

The Open Window

Saki

How does Vera build a believable lie?

TOTAL TIME

PASSAGE

30 minutes	Vera tests what Framton knows
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FIND THE ANCHOR TEXT

Use the Anchor Text Table of Contents in the Enhanced Reader to open the START anchor. Then use the dropdown to select the END anchor.

SECTION / LOCATION	Short story - Vera's questioning through the final paragraph
START	Do you know many of the people round here?
END	Romance at short notice was her speciality.
PASSAGE ID	sec-05-the-open-window

THE MOVE

Connect information-gathering to character strategy

WHY THIS PASSAGE

Vera first learns what Framton knows, what he does not know, and why he has come. Only then does she build the story that exploits those gaps. The lie succeeds because information-gathering comes before invention.

MARK

Underline every question or prompt Vera uses to learn about Framton. Circle the facts she discovers he cannot verify. Star the detail she later turns into the foundation of the story.

NOTICE

- What does Vera need to know before she can safely invent anything?
- Which parts of her story depend on Framton’s lack of local knowledge?

- Why is a lie built around true surrounding details more believable than a completely invented story?

THINK

Answer provisionally: How does Vera build a believable lie? Choose the strongest interpretation you can defend from this passage alone.

WRITE

Write a short evidence-based response to: How does Vera build a believable lie? Use at least two details from the assigned passage and explain how they support your interpretation.

CLOSE

Name the single detail that most changed or sharpened your interpretation, and explain why.

STRONG ANSWER	Vera makes the lie believable by first finding out what Framton knows, then building the story inside the gaps in his knowledge while attaching it to real surroundings—the open window, the absent men, and Mrs. Sappleton's expected behavior.
EVIDENCE	Use Vera's questions about whether Framton knows the family or neighborhood, then show how the answers let her invent safely. Strong evidence also includes the way the lie predicts what Framton will later see.
WATCH FOR	Do not describe Vera merely as imaginative. The lesson is about strategy: she gathers information before deciding what lie the listener can be made to believe.
SOLO	Read the exact passage independently.
SUPPORTED	Use narration and sentence highlighting while reading the same passage.
LISTENING	Listen to the exact passage; visual following is optional. Same question and evidence demand.

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How does Vera build a believable lie?

START ANCHOR	Do you know many of the people round here?
END ANCHOR	Romance at short notice was her speciality.

Use the Anchor Text Table of Contents in the Enhanced Reader to open the START anchor. Then use the dropdown to select the END anchor.

OPEN THE MARKED PASSAGE IN TUMBLELIT

SOLO: read independently. SUPPORTED: use narration + highlighting. LISTENING: listen to the exact passage. The question and evidence task stay the same.

1. MARK - Underline every question or prompt Vera uses to learn about Framton. Circle the facts she discovers he cannot verify.

Star the detail she later turns into the foundation of the story.

2. NOTICE - What does Vera need to know before she can safely invent anything? Which parts of her story depend on Framton’s lack of local knowledge? Why is a lie built around true surrounding details more believable than a completely invented story?
3. THINK - Answer provisionally: How does Vera build a believable lie?
4. WRITE - Write a short response using at least two pieces of evidence from this passage.

Use evidence from the assigned passage. Show what you noticed and how the text supports your interpretation.