“The Open Window” by Saki

Selection Test

Critical Reading

In the blank, write the letter of the one best answer.

1. Why is Framton Nuttel visiting the Sappletons in the country?
   a. He hopes to go on a hunting expedition.
   b. He hopes to rest and relax his nerves.
   c. He is attending a family reunion.
   d. He is delivering a message from his sister.

2. Why does Vera confirm the fact that Framton Nuttel does not know her aunt well at all?
   a. She wants to prepare him for her aunt’s strange behavior if he does not know her.
   b. She believes she has seen him at the house before.
   c. She must confirm the fact that he does not know her aunt before she decides that she does not like him.
   d. She must confirm the fact that he does not know her before she creates her fictional tale about her aunt and the open window.

3. Until Mr. Sappleton returns, Framton believes that Mrs. Sappleton is
   a. sadly deranged.
   b. rather cold-hearted.
   c. exceptionally boring.
   d. perfectly normal.

4. In what does Framton seem to be mainly interested?
   a. Vera’s coquettish behavior
   b. the masculine atmosphere
   c. Mrs. Sappleton’s mood
   d. his own problems

5. Why does Framton flee the house when Mr. Sappleton returns?
   a. He is suddenly taken ill and requires urgent care.
   b. He thinks Mr. Sappleton has come back from the dead.
   c. He is afraid he will be suspected of flirting with Mrs. Sappleton.
   d. He was once chased by dogs into a freshly dug grave.

6. When Mr. Sappleton returns at the end of the story, we realize that
   a. Mr. Sappleton is a ghost.
   b. Vera played a trick on Framton.
   c. Vera is a mental patient.
   d. Framton understands the joke.

7. Based on details in “The Open Window,” what caused Vera to tell Framton the story of her aunt’s “great tragedy”?
   a. She wanted him to understand her aunt’s present state of mind.
   b. She was upset and felt that Framton was someone she could talk to.
   c. She had no self-control and blathered on about private family matters.
   d. She found Framton’s company insufferable and wanted to get rid of him.
8. What is the story's central conflict?
   a. Mrs. Sappleton's wish to see her husband again
   b. Vera's wish to get rid of Framton
   c. Framton's wish to get rest and relaxation
   d. Framton's fear of dogs

9. What is humorous about Mrs. Sappleton's remark, "One would think he had seen a ghost?"
   a. She does not realize that Framton believes he has seen a ghost.
   b. Framton definitely has seen a ghost.
   c. Mrs. Sappleton does not understand why Framton leaves.
   d. Mrs. Sappleton seems annoyed with Framton.

10. What occurs at the climax of this story?
    a. A cyclist collides with Framton.
    b. Vera tells Mrs. Sappleton that Framton is afraid of dogs.
    c. Mrs. Sappleton announces the return of the men from their hunting trip, and Framton sees them.
    d. Mrs. Sappleton introduces herself to Framton.

11. Which of the following events occurs first in "The Open Window"?
    a. Vera makes up a story about Framton's fear of dogs.
    b. Framton grabs his belongings and runs frantically from the house.
    c. Framton goes into detail about his ailments and infirmities.
    d. Mrs. Sappleton announces that her husband and brothers will soon return from shooting.

12. Why is Vera able to fool Framton so easily?
    a. Framton was planning to leave early anyway.
    b. Framton seems tired and lacking in good judgment.
    c. Vera is shrewd and manipulative, while Framton is self-absorbed and conventional.
    d. Vera has tricked other house guests into leaving.

13. In what way is the central conflict of the story resolved?
    a. Framton is finally able to rest.
    b. The hunting party returns and Framton flees.
    c. Mrs. Sappleton finally meets Framton.
    d. Vera explains why Framton leaves.

14. What does the following line about Vera mean?
    Romance at short notice was her specialty.
    a. She is adventurous and loves meeting new people.
    b. She encourages loving relationships between people.
    c. She frequently falls in love with strangers.
    d. She is able to invent fantasy tales quickly.

15. "The Open Window" by Saki is mostly about
    a. how to behave around particularly boring visitors.
    b. how misinformation affects our perceptions.
    c. the unexpected effects of playing tricks.
    d. the possibility that ghosts really exist.

16. Which of the following is a central idea of "The Open Window"?
    a. It is impossible to please everyone.
    b. Young people care only about themselves.
    c. Self-centered people tend to be gullible.
    d. Dealing with strangers can be risky.
Vocabulary and Grammar

17. What word or phrase is modified by the word only in the following sentence?
   When Framton arrives at the Sappleton home, he knows only minimal details about the Sappleton family.
   a. minimal details
   b. knows
   c. Sappleton family
   d. When Framton arrives

18. Which of the following is the best meaning of the word delusion as it is used in the following sentence?
   Framton at first thinks that Mrs. Sappleton’s sighting of her husband is the result of a delusion.
   a. practical joke
   b. fact
   c. false belief
   d. promise

19. What word or phrase is modified by the word just in the following sentence?
   Framton left when the men were just preparing to enter the open window.
   a. preparing
   b. the men
   c. Framton left
   d. the open window

20. Which of the following is the best meaning of the word imminent as it is used in the following sentence?
   A cyclist coming along the road had to run into the hedge to avoid imminent collision.
   a. loud
   b. imaginary
   c. threatening
   d. violent

Essay Questions

21. In an essay, analyze Framton Nuttel’s expectations. Explain what Framton expects before he arrives at the Sappleton home, and show how these expectations are violated. What do his actions reveal about his character?

22. In an essay, describe the plot of “The Open Window.” Explain the exposition, inciting incident, central conflict, and resolution of the story. How does the author build suspense around the story’s central conflict?

23. In an essay, contrast the character of Vera with the characters of Framton Nuttel and Mrs. Sappleton. What details provided by the author show why Vera is able to manipulate the events of the story so effectively? In what way is she different from the other characters?