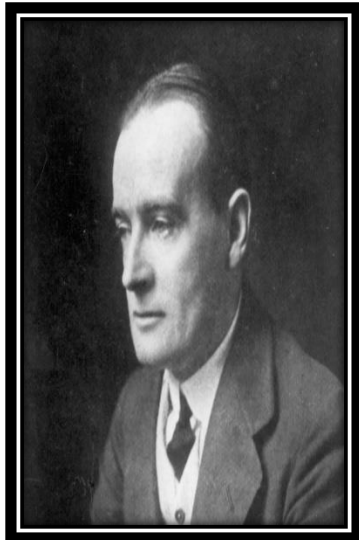




INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR

Class: VIII	Department: ENGLISH	October 2022
WORKSHEET NQ:18	Topic: The Open Window (MCB) STUDY NOTES	Note: For reference only

ABOUT THE AUTHTOR



Hector Hugh Munro (18 December 1870 – 14 November 1916), better known by the [pen name Saki](#) and also frequently as **H. H. Munro**, was a British writer whose witty, mischievous and sometimes [macabre](#) stories satirize [Edwardian](#) society and culture. He is considered by English teachers and scholars a master of the [short story](#) and is often compared to [O. Henry](#) and [Dorothy Parker](#). The pen name "Saki" is a reference to the cupbearer in the [Rubáiyát of Omar Khayyam](#). Much of Saki's work contrasts the conventions and hypocrisies of Edwardian England with the ruthless but straightforward life-and-death struggles of nature.

SUMMARY

The Open Window

Framton Nuttel, a nervous man, has come to stay in the country for his health. His sister, who thinks he should socialise while he is there, has given him letters of introduction to families in the neighbourhood whom she got to know during her stay. Framton goes to visit Mrs. Sappleton and, while waiting for her to come down, is entertained by her witty, fifteen-year-old niece. The niece tells him that the French window

is kept open, even though it is October, because Mrs. Sappleton believes that her husband and her brothers, who drowned in a bog three years before, will come back one day. When Mrs. Sappleton comes down, she talks about her husband and her brothers, and how they are going to come back from shooting soon; Framton, believing that she is deranged, tries to distract her by explaining his health condition. Then, to his horror, Mrs. Sappleton points out that her husband and her brothers are coming, whom he sees walking towards the window with their dog. He thinks he is seeing ghosts and flees. Mrs. Sappleton cannot understand why he has run away and, at her husband and brothers' arrival, tells them about the odd man who has just left. The niece explains that Framton ran away because of the spaniel: he is afraid of dogs ever since he was hunted by a pack of stray dogs in India and had to spend a night in a newly dug grave with creatures grinning and foaming just above him. The last line summarizes the situation, saying of the niece, "Romance at short notice was her speciality."

ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS:

1. Why had his sister given him letters of introduction to people living there?

His sister knew that Framton would meet very few people in the countryside. He would feel lonely and bored. His condition could grow worse. So, she gave him letters of introduction to all people she knew there. One was addressed to Mrs. Sappleton.

2. Why did Framton rush out wildly?

The niece had told Nuttel that her aunt's husband and brothers had been missing, for three years. When Framton saw them coming, he thought they were ghosts. So, he rushed out wildly in fear.

3. What was the girl's explanation for his lightning exit?

The girl explained that Framton had a bitter experience of the dogs. So, he made a sudden exit on seeing the dog.

4. Is this a mystery story? Give a reason for your answer.

The open window is not truly a mystery story. It shows the fertile imagination of a young girl. She plays a practical joke on Framton and tells a cooked-up story. Poor Framton falls a prey to her prank and runs out of the house hurriedly.

5. You are familiar with the 'irony' of the situation in a story. (Remember the cop and the Anthem in Class VII Supplementary Reader!) Which situations in The Open Window are good examples of the use of irony?

'Irony' refers to the contrast between what is intended or expected and what actually occurs. The open window has irony of situation. Poor Framton goes to countryside for rest and relief from his nervousness. But Mrs. Sappleton's niece plays such a joke that he suddenly rushes out. He mistakes Mrs. Sappleton's husband and brother as their ghosts.

6. What is the significance of the 'Open Window' in the story?

The window in the story, reveals niece's habit of playing jokes and pranks. The window is central to the story. Through it the aunt's husband along with his two brothers-in-law had gone out hunting. Framton is frightened to see them coming towards the window. Taking them for ghosts, he rushes out of the gate.

7. What was Framton Nuttel suffering from?

Framton Nuttel was suffering from nervous disorder and excitement. The doctor advised him complete rest and relaxation in the countryside.

8. Whom does Framton contact in the rural resort?

Framton goes to Mrs. Sappleton's house in the countryside. He carries an introduction letter from his sister. But he first meets Mrs. Sappleton's niece, Vera.

9. What did Framton admit as well as notice in Mrs. Sappleton's room?

Mr. Framton tells Vera that he doesn't know anybody in that village. He wondered whether the lady was married or a widow. But he did notice that some male member has been living in the room.

10. What did Framton notice about host's chief concern?

Framton noticed that the host was turning her eyes constantly towards the open window. She was giving very little attention to his story of sickness. Her chief concern was to notice her husband's returning home.

➤ What is a **Genre**?

A genre is a style or a class of art, music, or literature.

E.g.: Suspense, Thriller, Tragedy, Fantasy, Romance etc

