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"A most extraordinary man, a Mr. Nuttel," said Mrs. Sappleton; "could only talk about his illnesses, and dashed off without a word of goodby or apology when you arrived. One would think he had seen a ghost."

28

"I expect it was the spaniel," said the niece calmly; "he told me he had a horror of dogs. He was once hunted into a cemetery somewhere on the banks of the Ganges by a pack of pariah dogs, and had to spend the night in a newly dug grave with the creatures snarling and grinning and foaming just above him. Enough to make anyone lose their nerve."

29

Romance at short notice was her speciality.

30

FOR WRITING OR DISCUSSION

MyWritingLab

1. In what ways could you classify these pieces as "surprise ending" stories? How does each writer achieve the surprise? What clues to the outcome do you notice in each case before you reach the ending?
2. In what ways are the children in the stories similar? Different? How do the adults affect the outcome—the parents in Laurie's case, the aunt and Mr. Nuttel (note the man's name!) in the niece's case?
3. The last line of each story is well known. How do the last lines capture the heart of the stories?
4. Write a paper comparing and/or contrasting Jackson's short story with Saki's. You may use one or more of the preceding questions to guide you in limiting your subject.

Love, Sweet Love: Two Poems for Comparison and Contrast

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

Sonnet 29

When, in disgrace with Fortune and men's eyes,
I all alone beweep my outcast state,
And trouble deaf heaven with my bootless¹ cries,
And look upon myself and curse my fate,
Wishing me like to one more rich in hope,

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¹Futile.