



## Lesson- 4

### The Open Window

**Summary:** Framton Nuttel's doctor ordered him to take complete rest in a quiet place somewhere in the country to cure his nervous breakdown. His sister suggested him to go to the village she had stayed four years ago. It was a lovely restful place on the edge of the moors and the people were very nice there. She wrote a letter of introduction to them and asked him to see Mrs.Sappleton, who was a kind person. As recommended by his sister, he went to see Mrs.Sappleton, he was shown into the drawing room where he met the niece of Mrs.Sappleton, who was a young girl of fifteen years. She was very frank and she seemed the very opposite of shy. She narrated the story of her aunt's sorrow. She said that he might be wondering why on an October afternoon, they had kept the window wide opened. She pointed to a long window that opened like a door on to the wide lawn outside. She narrated further that out through that window, three years ago, Mrs. Sappleton's husband and her two younger brothers along with their dog went off to the moors for a day's shooting, but they never came back. On their way across the moors, all of them along with their dog, fell into a bog and were swallowed up. The bogs were dangerous that year because of the heavy rainfall that summer. Their bodies were never found. And the worst part was that her poor aunt was still in the hope that they'll come back one day and would walk through that window as they always used to, that was why she left the window open even on cold days until it got dark. And she felt that on quiet evenings like that, they would walk through the door. Just then Mrs.Sappleton came into the drawing room and apologised for keeping him waiting. She asked Framton not to mind the window being open. She told that she was expecting her husband and her younger brothers to come anytime time from a day's shooting. To Framton it was quiet terrible to listen to the poor lady who was clearly out of her mind. He made great efforts to divert her thought to a more cheerful subject. All the time that he was talking, she had her eyes on the window and Framton felt sorry and was filled with pain. After a while, Framton saw three figures walking over the lawn towards the window, all carrying guns under their arms, and Mrs. Sappleton exclaimed that they had come just in time for tea. Framton was frightened and rushed out of the room, seized his hat and stick, then went out of the house, running as if he were escaping from a house on fire. Mrs. Sappleton was amazed to

see Framton rushed out like that without a word of apology and goodbye as if he had seen a ghost. The niece said to her aunt that it might be the dog as Framton had told her about his terrible fear of dogs. He told her that when he was in India a pack of wild dog chased him into a graveyard and he had to spend a night in a newly- dug grave with those fierce beasts howling right above his head. The niece was clever at making up stories on the spur of the moment.

### Glossary

- Doubtful - causing doubt
- Gravely - seriously
- Astonishment - great surprise
- Moors - tract of open uncultivated land preserved for shooting
- Apology - expression of regret for a fault
- Annoy - to make one angry
- Tragedy - tragic event
- Boggy - wet like a swamp
- Excitement - state of feeling, very pleased or interested
- Direction - the point one moves
- Extraordinary - very unusual
- Howling - long loud crying of a dog or wolf
- On the spur - to do something suddenly without thinking
- Graveyard - burial ground

