

READING COMPREHENSION:**ADAPTATION OF THE OPEN WINDOW BY SAKI**

Answer the following questions about the adaptation of “The Open Window” by Saki. **Sample answers**

- Which of the following statements best reflects the central idea of the story?
 - A woman is confused by a man’s strange behavior.
 - A girl plays a trick on an unsuspecting stranger.**
 - A man recovers from an illness that affects his nerves.
 - A woman’s long-lost family returns from the dead.
- In paragraphs 1, 5, and 11, the author uses the word “self-possessed” in reference to the niece. What does this word indicate about the girl?

She is calm, composed, and in control of what she is doing.
- At the beginning of the story, how does Framton Nuttel feel about being at the Sappleton home? Support your answer with evidence from the text.

He is uncomfortable and reluctant to be there. The text says “He doubted...these formal visits... would help calm his nerves.” It says that he had “a tone of distinct regret” about his sister giving him letters of introduction to meet people in town.
- In paragraphs 3 and 5, Vera asks Mr. Nuttel two questions that seem like polite conversation. After reading the entire story, what is the significance of these questions?

The girl asks the questions to ascertain Mr. Nuttel’s level of local knowledge so that she can create a potentially believable story to fool him.
- Which **three** adjectives below describe the character of Framton Nuttel?

a. nervous	c. malicious	e. outgoing
b. deceitful	d. gullible	f. self-involved
- Use text evidence to support your choice of one of the adjectives in Question 5.

Self-involved: The text says, “Framton labored under the delusion that total strangers were hungry for details of his ailments.”
- Vera knows things that Framton Nuttel does not. Describe the effect of this knowledge disparity on Mr. Nuttel’s view of the men’s arrival.

Vera uses her knowledge of how the men and the dog will arrive home to spin a story that creates horror in Mr. Nuttel when he sees them coming.
- Throughout most of the story, the reader is as unaware of Vera’s deceitfulness as is Mr. Nuttel. At what point might the reader suspect the deceit, and at what point can the reader be sure of it?

The reader may suspect that Vera has been lying when the Sappletons greet each other in such an ordinary way. The reader can be sure of the deceit when Vera tells a false tale about Mr. Nuttel.
- How does the author use **dramatic irony** at the end of the story? What effect does it have?

The dramatic irony is that the reader knows Vera is telling a lie, but the characters do not know this. The reader may feel “in on the joke,” and may laugh or feel surprised at Vera’s trickery.
- What does the last sentence of the passage, “Romance at short notice was her specialty,” indicate about Vera?
 - Vera does not like living with her aunt and uncle.
 - Vera has a knack for making people fall in love.
 - Vera enjoys reading romantic love stories.
 - Vera has a talent for creating extraordinary tales.**