“The Open Window” by Saki (H.H. Munro)

VOCABULARY

1. **snipe** (n)- a type of wading bird
2. **pariah** (n)- member of lowest class in India; a social outcast
3. **rectory** (n)- a home occupied by a minister or clergy
4. **moor** – (n) a broad area of open land, often high but poorly drained, with patches of heath and peat bogs
5. **bog** – (n) soft, waterlogged ground; a marsh
6. **falter** (v)- to be unsteady in purpose or action, as from loss of courage or confidence; waver
7. **infirmities** (n) - frailties; disabilities
8. **imminent** (adj)- about to occur; impending

The Gist: Framton Nuttel needs a little getaway from the stresses of life, so his sister sends him to visit the country. He will stay with Mrs. Sappleton and her niece, neither of whom he's ever met. Keep in mind his "nervous condition" as you read the story; he's a very anxious man.

SHORT STORY GUIDE

1. Identify and describe the two (2) main characters in the story. Who is the protagonist? ____________________________
   Who is the antagonist? ____________________________

2. Why has Framton Nuttel taken a trip? ____________________________

4. Fully describe the story’s setting, including place and time (month and approximate year). ____________________________

5. In whose home is Nuttel during the majority of the story? ____________________________

6. Who greets him upon his arrival? ____________________________

7. Vera tells Nuttel a ghastly story. Thoroughly summarize the story. ____________________________

9. Through whose eyes do we see most of the story? ____________________________ How does this point of view affect the way we read the story?

10. Why does Nuttel flee the room? ____________________________

11. What explanation does Vera offer when Nuttel leaves the rectory? ____________________________ How is her explanation ironic? ____________________________
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12. Identify and explain one theme of the story. __________________________________________________________

13. Foreshadowing plays a major role in the story. Describe one instance of foreshadowing. ____________________________

14. What does the last sentence of the story mean? __________________________________________________________

How would placing the last line at the beginning change the story? ________________________________________________

Adapted from the following lesson plan: