

You look out the window once more, as the house begins to shudder, and see that it is growing brighter and brighter and brighter.

RESPONDING PERSONALLY

1. Write about your thoughts and feelings as you read this story. What do you think is going on? Compare notes with a partner.
2. What associations do you have with the term *grace period*? Is there a grace period in the story? If so, identify it.

RESPONDING CRITICALLY

3. The story is told in the second person (“you”). Who is “you”? The use of “you” may be disorienting for a reader. Why do you think the author uses the second person pronoun instead of the more familiar third person (“he”)?
4. Review the first impressions and first conclusion the protagonist had about what was happening. Does his first conclusion (in the fourth paragraph) make sense? Why or why not?
5. What is really going on in the story? Make a list of the details and events that support your interpretation.
6. Trying to get help in an emergency can be very frustrating. How does the story realistically portray this frustration?

RESPONDING CREATIVELY

7. As the man in the story, e-mail a message to Dr. Abendsachs.
8. Write a sequel to the story.

PROBLEM-SOLVING/DECISION-MAKING

9. In a small group, share opinions about the conventional wisdom of advice offered during emergencies such as the one described in the story. What, if anything, can an individual do?