

Grade 12 NAEP Released Items Booklet 1

Reading

The Open Window
by Saki (H. H. Munro) (1870–1916)



"My aunt will be down presently, Mr. Nuttel," said a very self-possessed young lady of fifteen; "in the meantime you must try and put up with me."

Framton Nuttel endeavored to say the correct something which should duly flatter the niece of the moment without unduly discounting the aunt that was to come. 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 undergoing.

"I know how it will be," his sister had said when he was preparing to migrate to this rural retreat; "you will bury yourself down there and not speak to a living soul, and your nerves will be worse than ever from 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.

"Do you know many of the people round here?" asked the niece, when she judged that they had had sufficient silent communion.

"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?" pursued the self-possessed young lady.

"Only her name and address," admitted the 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 onto 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 shooting. They never came back. In crossing the moor to their favorite snipe-shooting ground they were all three engulfed in a treacherous piece of bog. It had been that dreadful wet summer, you know, and places that were safe in other years 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 someday, 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 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 tease her, because she said it got on her nerves. Do you know, sometimes on still, quiet evenings like this, I almost get a creepy feeling that they will all walk in through that window—"

She broke off with a little shudder. It was a relief to Framton when the aunt bustled into the room with a whirl of apologies for being late in making her appearance.

"I hope Vera has been amusing you?" she said.

"She has been very interesting," said Framton.

"I hope you don't mind the open window," said Mrs. Sappleton briskly; "my husband and brothers will be home directly from shooting, and they always come in this way. They've been out for snipe in the marshes today, so they'll make a fine mess over my poor carpets. So like you menfolk, isn't it?"

She rattled on cheerfully about the shooting and the scarcity of birds, and the prospects for duck in the winter. To Framton it was all purely horrible. He made a desperate but only partially successful effort to turn the talk onto a less ghastly topic; he was conscious that his hostess was giving him only a fragment of her attention, and her eyes were constantly straying past him to the open window and the lawn beyond. It was certainly an unfortunate coincidence that he should have paid his visit on this tragic anniversary.

"The doctors agree in ordering me complete rest, an absence of mental excitement, and avoidance of anything in the nature of violent physical exercise," announced Framton, who labored under the tolerably widespread delusion that total strangers and chance acquaintances are hungry for the least detail of one's ailments and infirmities, their cause and cure. "On the matter of diet they are not so much in agreement," he continued.

"No?" said Mrs. Sappleton, in a voice which only replaced a yawn at the last moment. Then she suddenly brightened into alert attention—but not to what Framton was saying.

"Here they are at last!" she cried. "Just in time for tea, and don't they look as if they were muddy up to the eyes!"

Framton shivered slightly and turned towards the niece with a look intended to convey sympathetic comprehension. The child was staring out through the open window with a dazed horror in her eyes. In a chill shock of nameless fear Framton swung round in his seat and looked in the same direction.

In the deepening twilight three figures were walking across the lawn towards the window; they all carried guns under their arms, and one of them was additionally burdened with a white coat hung over his shoulders. A tired brown spaniel kept close at their heels. Noiselessly they neared the house, and then a hoarse young voice chanted out of the dusk: "I said, Bertie, why do you bound?"

Framton grabbed wildly at his stick and hat; the hall door, the gravel drive, and the front gate were dimly noted stages in his headlong retreat. A cyclist coming along the road had to run into the hedge to avoid imminent collision.

"Here we are, my dear," said the bearer of the white mackintosh, coming in through the window; "fairly muddy, but most of it's dry. Who was that who bolted out as we came up?"

"A most extraordinary man, a Mr. Nuttel," said Mrs. Sappleton; "could only talk about his illnesses, and dashed off without a word of goodbye or apology when you arrived. One would think he had seen a ghost."

"I expect it was the spaniel," said the niece calmly; "he told me he had a horror of dogs. He was once hunted into a cemetery somewhere on the banks of the Ganges by a pack of pariah dogs, and had to spend the night in a newly dug grave with the creatures snarling and grinning and foaming just above him. Enough to make anyone lose their nerve."

Romance at short notice was her specialty.

1. Which of the following best describes what happens in the story?
 - A. A young man visits his aunt and tells her about a recent tragedy.
 - B. A young girl amuses her family by telling them scary stories.
 - C. A young girl makes up a story and frightens a nervous visitor.
 - D. A family plays a trick on a young man from out of town.

2. On page 2, the narrator describes the niece as a "**self-possessed** young lady." This means the niece is
 - A. confident and in control
 - B. very imaginative
 - C. well dressed and polite
 - D. very talkative

3. Why does Framton Nuttel visit the countryside?
 - A. To cure his nervous condition
 - B. To take a tour of the area
 - C. To meet his sister's friends
 - D. To visit his aunt, Mrs. Sappleton

4. Why is Vera interested in whether Framton knows anything about her aunt?

5. According to Vera, why does Mrs. Sappleton leave the window open every day?

6. Describe Framton's reaction when Mrs. Sappleton begins to talk about her husband and brothers returning from their hunting trip. Explain why he reacts this way.

7. One critic described Saki as an author who uses both comedy and horror in his writing. Using specific references to the story, explain how the critic's description applies to "The Open Window."

8. On page 4, the narrator says Framton has the **delusion** that total strangers are interested in his nervous condition. This means Framton
- A. has a common illness related to his nerves
 - B. is worried about what people think of him
 - C. dreams that he is constantly being watched
 - D. has a mistaken idea about how others view him

9. Explain how Vera's character could be viewed as both cruel and harmless. Use references to the story to support both parts of your answer.

10. Using specific details from the story, explain what Vera does or says to make Framton believe her.

11. What is the main strategy the author uses in the story?
- A. He creates conflict among the important characters.
 - B. He adds romance to the relationship between the two main characters.
 - C. He withholds information from the reader until the story's conclusion.
 - D. He creates suspense by disguising the identity of a character.

HOUSING RENTAL AGREEMENT

Address _____

THIS AGREEMENT is made this _____ day of _____, by and between _____, herein called

"Landlord," and _____, herein called "Tenant." Landlord hereby agrees to rent to Tenant the real property located in the City of _____, State of _____, described as follows: _____. Lease commences on the 1st day of _____ and monthly thereafter until the _____th day of _____, at which time this agreement is terminated. Landlord rents the demised property to Tenant on the following terms and conditions:

1. Rent

Tenant agrees to pay Landlord as base rent the sum of \$ _____ per month, due and payable monthly in advance on the first day of each month during the term of this agreement. Rent must be received by 5:00 p.m. If the rent has not been received by 9:00 a.m. on the second of the month, then a seven (7) day notice will be posted.

2. Payment of Rent

Monthly rent payments may be paid by check until the first check is dishonored and returned unpaid. Rent shall be made payable to _____ and hand delivered (or sent by mail at Tenant's risk) to Landlord at _____. Any rents lost in the mail will be treated as if unpaid until received by Landlord.

3. Bad-Check Servicing Charge

In the event Tenant's check is dishonored and returned for any reason to Landlord, Tenant agrees to pay as additional rent the sum equal to thirty-five dollars (\$35) for each occurrence. This amount shall be in addition to all late fees, if check is not paid prior to the first of the month. If for any reason a check is returned or dishonored, all future rent payments must be cash or money order.

4. Use

Tenant agrees to use the property only as a residence for self and those persons identified below.

_____, _____, _____.
Landlord will hold Tenant solely responsible for all damages to property or for violations against this rental agreement.

5. Appliances

The house is rented with the following appliances: Refrigerator and Stove. Other appliances that may be included in the rental property are the sole responsibility of Tenant to maintain. Landlord will not be responsible for the maintenance of these other appliances and does not warrant the condition of these appliances.

6. Repair Policy

Tenant shall use customary diligence in care of the Property. All minor repairs are expected to be performed by or at the direction of Tenant, at the sole responsibility of Tenant. Any and all repairs made at the direction of Tenant shall be done by a competent professional, or by Tenant provided that Tenant is capable and qualified to make said repairs. All repairs shall be done in compliance with all applicable codes and regulations. Any repair that is estimated to cost more than fifty dollars (\$50) must receive permission of Landlord prior to being made. Under no circumstances will Landlord be responsible for any improvements or repairs costing more than \$50 unless Tenant is given written authorization to make repairs or improvements in advance.

7.

Occupancy

Tenant is to maintain the dwelling unit as follows:

a) Comply with all obligations primarily imposed upon Tenant by applicable provisions of building codes materially affecting health and safety.

b) Keep that part of the property that Tenant occupies and uses as clean and safe as the condition of the property permits.

c) Dispose from the dwelling unit all rubbish, garbage, and other waste in a clean and safe manner.

d) Keep all plumbing fixtures in the dwelling unit as clean as their condition permits.

e) Use in a reasonable manner all electrical, plumbing, sanitary, heating, ventilating, air-conditioning, and other facilities and appliances, including elevators, on the property.

f) Not deliberately or negligently destroy, deface, damage, impair, or remove any part of the property or knowingly permit any person to do so.

g) Not disturb neighbors' peaceful enjoyment of the property.

8. Security Deposit

Tenant has deposited with, and Landlord acknowledges receipt of, \$_____ as a Security Deposit. This Security Deposit is to guarantee the return of the property to Landlord in the same or better condition as

when accepted by Tenant, reasonable wear excepted, and to satisfy any obligations of Tenant unfulfilled at the termination of this Rental Agreement, as specified herein. Satisfactory compliance with this section includes removing all trash and belongings of Tenant. If any provision of this Rental Agreement is violated, the Security Deposit is forfeited. The Security Deposit may not be applied by Tenant as payment for any rent due to Landlord. Should Tenant be responsible for damage and/or loss of value to the property greater than the value of the Security Deposit, Tenant hereby agrees to reimburse Landlord for such loss immediately upon the presentation of a bill for said damage and/or loss. Landlord shall return the balance of said Security Deposit, if any, to Tenant at Tenant's forwarding address, upon Tenant's vacating the property and returning keys to Landlord and upon termination of this contract according to other terms herein agreed. The Security Deposit will be returned within thirty (30) days after Tenant vacates the property, along with an itemized statement as to the deductions, if any, from said Security Deposit.

9. Alterations

Tenant shall make no alterations, decorations, additions, or improvements in or to the property without Landlord's prior written consent, and then only by contractors or mechanics approved by Landlord. All alterations, additions, or improvements upon the property, made by either party, shall become the property of Landlord and shall remain upon, and be surrendered with, said property, as a part thereof, at the end of the term hereof.

10. Vehicle Policy

Tenant must follow rules and laws of the City Parking Department concerning parking. Tenant must obtain all necessary parking permits and information for self and guests. Landlord is not responsible for Tenant's parking needs. Off-street parking is not provided by Landlord, unless otherwise noted in this agreement.

11. Utilities

Tenant will be responsible for payment of all utility and garbage bills, water and sewer charges, telephone bills, gas bills, and any other bills incurred during residency. Tenant specifically authorizes Landlord to deduct amounts of unpaid bills from the Security Deposit in the event bills remain unpaid after termination of this agreement.

12. Access to Property

Landlord reserves the right to enter the residence at reasonable times to inspect, make necessary repairs, supply services, or show it to prospective residents, purchasers, mortgagors, workers, or contractors. Whenever practicable, a 24-hour notice of Landlord's intent to enter shall be given to Tenant. Landlord may also display "for rent" and "for sale" signs on the building of which the rented residence is a part.

13. Full Disclosure

Tenant signing this Rental Agreement hereby states that all questions about this Rental Agreement have been answered, and that Tenant fully understands all the provisions of the agreement and the obligations and responsibilities of each party, as spelled out herein. Tenant further states that he/she agrees to fulfill Tenant's obligations in every respect or suffer the full legal and financial consequences of

his/her actions or lack of action in violation of this agreement. Signature by Tenant on this Rental Agreement is acknowledgment of receipt of a signed copy of the Rental Agreement.

Accepted this _____ day of _____ .

_____, Landlord _____, Tenant

_____, Tenant

_____, Tenant

_____, Tenant

12. According to the rental agreement, what is the first action the landlord will take if the rent is not paid on time?
- A. Keep the security deposit
 - B. Terminate the tenant's contract
 - C. Send a seven-day notice
 - D. Require one month's rent in advance
13. According to the rental agreement, which of the following is the landlord required to do?
- A. Maintain and repair air conditioning units
 - B. Provide a stove and refrigerator
 - C. Arrange for weekly trash disposal
 - D. Supply the tenant with multiple keys
14. According to the rental agreement, when would the tenant have to pay the rent with cash or money order?
- A. When the rent is late

- B. When the rent is being mailed
- C. When a notice has been posted
- D. When a check has been returned

15. Describe the tenant's responsibility when repairs are needed on the rental property. Refer to both minor and major repairs in your answer.

16. According to the rental agreement, what is one situation in which the tenant might lose some of the security deposit?

- A. When the landlord has not received the rent on time
- B. When there has been any reasonable wear to the property
- C. When the rent check has been dishonored and returned
- D. When the tenant moves out and leaves belongings behind

17. Section 8 of the rental agreement states that under certain circumstances, the tenant will **reimburse** the landlord. This means that the tenant must

- A. notify the landlord about a forwarding address
- B. pay the landlord back for excessive damages to the property
- C. pay an additional security deposit
- D. return all keys when vacating the property

18. The name of the tenant must be filled in on the rental agreement in two places. Identify the two places and explain why the name of the tenant needs to appear in each of them.

19. Explain how the language used in Section 12 favors the landlord. Support your answer with an example from Section 12.

20. In Section 12, the rental agreement states that the landlord can enter and show the house to **"prospective residents."** The agreement is referring to people who
- A. are interested in living in the house
 - B. wish to make future improvements
 - C. lived in the house before
 - D. help the landlord do inspections

21. Identify one way the rental agreement organizes information, and explain how it makes the agreement easier to read.
