**Excerpt from *The First Betrayal***

## by Patricia Bray

In this excerpt from Patricia Bray’s *The First Betrayal*, the narrator describes a character who is frightened during a violent storm. Read the passage below carefully. Using relevant quotations and insightful analysis, explain how the author uses patterns of **diction**, **detail**, and **imagery** to create a mood of ***suspense***.

The lantern flickered as a gust of wind blew through the lighthouse tower. Then the flame died, plunging Josan into darkness.

His right hand searched the floor beside him

5 till he found the sparker, then he groped for the base of the lantern with his left. Using the edge of his cloak to protect his hand from the heated glass, he removed the chimney. His hand trembled so much that it

10 took three tries before he was able to relight the wick. Finally, it caught, and with a sigh of relief he carefully replaced the glass. The soft light illuminated the small platform for a few brief moments before succumbing1 to

15 another draft. This time, Josan did not bother to relight it.

He told himself that he did not need to see, but could not repress the shiver of unease as the darkness engulfed2 him.

20 Before tonight this had always been a place of light, the large windows letting in the daylight, and at dusk the three great lamps would be lit, powerful beacons that filled the platform with their radiance as they guided

25 ships far out at sea. But tonight the signal lamps were dark, for not even the most sheltered flame was proof against the howling wind. Now darkness had consumed the light, just as the sea outside threatened to

30 devour the tower.

In the dark, every sound was magnified as the rain lashed against the wooden shutters, and the merciless wind sought the

cracks in his defenses. Strange drafts swirled

35 inside the tower and he drew his knees to his chest, pulling his coarse woolen cloak more tightly around him. The wind outside intensified, howling until he could scarcely hear himself think. From far beneath him he

40 heard a crash. Startled, he began to stand, then common sense reasserted itself and he resumed his seat. There was nothing he could do until the storm passed. Instead he listened intently, and underneath the sound

45 of the wind and rain he heard the relentless crashing of the waves. It sounded as if they were breaking all around him, and he knew the lighthouse was being swallowed by the angry ocean.

50 He wondered if the ocean would eventually release its prize, or if the stone tower would crumble beneath the fury of the storm. He tried to view his situation dispassionately, the question of his survival

55 as a mere intellectual exercise, but none of the tricks he had learned in his years of study could dispel3 his fear. He could almost taste the terror as it rose up and threatened to overwhelm him, just as the sea threatened to

60 overtake the tower.

**1succumbing**: surrendering, giving in **2engulf:** surround, swallow up **3dispel**: chase away, dismiss