

The Open Window.

Read. Part I

"My aunt will be down (1) **presently**, Mr. Nuttel," said a very (2) **self-possessed** young lady of fifteen; "in the meantime you must try and (3) **put up with me**." Framton Nuttel (4) **endeavoured** to say the correct something which should duly (5) **flatter** the niece of the moment without unduly (6) **discounting** the aunt that was to come. (7) **Privately** he doubted more than ever whether these formal visits on a succession of total strangers would do much towards helping the nerve cure which he was supposed to be (8) **undergoing**. "I know how it will be," his sister had said when he was preparing to migrate to this (9) **rural retreat** ; "you will bury yourself down there and not speak to a living soul, and your nerves will be worse than ever from (10) **moping**. I shall just give you letters of introduction to all the people I know there. Some of them, as far as I can remember, were quite nice." Framton wondered whether Mrs. Sappleton, the lady to whom he was presenting one of the letters of introduction, came into the nice division.

Drag with your mouse the words in red to match their meaning .

- a) Feeling depressed .
- b) Soon
- c) Inwardly- Deep down
- d) Sure of herself . Showing self- confidence .
- e) A quiet place in the countryside.
- f) Tolerate- bear- stand.
- g) Say something nice- compliment
- h) Going through.
- i) Forgetting about
- j) Tried- made an effort.



Click on the statement that is TRUE.

- Mrs Sappleton's niece was an extroverted girl.
- The letters of introduction had been written by Mr Framton's sister.
- Mr Nuttel was sure these visits would help him overcome his health problem.
- Mr Nuttel suffered from a nervous disorder.
- Mr Nuttel's sister thought this country retreat was the right place for her brother.

The Open Window. Part II

"Do you know many of the people round here?" asked the niece, when she judged that they had had sufficient silent communion. (1) **"Hardly a soul,"** said Framton. "My sister was staying here, at the rectory, you know, some four years ago, and she gave me letters of introduction to some of the people here." He made the last statement in a tone of distinct regret. "Then you know practically nothing about my aunt?" (2) **pursued** the self-possessed young lady. "Only her name and address," admitted the (3) **caller**. He was wondering whether Mrs. Sappleton was in the married or widowed state. An undefinable something about the room seemed to suggest masculine habitation. "Her great tragedy happened just three years ago," said the child; "that would be since your sister's time." "Her tragedy?" asked Framton; somehow in this restful country spot tragedies seemed out of place. "You may wonder why we keep that window wide open on an October afternoon," said the niece, indicating a large French window that opened on to a lawn. "It is quite warm for the time of the year," said Framton; "but has that window got anything to do with the tragedy?" "Out through that window, three years ago to a day, her husband and her two young brothers went off for their day's (4) **shooting**. They never came back. In crossing the (5) **moor** to their favourite (6) **snipe** shooting ground they were all three (7) **engulfed** in a treacherous piece of (8) **bog**. It had been that dreadful wet summer, you know, and places that were safe in other years (9) **gave way** suddenly without warning. Their bodies were never recovered. That was the dreadful part of it." Here the child's voice lost its self-possessed note and became falteringly human. "Poor aunt always thinks that they will come back some day, they and the little brown spaniel that was lost with them, and walk in at that window just as they used to do. That is why the window is kept open every evening till it is quite (10) **dusk**. Poor dear aunt, she has often told me how they went out, her husband with his white waterproof coat over his arm, and Ronnie, her youngest brother, singing 'Bertie, why do you bound?' as he always did to (11) **tease** her, because she said it (12) **got on her nerves**. Do you know, sometimes on (13) **still**, quiet evenings like this, I almost get a (14) **creepy** feeling that they will all walk in through that window - " She (15) **broke off** with a little (16) **shudder**.

Glossary of terms :

- 1) Almost nobody – Hardly anybody.
- 2) Followed
- 3) Visitor
- 4) Shooting for wild birds such as ducks, pheasants, etc.
- 5) An area of desolate ground.
- 6) A wild bird- a game bird (ave de caza)
- 7) Trapped
- 8) An area of soft, wet earth.

- 9) To yield ("ceder" in Spanish : The roof gave way (el techo cedió) .
- 10) Dark.
- 11) To laugh at – to mock at
- 12) Upset her.
- 13) Quiet
- 14) Frightening
- 15) Stopped speaking
- 16) A shiver (un escalofrío)

Click on the right answer

- 1) The niece wanted to know if Mr Nuttle was a complete newcomer . How many questions did she make to find out ?
 a) only one b) only two c) only three.
- 2) Before going shooting , Mrs Frampton's husband
 a) Knew that the hunting grounds were not safe.
 b) Probably ignored that the hunting grounds were not safe.
 c) Was given a warning about the dangerous shooting grounds.
- 3) After their death the three men
 a) Were buried.
 b) Left not traces.
 c) Returned from the afterlife.
- 4) The niece describes the tragedy
 a) Without details.
 b) Without sympathy towards her aunt.
 c) In a detailed way.



→ Vera, Mrs Sappleton's niece.