

Nightmares

The Nightmare

And his mother was screaming.

And she was slipping.

It was so hard to hold on to her.

It is now or never, the yew tree said. You must speak the truth.

'No!' Conor said his voice breaking.

*You **must**.*

'No!' Conor said again, looking down into his mother's face –

And the truth came all of a sudden –

As the nightmare reached its most perfect moment –

'No!' Conor screamed one more time –

And his mother fell.

This is the moment in a nightmare when we want to wake up.

How does Patrick Ness create a sense of the nightmare reaching its most terrible moment through the way he has written this? Look here at structures and patterns, not word choices.

Annotate this extract with your thoughts and comments on how the way it is written evokes the horror of the nightmare.