



Developing | Exemplar Essay

## Open Window

### Deception and Perception



#### Clarity and Focus

A central idea is stated in the introduction, but it is neither clear nor adequately developed (“The author... shows how the characters help develop the theme of deception by using specific character traits”); it does not address the demands of the prompt.



#### Development

The writer offers limited evidence (“Vera is very ‘self-possessed’ who obviously has told these types of lies before to visitors and deceived them”) ideas are not developed fully (“Everyone has their own way of interpreting things and can affect others”).



#### Organization

An organizational structure is used to present an introduction, body, and conclusion, but is ineffective in showing a cohesion of ideas. Some transitions are used (“To conclude,” “Also”), but relationships between and among ideas are not consistently apparent.



#### Language and Style

A formal style is attempted and some domain-specific language is present (“character traits,” “perspective,” “theme”), but word choice is not particularly vivid or advanced.



#### 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.

## Open Window



### Deception and Perception

In the story "The Open Window" by Saki, deception is the main game. A self-possessed 15 year old young lady (Vera) is a master of lies, because she fools a new neighbor that moves to the countryside to help his mental illness. Framton Nuttel, a man who has nerve problems, visits these strangers for a nerve cure. But Vera plays a little prank on him and nearly scares him to death! The author of the short story shows how the characters help develop the theme of deception by using specific character traits and changing perspectives throughout the story.

The author gives Mr. Nuttel and Vera, the niece, specific character traits. While waiting for Mrs. Sappleton, Mr. Nuttel flashes back to his sister telling him that during his trip he will "not speak to a living soul and [his] nerves will be worse than ever from moping". Mr. Nuttel seems like someone who doesn't interact a lot and mopes. He has bad nerves which makes him nervous and makes him believe the tall tale that Vera says to him. Vera is very "self-possessed" who obviously has told these types of lies before to visitors and deceived them.

Perspective is all about the way someone looks at something in their own view. For example, "I hope you don't mind the open window, my husband and brothers will be home directly from shooting..." This starts to change the way Framton will think about the aunt because as the girl was saying they have not come back in 3 years so this makes him feel bad for the aunt that she maybe has mental problems after the incident. Also, "A most extraordinary man, Mr. Nuttel could only talk about his illnesses, and dashed off without a word of goodbye...One would think he had seen a ghost." Now Mrs. Sappleton's point of view towards Framton thinks something



weird happened and why he ran away because he actually believes that ghosts came in. Everyone has their own way of interpreting things and can affect others.

Deception and perspective both go together because when tricking someone can change the outlook on other things. To conclude, that not everything you're told is true and you can be tricked. This could make you look at things differently. And in the end it's all about how you think of it.