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# THE SHORT STORY

SECOND YEAR

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## **The Open Window**

by H. H. Munro (Saki) 1870 – 1916

### **Plot:-**

Mr. Framton Nuttel has just moved to a new town. While visiting one of his sister's acquaintances, Mrs. Sappleton, he spends some time with the woman's niece, Vera. Vera recounts a story about how her aunt lost her husband and two brothers in a tragic hunting accident. She warns Framton that her aunt never accepted their deaths and believes that some day the hunting party will return. In anticipation, Mrs. Sappleton leaves the window in the front room open so that they may re-enter the house. When Mrs. Sappleton enters the room and discusses the hunting party, Framton is deeply disturbed by her delusion. However, his concern turns to pure horror when he sees three male figures dressed in hunting gear approaching the house. Believing he has seen ghosts, Framton bolts from the house. Spinning another tale, Vera explains to the newly arrived hunting party and her aunt that Framton fled when he saw the hunting dog because of his severe fear of dogs.

### **The themes of the story:-**

**Appearance and Reality:** Vera, the fifteen years old, appears to be a very sweet girl while in fact she is very playful since she makes up stories so well ,that even her own aunt falls for them. The reader also believes

Vera to an extent. The window is real whereas Vera's story is imaginative through which Nuttel expected to see three ghosts coming through the window, so when he saw the men coming towards the house, he fled.

**Deception:** Vera deceives Framton Nuttel with her story of her aunt's brothers being lost in the marsh and never returning. She also deceives her aunt by giving a reason as to why Nuttel rushed out of the house after seeing the three men telling her aunt that he fears dogs.

**Sanity and Insanity:** This short story measures the sanity and insanity of all the characters. Framton Nuttel is insane to believe Vera without being more observant. He thinks that Mrs. Sappleton is insane but he is insane for real.

## **Characters**

### **-Round: like:**

- 1- **Vera**, Saki's playful protagonist, is indeed a dynamic, or round, character. For one thing, she is a smart young lady who is able to identify people's weaknesses and to create a convincing tale that will deceive her audience. She plays with Nuttel's feelings telling him a fabricated story and deceiving her aunt telling her that Nuttel's fled related to the fear of dogs. Certainly, Vera enjoys exploiting the

weaknesses in others with her quick and clever practical jokes.

- 2- **Framton Nuttel** is the nervous, unconfident type. He came to the country side to cure himself from the nerve disease but instead, he met Vera who plays with his feelings. He even worries about Mrs. Sappleton's reception of him when he is introduced, and he is uncomfortable throughout the telling of Vera's tale.

**-Flat: like:**

- 1- **Mrs. Sappleton** is the relaxed gentlewoman, concerned only with herself and those for whom she cares. For, she takes no interest in Framton Nuttel's coming. When Nuttel mentions his condition as explanation for his visit, she responds in a voice that hardly overwhelms anyone. After Nuttel's sudden escape, she merely remarks upon his behavior and displays no concern for his feelings, expressing a slight curiosity for his actions which Vera cleverly calms.
- 2- **Framton Nuttel's sister** Framton Nuttel's sister once spent time in the same town to which Framton has come for relaxation. She has given him a number of letters of introduction with which he is to make himself known to a number of people in the town.
- 3- Many other flat characters are expressed through the story like the haunts (Mr. Sappleton and Mrs. Sappleton's two young brothers) and a dog (a brown spaniel...)