

Read the following extract from Hamnet by Maggie O'Farrell. In this extract, Judith extremely ill, her brother Hamnet is watching over her.

Judith is lying on the bed and the walls appear to be bulging inwards, then flexing back

reflect
heart beat
Suffocated
in pain

^{getting closer + bigger} ^{hallucinating} ^{↑ emphasise severity}
In, out, in, out. The posts around her parents' bed, in the corner, writhe and twist like ^{simile} serpents, the ceiling above her ripples, like the surface of a lake; her hands seem at once too close and then very far away. ^{simile} The line where the white of the plasterwork meets the dark wood of the joists shimmers and refracts. ^{tries to balance herself} Her face and chest are hot, burning, covered with slick sweat, but her feet are ice-cold. ^{juxtaposing symptoms} She shivers, once, twice, a full convulsion, and sees the walls bend towards her, closing in, then pulling away. To block out the walls, the serpentine bedposts, the moving ceiling, she shuts her eyes. As soon as she does so, she is elsewhere. In many places at once. ^{distressed}

^{dream} She is walking through a meadow, holding tight to a hand. The hand belongs to her ^{imagining} sister, Susanna, It has long fingers and a mole on the fourth knuckle. ^{not really happening} It does not want to be held: the fingers aren't curled around Judith's but kept stiff and straight. Judith has to grip with all her might for it not to slide from her. Susanna takes great steps through the long grass of the meadow and with each one her hand jerks in Judith's. If Judith lets go, she may sink beneath the surface of the grass. She may be lost, never to be found. ^{afraid of death} It is important - crucial - for her to keep hold of this hand. She must never let go. Ahead of them, she knows, is her brother. Hamnet's head bobs in and out of the grass. His hair is the colour of ripe wheat. He bounds through the meadow, ahead of them, like a hare, like a comet.

fear + weak
needs her sister

feels like everything / everyone is moving faster

need to hold on