

The Open Window
-by H.H. Munro (Saki)

I. Word Meanings:

1. engulfed- covered, surrounded
2. treacherous- unreliable
3. broke off- stopped abruptly
4. shudder- shiver
5. twilight- soft light during sunset/ dusk
6. hoarse- dry, harsh, rough
7. mackintosh- waterproof coat, rain coat

II. Choose the correct option and complete the statement:

1. My aunt will be down presently.” In this sentence ‘presently’ means____
 - (a) after some time
 - (b) soon enough
 - (c) late
 - (d) not at all
2. Framton Nuttel was being treated for_____
 - (a) nerve cure
 - (b) cancer
 - (c) TB
 - (d) fever
3. Vera said the window was kept open because her aunt believed that her husband (who was otherwise dead)_____
 - (a) would walk in through it
 - (b) would love to see it open
 - (c) would come in the shape of a ghost
 - (d) would come in with other ghosts

III. ERC:

1. ‘Her great tragedy happened just three years ago,’
 - a) Name the lesson and the author.
 - b) Identify the speaker.
 - c) Write the character sketch of the speaker.
 - d) Why do you think the speaker said, ‘three years ago,’? Explain.

2. He made a desperate but only partially successful effort to turn the talk on to a less ghastly topic; he was conscious that his hostess was giving him only a fragment of her attention.

- a. Who is 'he' and 'his hostess' in the above lines?
- b. Use the word 'ghastly' and frame a sentence of your own.
- c. Why did 'he' make a desperate effort?
- d. What was 'he' conscious about and why did 'he' think so?

IV. Answer the following questions in 30- 40 words:

1. What is a rural retreat? Why had Framton come there?
2. Why had Framton's sister given him letters of introduction?
3. I hope Vera has been amusing you?" she said. Was she really doing so? Explain.
4. What was Vera's explanation for Framton's strange behaviour?

V. Writing Skills:

Vera's prank caused Mr. Nuttel a great deal of distress. Recall a time when you played a prank on someone. Write your feelings in the form of a diary entry. Mention the prank played and its consequences. Word limit 100-120.
