

## Study Guide: "The Open Window"

**Warmup. Answer each with a short discussion. Grammar and spelling are important!**

1. Have you ever heard of a "nerve cure"? What do you guess it might be?
2. What could be another, more modern name, for a "nerve cure"?
3. If you were feeling extremely stressed out and you didn't have to work for a few months, what type of place would you go to relax?
4. What do you think a "letter of introduction" could be? Who would have it?
5. In your culture, is it common to go visit a stranger? Is there ever a time you might visit someone you've never met before? Explain.
6. Do you believe in ghosts? Why or why not?

Vocabulary List 1: You should know these words. They are non-academic, ordinary English.

For each word, try to:

- 1) Identify the part of speech
- 2) Translate into your first language, and
- 3) Give a synonym

amusing	hungry for (metaphor)
apology	hunt
alert	intend
anniversary	illness
aunt	lose (your) nerve [phrasal verb]
avoid	meantime
calmly	masculine
cemetery	menfolk
coat	mess
coincidence	muddy
correct	niece
creatures	nerves
creepy	pack
cure	phobia
cyclist	privately
duck (noun)	regret
diet	relief
dug	replace
dusk	shock
excitement	snap (verb)
extraordinary	spaniel
formal	specialty

fragment	sympathetic
get on s.o.'s nerves [idiom]	tea
gesture at	tease
grave (noun)	tragedy, tragic
gravel	twilight
hostess	widow
horror, horrible	yawn

**List 2: You might not know these words. They are non-academic, ordinary English. For each word, try to write the synonym given in class, and make any useful notes.**

ailment	dazed	romance
briskly	delusion	presently
bog	dreadful	self-possessed
break off (talking)	faltering	shudder
bustle	flatter	straying past
cane	ghastly	snarl
chatter	hoarse	sink, sank
chant	insult	sprint
collision	marsh	treacherous
communion	mope	twilight

**List 3: These are academic words. You should learn these words and their word families. Make a vocabulary card for each one.**

adapted	migrate	recover	topic
distinct	physical	series	undergo
mental	pursue	stress	widespread

## Paraphrase

Write a simpler paraphrase of each sentence. Don't focus on synonyms; instead, try to communicate the meaning behind the words. The first one is done as an example.

"My aunt will be down presently, Mr. Nuttel ... In the meantime you must try and put up with me."

*My aunt is not here but she's coming soon. Until she gets here  
I'll talk with you.*

Framton Nuttel tried to think of the correct phrase to **flatter** the niece of the moment without **insulting** the aunt that was to come.

He was wondering whether Mrs. Sappleton was in the married or widowed state.

In crossing the **marsh** to their favorite hunting place, they were all three **engulfed** in a **treacherous** piece of **bog**.

[H]er youngest brother [was] singing 'Bertie, why do you bound?' as he always did to tease her, because she said it got on her nerves.

"All my doctors agree that I need a complete rest, with no mental excitement, and to avoid all stressful physical exercise," announced Framton.

[He] shared the widespread **delusion** that total strangers **are hungry for** the smallest details of one's **ailments**, their causes and cures.

## Setting

Where and when does this story take place? Guess! What clues make you think so? Write a quotation (a few words is OK) from the story to support your guess.

**Place:** What room? Why?

What kind of town? Why?

What country? Why?

**Time:** What day? Why?

What season? Why?

In the past, present or future? Why?

## Characters

Main characters are the people who speak and affect the story the most. For each main character - there are three - give the person's name, a few facts, and some descriptive words. One is done as an example. Caution: Avoid copying directly from the story.

Name: <i>Framton Nuttel</i>	Name:	Name:
This person is: (Description) <i>A man</i> <i>Middle-aged?</i> <i>Nervous, sick</i> <i>Has a sister</i> <i>Single?</i> <i>Probably a little rich</i>		
Their personality is: (Characterization) <i>Shy</i> <i>Strange</i> <i>Easily scared of things</i> <i>Maybe selfish</i> <i>Not brave</i> <i>Socially awkward</i>		

## Characterization

“Characterization” means the way the author shows the personality of each character. Look for actions, not just adjectives!

Look back at the “Characters” exercise. Choose one “personality” quality that you wrote for each person. Copy it here. First, explain your thinking: why do you feel this describes the person? Then, write a quote from the story that supports your choice. Be careful to include quotation marks. It’s OK to copy a phrase, but be sure the thought is complete.

Example:

Character & Personality Trait:	Why?	Supporting Quote:
<i>Framton is probably a little rich</i>	<i>He can go on a long vacation and he can have a “nerve cure.” Also, he wears a hat and carries a cane, and I think rich men did this in the past</i>	<i>“Framton grabbed wildly at his cane and hat...”</i>

Character & Personality Trait:	Why?	Supporting Quote:

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## Plot

Plot is “what happens” in a story.

- \* One easy way to explain a story is by **summarizing** “what happens” in the story.
- \* This is a natural thing for humans to do.
- \* To summarize, you simply retell the story very briefly.  
You leave out most description and focus on the major actions.

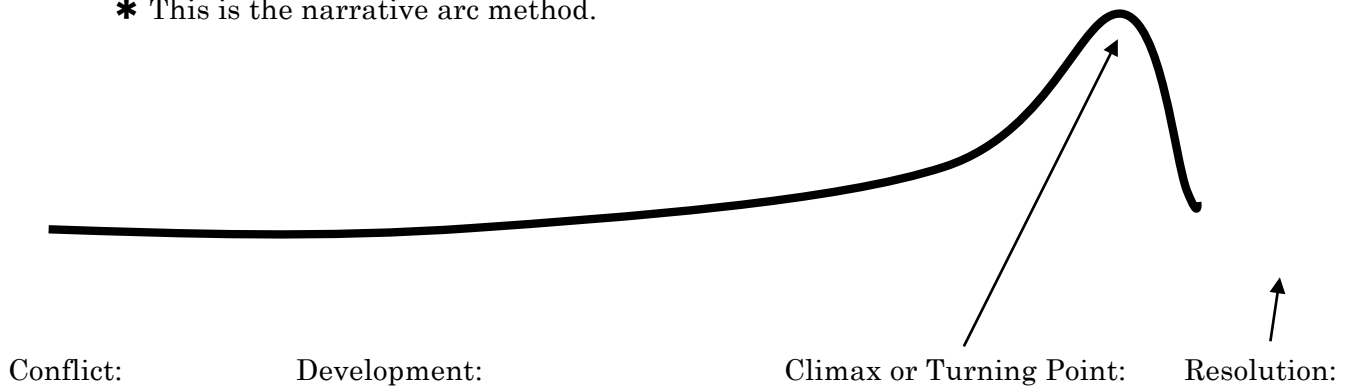
A. Summarize “The Open Window” in three or four sentences.

- \* A different, more abstract way to explain a story is by creating a **timeline** that puts the events in order.
- \* A timeline must go from earliest to latest.

B. Write a timeline for “The Open Window” here. Include exactly SIX more events.



- \* A third way to analyze a story is by asking “What basic problems do the characters have? How do these problems make the story happen?”
- \* This is the narrative arc method.



C. Complete a narrative arc for “The Open Window.”