1. **Item Detail for Question 1 -** The correct answer is: C. He withholds information from the reader until the story's conclusion.
2. **Item Detail for Question 2**

**Full comprehension -** Responses at this level use specific details from the story to explain what Vera does or says to make Framton believe her.

• *Vera talks about how they will come in the window at any moment, then she breaks off with a shudder.*

• *She uses details that are real, like how the one man had a white rain coat over his arm and she used a song she knew the man would be singing.*

• *Vera makes her voice sound "falteringly human" and makes it sound like her aunt is deluded in believing her husband will return.*

**Partial comprehension**

a) Responses at this level provide a text-based generalization to explain what Vera does or says to make Framton believe her.

• *Part of Vera's story is false, but part of it is true, so Framton is convinced.*

• *Vera's voice is emotional when she tells her story.*

**OR**

b) Responses provide a detail from the story that is related to Vera convincing Framton of her story but do not offer an explanation.

• *She mentions the dog and the white coat and I think that's what did it for him.*

• *She calls attention to the window.*

**Little or no comprehension -** Responses at this level demonstrate little or no understanding of how Vera convinces Framton of her story. Responses may provide irrelevant details or personal opinions or simply repeat the question.

• *Vera never convinces Framton.*

• *Vera tells a believable story.*

• *She uses lots of details.*

• *"Here they are at last!" she cried. "Just in time for tea."*

• *Framton shivered slightly and turned toward the niece.*

1. **Item Detail for Question 3**

**Full comprehension -** Responses at this level provide a text-based explanation for how Vera could be viewed as both cruel and harmless.

• *Vera is cruel because she tells a horrible story about the dead hunters to a nervous man. But she could be called harmless because it was just a made-up story.*

• *She is cruel because she plays a prank on an unsuspecting and innocent visitor. But she is harmless if the reader takes into account her young age.*

• *She is harmless because she is just a girl with a big imagination who likes to make up stories. And she's cruel because she had intentions to scare away Framton and maybe anyone she can fool with.*

• *She lies to Framton when she tells her horrible story. But she didn't mean to hurt him.*

**Partial comprehension -** Responses at this level provide a text-based explanation for how Vera could be viewed as cruel or as harmless.

• *She tricks this poor innocent man with a nervous condition.*

• *She didn't know that he had a nervous condition.*

• *She was only a girl of fifteen.*

• *She didn't mean to hurt Framton.*

**Little or no comprehension -** Responses at this level do not discuss Vera's character. Responses may provide irrelevant details or personal opinions or simply repeat the question.

• *Vera is harmless because she didn't really hurt him.*

• *She is harmless because she didn't harm him physically.*

• *She didn't know any better.*

• *She's rude to Framton.*

• *She didn't mean to trick him.*

1. **Item Detail for Question 4 -** The correct answer is: D. has a mistaken idea about how others view him
2. **Item Detail for Question 5**

**Extensive -** Responses at this level demonstrate understanding of how the author (Saki) uses comedy and horror in his story. They recognize two things: that the reader of Saki's story is at first taken in by Vera's horror story; and, that comedy is achieved by the revelation of Vera's story being untrue. Specific references to the story are used to explain both comedy and horror.

• *Saki begins with horror, making the reader, along with Framton, believe a chilling story about the tragic death of three hunters and their dog who died in a bog while hunting and whose bodies were never found. At the end you realize that the story was untrue and it all turns to comedy.*

• *The critic's description does apply. There is both comedy as well as horror. Up until the very end of the story you do not realize the girl was lying. I certainly believed her. That's comedy. The rest was horror because at first I thought they were really ghosts.*

**Essential**

a) Responses at this level demonstrate understanding of how the author (Saki) uses comedy or horror in his story. Responses recognize that Vera's story is used to affect the reader as well as Framton or that the comedy results from the reader realizing that the story was untrue.

• *The reader experiences the horror of the supposed tragedy when Vera tells the story of the hunters.*

• *The comedy is revealed when the readers discover that the whole thing was a trick made up by the little girl in the story.*

**OR**

b) Responses demonstrate a general understanding that the author uses horror to create comedy.

• *Saki uses fear to create humor. He instills fear in the main character and the reader until the end when the reader discovers the true motive of Vera.*

**Partial -** Responses at this level demonstrate understanding of what in the plot is comedy and/or what in the plot is horror. They do not recognize that Saki uses Vera's story to affect the reader or that he uses horror to create comedy.

• *The horror in the story is when the three men were supposed to be dead but they came walking up to the house. The comedy is that Vera lied to Framton and he ran out scared, because he thought they were ghosts but they really weren't.*

**Unsatisfactory -** Responses at this level do not demonstrate understanding of comedy or horror in the story. They may provide story details that do not answer the question, may misinterpret Vera's horror story as real plot events, or may provide personal opinions about the characters.

• *The three men came walking along the lawn.*

• *It's funny when he writes "Bertie, where art thou bound?"*

• *I think Vera was unkind to Framton and that wasn't funny.*

1. **Item Detail for Question 6**

**Full comprehension -** Responses at this level describe Framton's reaction and explain why he reacts this way. Responses may refer to Framton's reaction to Mrs. Sappleton's first mention of the men or to the moment when she announces their actual arrival.

• *He doesn't like what she's talking about. He doesn't like the subject because he thinks she's crazy believing her family is still alive.*

• *Framton thought it was all purely horrible. His nervous disorder makes him act this way when he thinks they're dead but she says they're coming back.*

• *He shivers in fear because he thinks she's lost her mind.*

**Partial comprehension**

a) Responses at this level describe Framton's reaction but do not explain why he reacts this way.

• *He thought it was all purely horrible.*

• *Framton tried to change the subject.*

• *Framton is shocked.*

• *He shivered slightly.*

**OR**

b) Responses explain why Framton acts as he does but do not describe his reaction.

• *He thinks she's crazy.*

• *Framton suffers from a nervous condition.*

• *He acts that way because he was tricked by the niece.*

**Little or no comprehension -** Responses at this level do not describe Framton's reaction or explain why he reacts this way. Responses may provide irrelevant details, including Framton's reaction at a later part of the story. Or, responses may provide personal opinions or simply repeat the question.

• *He is happy because he likes hunting.*

• *Framton is sympathetic towards Mrs. Sappleton.*

• *He runs out of the house.*

Acceptable reactions may be found in the story through the point where "Framton shivered slightly and turned towards the niece with a look intended to convey sympathetic comprehension." Framton's behavior after this point, such as when he experiences "a chill shock of nameless fear," is not acceptable because it is in reaction to Vera's behavior ("staring...with a look of dazed horror") or to what Framton himself sees (the men walking across the lawn), not to what Mrs. Sappleton is saying.

1. **Item Detail for Question 7**

**Acceptable -** Responses at this level demonstrate understanding of Vera's fictive version of why Mrs. Sappleton leaves the window open every day. Responses may indicate that she leaves the window open in memory of her husband and brothers, who departed out the window for their final hunting trip and/or that she leaves the window open with the hope the men would return through it.

• *Mrs. Sappleton leaves the window open every day because her husband and brothers never came home one day from hunting and she feels they'll come home through the open window.*

• *She is always hoping for her husband and brothers to come home that way even though they have been dead for three years.*

• *She leaves the window open hoping her husband will return from his hunting trip.*

• *She thinks her husband and brothers will return through the window one day.*

**Unacceptable -** Responses at this level do not demonstrate understanding of Vera's fictive version of why Mrs. Sappleton leaves the window open every day. Responses may refer to Mrs. Sappleton's actual reason for leaving the window open or may provide irrelevant story details or personal opinions.

• *She leaves it open so her husband and brothers can come in.*

• *So that the hunters will not track mud on the floor.*

• *Her husband and two brothers went shooting and never came back.*

• *She thinks her husband will come back from his hunting trip through the window.*

1. **Item Detail for Question 8**

**Acceptable -** Responses at this level provide Vera's motivation for asking Framton if he knows anything about her aunt (e.g., to determine whether or not she can trick him or tell her made-up story).

• *Because if he did know her, Vera couldn't make up a story to frighten him.*

• *Vera is probably wondering what to say to frighten Framton. If he does know the aunt, Vera's piece about the aunt's husband and brothers wouldn't have worked.*

• *She wants to know how much he knows so she can decide whether to tell him her story.*

• *So that she can play a trick on him.*

• *Vera wants to know if she can scare Framton.*

**Unacceptable -** Responses at this level reveal little or no comprehension of Vera's motivation. Responses may provide irrelevant details or personal opinions or simply repeat the question.

• *Vera is trying to see if he knows the story.*

• *She wants to help him get to know her family.*

• *Because she wants to know if he's seen her before.*

• *Vera wants to tell Framton about why his aunt leaves the large French doors open.*

1. **Item Detail for Question 9-** The correct answer is:A. To cure his nervous condition
2. **Item Detail for Question 10 -** The correct answer is:A. confident and in control
3. **Item Detail for Question 11 -** The correct answer is:C. A young girl makes up a story and frightens a nervous visitor.