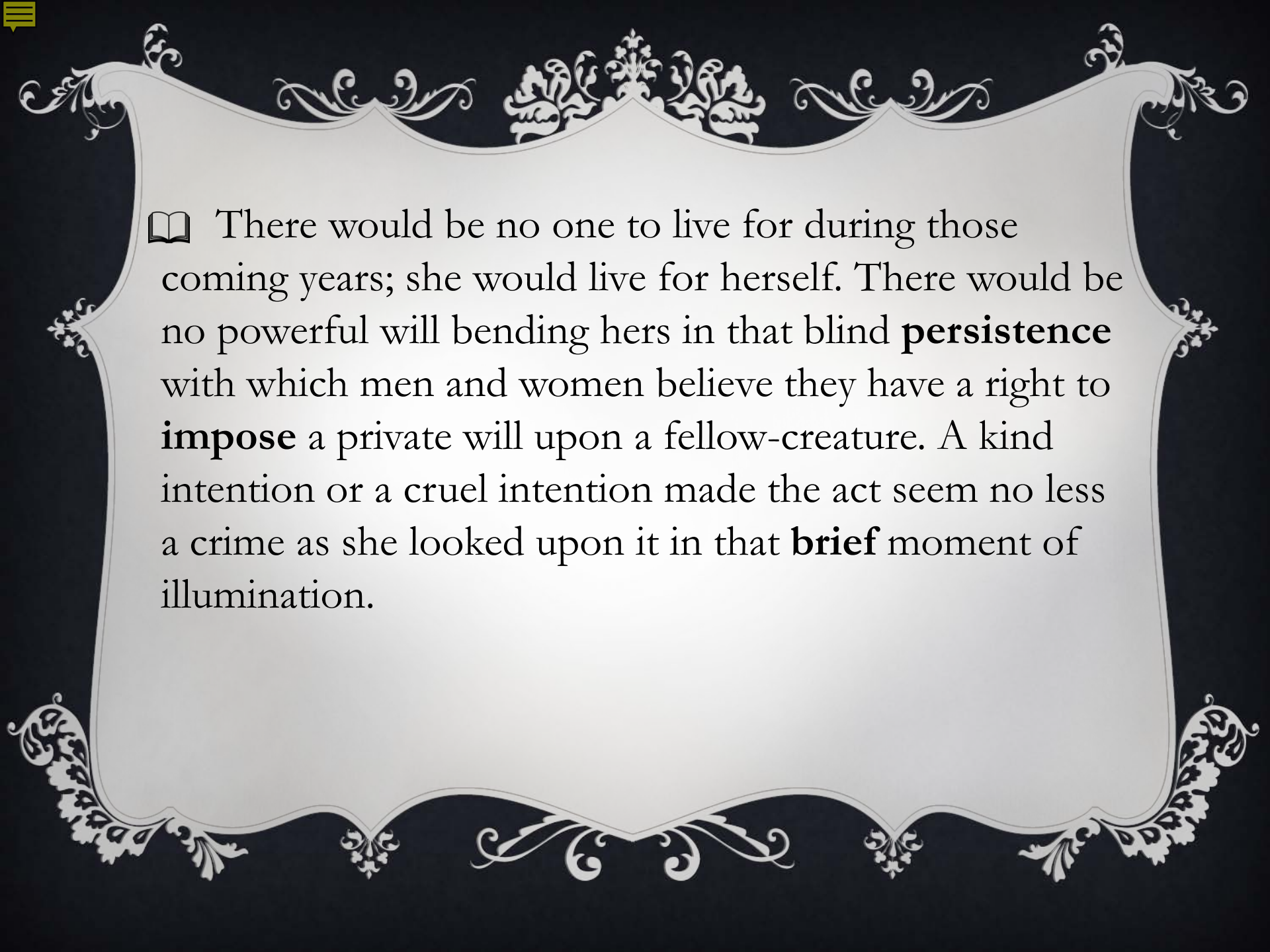
**Brief** means very short.

*[She experienced a brief moment of very clear thought.]*

**En español:** breve, corto

Now, let's look at a picture that demonstrates the word **brief**. This person is taking a brief, or short nap.

🗨️ **Partner talk:** What else might you do that is brief?

A decorative border with intricate scrollwork and floral patterns surrounds the text. The border is white and set against a dark background. It features a central floral motif at the top and bottom, with symmetrical scrollwork extending to the corners and sides.

📖 There would be no one to live for during those coming years; she would live for herself. There would be no powerful will bending hers in that blind **persistence** with which men and women believe they have a right to **impose** a private will upon a fellow-creature. A kind intention or a cruel intention made the act seem no less a crime as she looked upon it in that **brief** moment of illumination.

## Guiding Question:

- In the last paragraph, it says she has a brief moment of illumination, or realization. In other words, she has a new understanding. Describe the understanding she experiences.

📖 And yet she had loved him - sometimes. Often she had not. What did it matter! What could love, the unsolved mystery, count for in the face of this possession of self-assertion which she suddenly recognized as the strongest impulse of her being!

## Guiding Question:

- In the last paragraph, it says she has a brief moment of illumination, or realization. In other words, she has a new understanding. Describe the understanding she experiences.


She realizes that her husband should not have controlled her, even when he was kind or trying to help her. Her future would be her own and she could live for herself.



A decorative border with intricate scrollwork and floral patterns surrounds the text. The border is white and set against a dark background. It features a central floral motif at the top and bottom, with symmetrical scrollwork extending to the sides.

## Guiding Question:

- What does Mrs. Mallard mean when she says, “Body and soul free”?

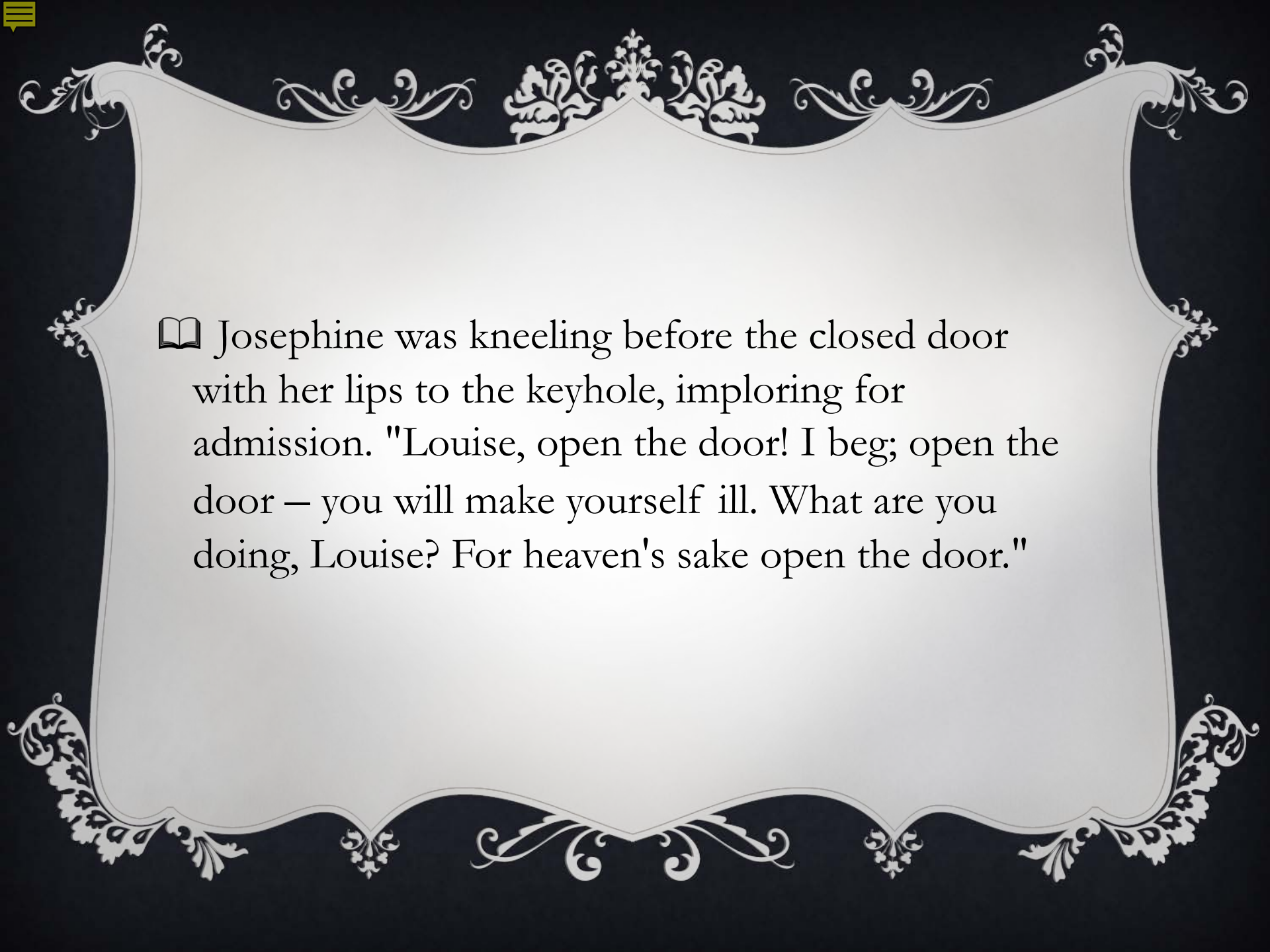
 "Free! Body and soul free!" she kept whispering.



## Guiding Question:

- What does Mrs. Mallard mean when she says, “Body and soul free”?

She is free to be herself.



📖 Josephine was kneeling before the closed door with her lips to the keyhole, imploring for admission. "Louise, open the door! I beg; open the door – you will make yourself ill. What are you doing, Louise? For heaven's sake open the door."

## Guiding Question:

- Mrs. Mallard sees the natural world through the window. She uses the natural world to describe or symbolize how she feels. What does she see and how does she feel?

📖 “Go away. I am not making myself ill.” No; she was drinking in a very elixir of life through that open window.

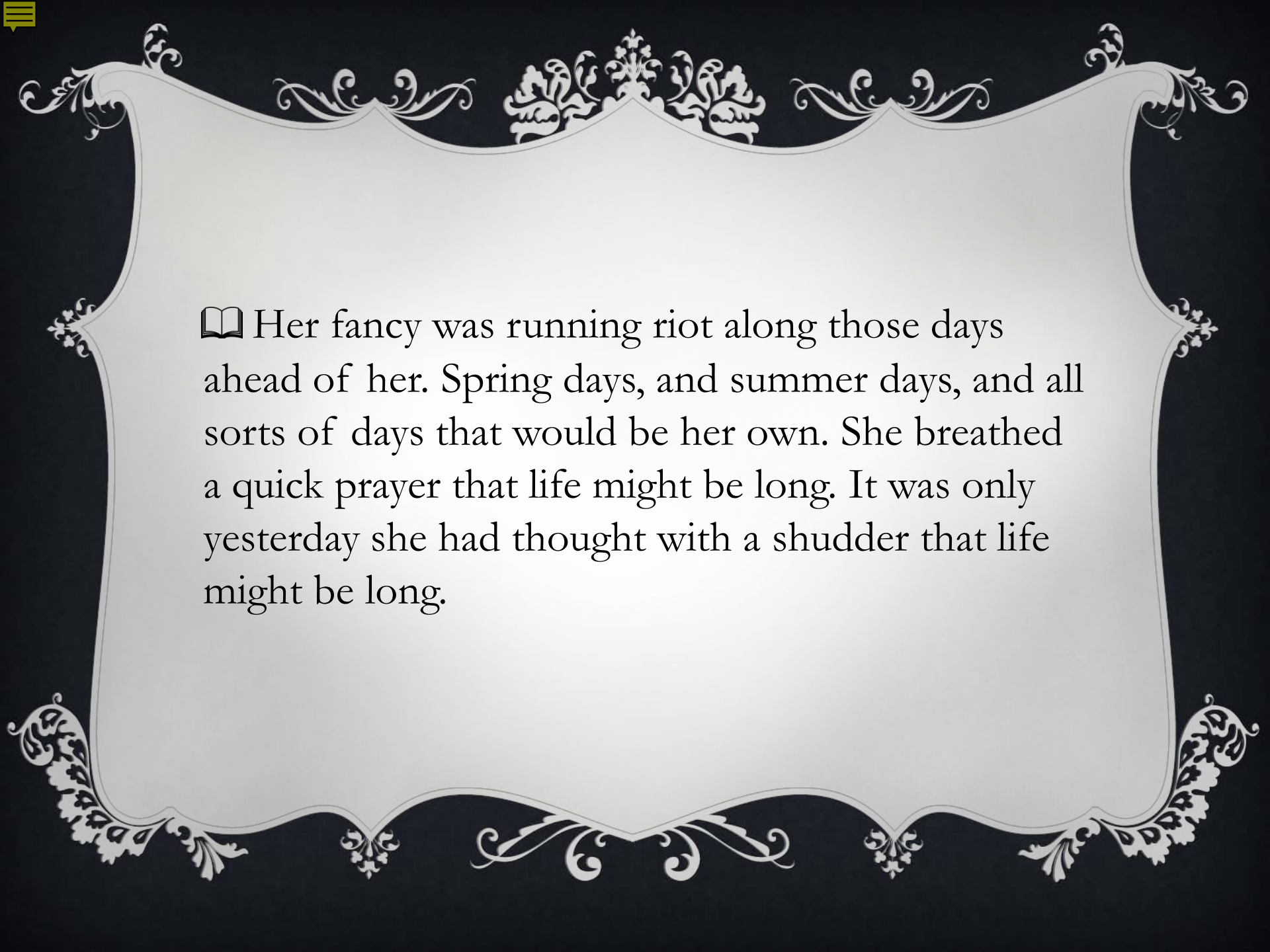
**elixir:** a medicine that can cure any disease

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## Guiding Question:

- Mrs. Mallard sees the natural world through the window. She uses the natural world to describe or symbolize how she feels. What does she see and how does she feel?

She sees things that are very pleasant, or nice. They show the possibility of a new life without her husband.

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📖 Her fancy was running riot along those days ahead of her. Spring days, and summer days, and all sorts of days that would be her own. She breathed a quick prayer that life might be long. It was only yesterday she had thought with a shudder that life might be long.

## Guiding Question:

- What words does Chopin use to show the difference from her earlier portrayal of Mrs. Mallard's unhappiness?

📖 She arose at length and opened the door to her sister's importunities. There was a feverish triumph in her eyes, and she carried herself unwittingly like a goddess of Victory. She clasped her sister's waist, and together they descended the stairs. Richards stood waiting for them at the bottom.

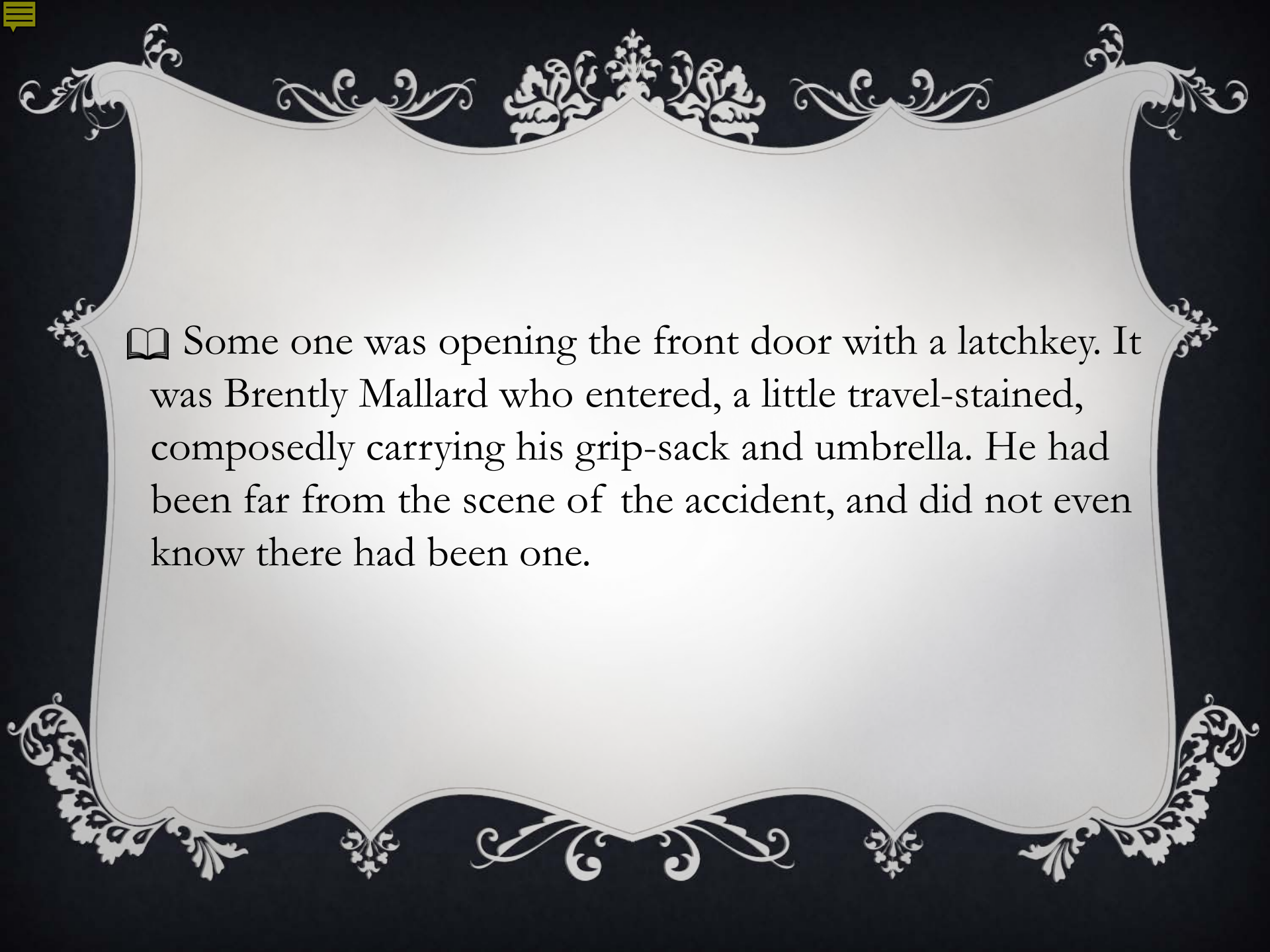
**at length:** finally or in the end  
**importunities:** demands

## Guiding Question:

- What words does Chopin use to show the difference from her earlier portrayal of Mrs. Mallard's unhappiness?

Before, she was striving to beat, or resist freedom.  
Now, she has a feverish triumph in her eyes.  
She is like a goddess of Victory





Some one was opening the front door with a latchkey. It was Brently Mallard who entered, a little travel-stained, composedly carrying his grip-sack and umbrella. He had been far from the scene of the accident, and did not even know there had been one.

## Guiding Question:

- Why is the final line of the story ironic?

📖 He stood amazed at Josephine's piercing cry; at Richards' quick motion to screen himself from the view of his wife.

But Richards was too late.

When the doctors came they said she had died of heart disease – of joy that kills.

## Guiding Question:

- Why is the final line of the story ironic?

Mrs. Mallard thought she was finally free.

She died when she saw her husband.

The doctors think she died of joy, but it was really sadness.