“The Open Window” discussion questions

1. How does Vera use the information she learns about Mr. Nuttel to her advantage?
2. Why is Mr. Nuttel especially susceptible to Vera’s story?
3. Describe the author’s tone in the scene of Mr. Nuttel’s “headlong retreat.” What words or events help create the tone?
4. What three words do you think best describe Vera? Support your answers.
5. What was your first impression of Vera? Did it change – why or why not?
6. The author subtly plays with the theme of hunting in this story. How is Vera like a hunter and Mr. Nuttel like her prey?
7. Identify which type(s) of irony the author uses. Support your answer with specific details from the story.