The Open Window

Use this key to check answers and read the explanations.

1. Who arrives at the Sappleton house with a letter of introduction?
   - A. Framton Nuttel
   - B. Ronnie Sappleton
   - C. Ulrich von Gradwitz
   - D. A country doctor

   Correct answer: A. Framton Nuttel
   Framton is making the formal visit. Vera greets him before her aunt comes downstairs.

2. How is Vera related to Mrs. Sappleton?
   - A. Vera is her daughter.
   - B. Vera is her sister.
   - C. Vera is her niece.
   - D. Vera is her cousin.

   Correct answer: C. Vera is her niece.
   Vera introduces the host as her aunt.

3. Who supplied the letters that Framton brings to the countryside?
   - A. Vera
   - B. His sister
   - C. Mrs. Sappleton
   - D. His doctor

   Correct answer: B. His sister
   Framton’s sister knew people in the area and wanted him to meet them.

4. In what month is the window standing open during Framton’s visit?
   - A. August
   - B. February
   - C. May
   - D. October

   Correct answer: D. October
   Vera draws attention to the open window on an October afternoon.

5. What lies immediately outside the large French window?
   A. A railway platform
   B. A lawn
   C. An enclosed kitchen
   D. A river dock
   Correct answer: B. A lawn
   The window opens onto the lawn that the hunting party later crosses.

6. What does Vera learn before telling her story about the window?
   A. Framton knows almost nothing about her aunt.
   B. Framton witnessed the hunting trip.
   C. Framton has met Ronnie several times.
   D. Framton lives in the next house.
   Correct answer: A. Framton knows almost nothing about her aunt.
   She asks what he knows of the household. He has little information that might contradict her.

7. In Vera’s first story, what happened to the three men?
   A. They fell from the window.
   B. They were trapped in a snowstorm.
   C. They sailed abroad and never returned.
   D. They sank into a bog.
   Correct answer: D. They sank into a bog.
   Vera claims that the husband and brothers disappeared while crossing the moor.

8. What animal does Vera say went out with the shooting party?
   A. A gray pony
   B. A white terrier
   C. A small brown spaniel
   D. A black cat
   Correct answer: C. A small brown spaniel
   The brown spaniel is in Vera’s first story and then appears with the real hunting party.

9. What reason does Mrs. Sappleton give for keeping the window open?
   A. The men are expected back and usually enter that way.
   B. The family is airing a freshly painted room.
   C. Vera is waiting for a bird to fly out.
   D. The house has no usable front door.
   Correct answer: A. The men are expected back and usually enter that way.
   The host says the men will return from shooting and normally cross the lawn to the window.

10. What has Framton just seen when he rushes from the house?

A. His sister walking up the drive
B. Vera climbing out of a locked window
C. A doctor arriving on a bicycle
D. Three figures approaching the window across the lawn

Correct answer: D. Three figures approaching the window across the lawn
The men and dog look like the party Vera described, which Framton believes is dead.

11. What explanation does Vera invent for Framton’s sudden departure?

A. He remembers leaving his front door unlocked.
B. He hears a train that he needs to catch.
C. He is terrified of dogs after a frightening encounter.
D. He has seen a missing relative on the lawn.

Correct answer: C. He is terrified of dogs after a frightening encounter.
Vera uses the presence of the spaniel to improvise a second plausible account.

12. Which paired details help make the returning group match Vera’s account?

A. A red umbrella and a black cat
B. A white coat and the brown spaniel
C. A lantern and a silver carriage
D. A walking stick and a broken bicycle

Correct answer: B. A white coat and the brown spaniel
The coat and dog in the made-up tragedy come from features of the real party.

13. Why does Mrs. Sappleton’s casual talk about the returning men alarm Framton?

A. He has mistaken Mrs. Sappleton for his sister.
B. He has already learned that the host plans to send him away.
C. He thinks the hunting party is waiting for him to join it.
D. He interprets it through Vera’s tragedy story, while the host expects living relatives.

Correct answer: D. He interprets it through Vera’s tragedy story, while the host expects living relatives.
Framton understands the ordinary remarks under the false premise Vera supplied.

14. What does Vera’s horrified look toward the lawn contribute at the turning point?

A. It makes Framton think she shares the fearful interpretation she has planted.
B. It tells Framton that the men are relatives arriving home.
C. It establishes that Vera has now seen them for the first time in her life.
D. It warns Mrs. Sappleton about a real danger in the house.

Correct answer: A. It makes Framton think she shares the fearful interpretation she has planted.
Her reaction plays along with the tale and encourages Framton to read the sight as terrifying.

15. What do the two stories Vera tells in one visit establish about her?

A. She needs her aunt to supply each new story.

B. She cannot keep the details of a story consistent.

C. She invents credible stories quickly by using the details around her.

D. She carefully avoids making up details about strangers.

Correct answer: C. She invents credible stories quickly by using the details around her.

Vera builds explanations on the spot to suit two different audiences.