



Emerging | Exemplar Essay

## Open Window

### Deception in “The Open Window”



#### Clarity and Focus

A focused central idea is not established. The writer does not clearly tie the theme of deception to characters' actions or their points of view. An attempt to present a thesis is present (“The Open Window’ by Saki shows deception because Vera doesn’t want Mr. Nuttel to stay with them”) but falls short on the demands of the prompt.



#### Development

Evidence and analysis are superficial (“the ‘husband and two little brothers went out for their shooting, and never came back’. This means that the three guys went missing and nobody cared to ask the police for help and such”), and some ideas are offered (“I thought Mr. Nuttel wasn’t that bright”), but they are not used effectively to develop a central idea around the theme of deception.



#### Organization

Broad sentences are offered for the introduction and conclusion; the essay lacks meaningful organization otherwise. Use of transitions is basic (“This means that,” “because,” “after”) and it is difficult to follow ideas as they shift throughout the body of the essay.



#### Language and Style

Sentence structure is simplistic, word choice is general (sometimes incorrect: “deceivingness”), and a formal style is attempted but weak.



#### Using Exemplars in Your Lessons

Exemplar essays are tools to take abstract descriptions and make them more concrete for students. One way to use them is to print the clean copies of the essays and allow students to use the rubric to make notes or even find examples of important elements of an essay - thesis statements, introductions, evidence, conclusions, transitions, etc. Teachers can also use exemplars to illustrate what each score point within a trait ‘looks like’ in an authentic student essay. For additional ideas, please see “25 Ways to Use Exemplar Essays” by visiting the Curriculum Resources page in Help.

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Notes

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Have you ever heard of deception? "The Open Window" by Saki shows deception because Vera doesn't want Mr. Nuttel to stay with them. She says that her aunt's family was dead because years ago the "husband and two little brothers went out for their shooting, and never came back". This means that the three guys went missing and nobody cared to ask the police for help and such. Vera was very deceptive, and even a little bit mean. I thought Mr. Nuttel wasn't that bright. Because the story that Vera tells him frightens him. He's acting weird, and when Vera played a trick on him he got all rattled up. Mrs. Sappleton asked why Frampton left running and her niece said that he was afraid of dogs. After Frampton had ran out of the house he was hit by a cyclist. I believe this story shows a huge trait about deceivingness.