

READING & TRAINING

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

Sherlock Holmes Stories



AUDIO CD-ROM



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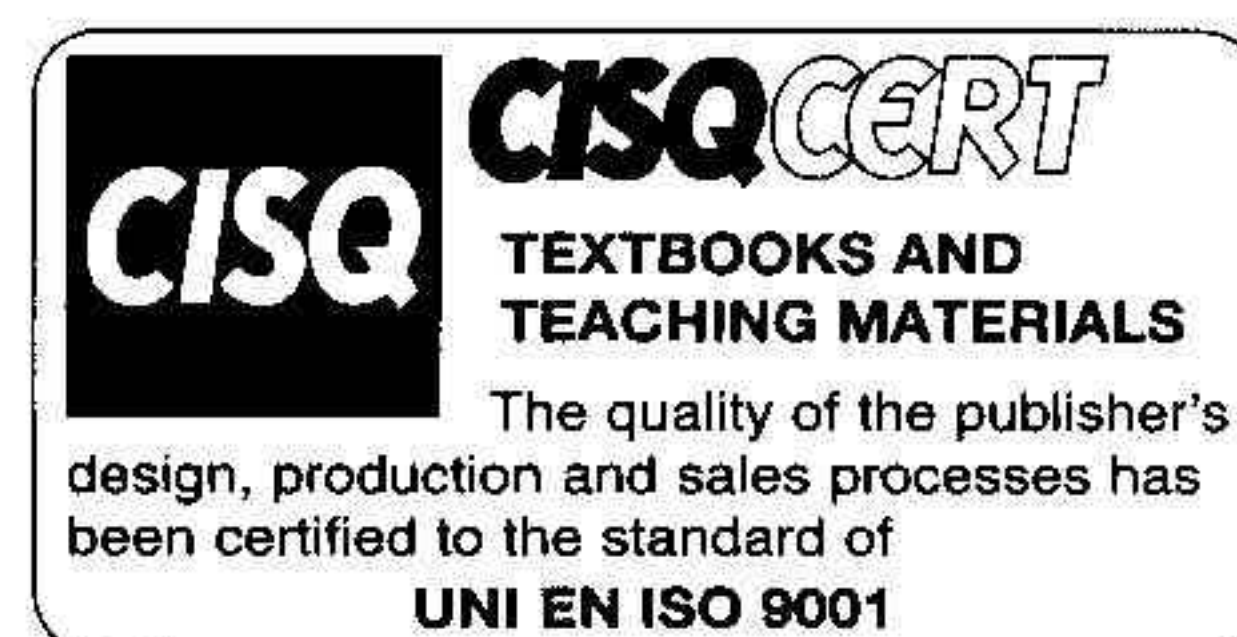
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The CD contains an audio section (the recording of the text) and a CD-ROM section (additional fun games and activities that practice the four skills).

- To listen to the recording, insert the CD into your CD player and it will play as normal. You can also listen to the recording on your computer, by opening your usual CD player program.
- If you put the CD directly into the CD-ROM drive, the software will open automatically.

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS for CD-ROM

PC:

- Intel Pentium II processor or above (Intel Pentium III recommended)
- Windows 98, ME, 2000 or XP
- 64 Mb RAM (32 Mb RAM Memory free for the application)
- SVGA monitor 800x600 screen 16 bit
- Windows compatible 12X CD-ROM drive (24X recommended)
- Audio card with speakers or headphones

Macintosh:

- Power PC G3 processor or above (G4 recommended)
- Mac OS 9.0 with CarbonLib or OSX
- 64 Mb RAM (32 Mb RAM free for the application)
- 800x600 screen resolution with thousands of colours
- CD-ROM Drive 12X (24X recommended)
- Speakers or headphones

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KEY TO EXIT TEST 95



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T: GRADE 3/4 Trinity-style exercises (Grade 3/4)

This story is recorded in full.



These symbols indicate the beginning and end of the extracts linked to the listening activities.



Sir Arthur Conan Doyle
(1927)
by Henry L. Gates.

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle created one of the world's most famous detectives, Sherlock Holmes.

Conan Doyle was born in Edinburgh, Scotland, on 22 May 1859 to an Irish-Catholic family. His mother introduced him to books when he was a young boy. In 1876 he entered Edinburgh University and began studying medicine. At the university he worked for Dr. Joseph Bell to make some money. Dr. Bell surprised his students because he often knew a lot about his patients simply by looking at them. He was a careful observer of detail and later became Conan Doyle's model for Sherlock Holmes.



A scene from the 1959 film version of **The Hound of the Baskervilles**.

In 1882 Conan Doyle became a doctor and opened his first practice. He did not have many patients so he began writing his first Sherlock Holmes story, *A Study in Scarlet* (1887). The story was a great success. In 1891 the monthly magazine *The Strand* asked Conan Doyle to write six Sherlock Holmes stories. The clever detective and his friend Dr Watson soon became very popular in Britain.

However, Conan Doyle was tired of Sherlock Holmes and wanted to spend more time writing historical novels. In 1893 he wrote a story called 'The Final Problem' and 'killed' Holmes. Conan Doyle's readers (including his mother!) were very angry and *The Strand* lost 20,000 readers. Finally, in 1901, Conan Doyle wrote another Sherlock Holmes adventure, *The Hound of the Baskervilles*. His readers were very pleased and he continued writing Holmes stories until 1927.

Some other Sherlock Holmes books are *The Sign of Four* (1890), *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* (1892) (the two stories in this book come from this volume), and *The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes* (1894) – it is in the final story of this volume that Conan Doyle kills Holmes. He then brings his famous detective back to life in *The Return of Sherlock Holmes* (1905). Other Sherlock Holmes books include *The Valley of Fear* (1915), *His Last Bow* (1917) and *The Case-Book of Sherlock Holmes* (1927) – this is the final collection of Sherlock Holmes mysteries by Conan Doyle. During the later part of his life Conan Doyle became interested in Spiritualism,¹ and travelled around the world to talk about it. He died in England on 7 July 1930.

1 Decide if the following sentences are true (T) or false (F). Correct the false ones.

- | | T | F |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 Sir Arthur Conan Doyle was introduced to books at an early age. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2 Dr Joseph Bell was one of his professors at Edinburgh University. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3 Dr Joseph Bell was the model for the character of Dr Watson. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4 Conan Doyle's first Sherlock Holmes story was not successful. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5 In 'The Final Problem' the famous detective was killed, and Conan Doyle's readers were very angry. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6 From 1901 until 1927, Conan Doyle wrote only historical novels. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7 During the later part of his life, Conan Doyle travelled around the world to talk about Sherlock Holmes. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

1. **Spiritualism** : the idea that living people can communicate with the dead.



INTERNET PROJECT



Visit the Sherlock Holmes Museum

Sherlock Holmes is one of the most popular fictional characters in the world. In London there is a museum dedicated to Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's great detective.

Connect to the Internet and go to www.blackcat-cideb.com or www.cideb.it. Insert the title or part of the title of the book into our search engine. Open the page for *Sherlock Holmes Stories*. Click on the internet project link. Go down the page until you find the title of this book and click on the relevant link for this project.

Go to the site, visit the museum and take a virtual tour of the study. Then answer these questions.

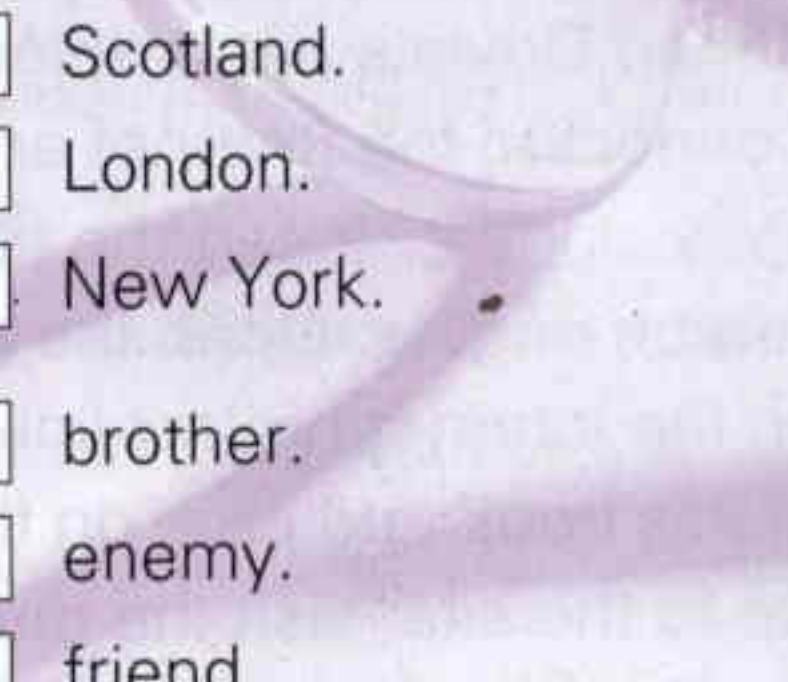
- 1 / Where in London is the Sherlock Holmes Museum?
- 2 On what floor is Sherlock Holmes's study?
- 3 What objects can you find in the bedroom and study?
- 4 According to Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's stories, when did Sherlock Holmes live there?

Write a sentence or two describing his study. Is it similar to a typical room in a house in your country? What are the similarities or differences?



Sherlock Holmes Quiz

What do you know about Sherlock Holmes?
Choose the correct answer (A, B or C).

- 
- 1** Sherlock Holmes lived in
A ☐ Scotland.
B ☐ London.
C ☐ New York.
 - 2** Dr Watson was Holmes's
A ☐ brother.
B ☐ enemy.
C ☐ friend.
 - 3** Holmes was very
A ☐ rich.
B ☐ funny.
C ☐ clever.
 - 4** He was a famous
A ☐ detective.
B ☐ writer.
C ☐ policeman.
 - 5** What did he smoke?
A ☐ A cigar.
B ☐ A pipe.
C ☐ Nothing.
 - 6** Who was married?
A ☐ Dr Watson.
B ☐ Sherlock Holmes.
C ☐ Neither of the two.
 - 7** Which cases did Holmes solve?
A ☐ Only robberies.
B ☐ Only murders.
C ☐ Only interesting cases.

You can check your answers on page 95.

The Red-Headed League

JABEZ WILSON



The story's title

In English, a 'league' is a club or organisation. Think about the title of this story. What do you think a 'red-headed league' could be? Work in small groups and think of two possible interpretations. Then read the story to find out.

Before you read

- 1 Match the words in the box with the pictures below.

watch chain

sleeves

coin

newspaper advertisement



1



2



3



4



- 2 Listen to the first part of Chapter One. You will hear Dr Watson talking about one of his adventures with Sherlock Holmes. Decide if these sentences are true (T) or false (F).

- 1 Dr Watson went to visit Mr Wilson on Saturday morning.
- 2 Mr Wilson had a red face and red hair.
- 3 Dr Watson waited in the other room.
- 4 Mr Wilson had an old newspaper in his pocket.
- 5 Mr Wilson had a tattoo of a fish on his left hand.
- 6 Sherlock Holmes liked studying tattoos.

T	F
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



CHAPTER ONE

Mr Jabez Wilson



One Saturday morning I went to visit my friend Sherlock Holmes, but he already had a visitor. His visitor was a large man with a red face, small eyes and bright red hair.



'I see you're busy, Holmes. I'll come back another time,' I said.

'You came at the perfect time, my dear Watson,' said Holmes warmly.

'I thought you were busy,' I said.

'I am busy, very busy,' he replied.

'I'll wait in the other room.'

'No!' said Holmes, and he turned to the visitor. 'Dr Watson helped me in many of my most successful cases, Mr Wilson. I am sure he can help me with your case, too.'

The large gentleman got up from his chair and said, 'I'm very pleased to meet you, Dr Watson.' Then we all sat down.



The Red-Headed League

'I know you like unusual, difficult cases, Watson, and this case is very unusual. Mr Wilson, please tell your story to Dr Watson.'

Mr Wilson took an old, dirty newspaper out of his pocket and began looking at the advertisements in it. I watched him carefully. From his clothes I saw that he was an ordinary British shopkeeper.

Holmes saw me watching the old man. He smiled and said, 'I see you're trying to be a detective, Watson. Well, it's clear that Mr Wilson was a workman in the past and he also lived in China for some time. Recently, he did a lot of writing.'

Mr Wilson was very surprised. 'How do you know all of these things, Mr Holmes? You are right — in the past I was a workman.'

'Your hands show it, Mr Wilson,' Holmes said. 'Your right hand is bigger than your left. You used your right hand a lot.'

'But how did you know that I wrote a lot recently?'

'I looked at the sleeves of your shirt, Mr Wilson. The material of the right sleeve is much thinner. That shows you were writing at a desk.'

'And how did you know that I lived in China?'

'You have a tattoo of a pink fish on your right hand. That tattoo is only done in China. You see, I like studying tattoos. And there is a Chinese coin on your watch chain.'

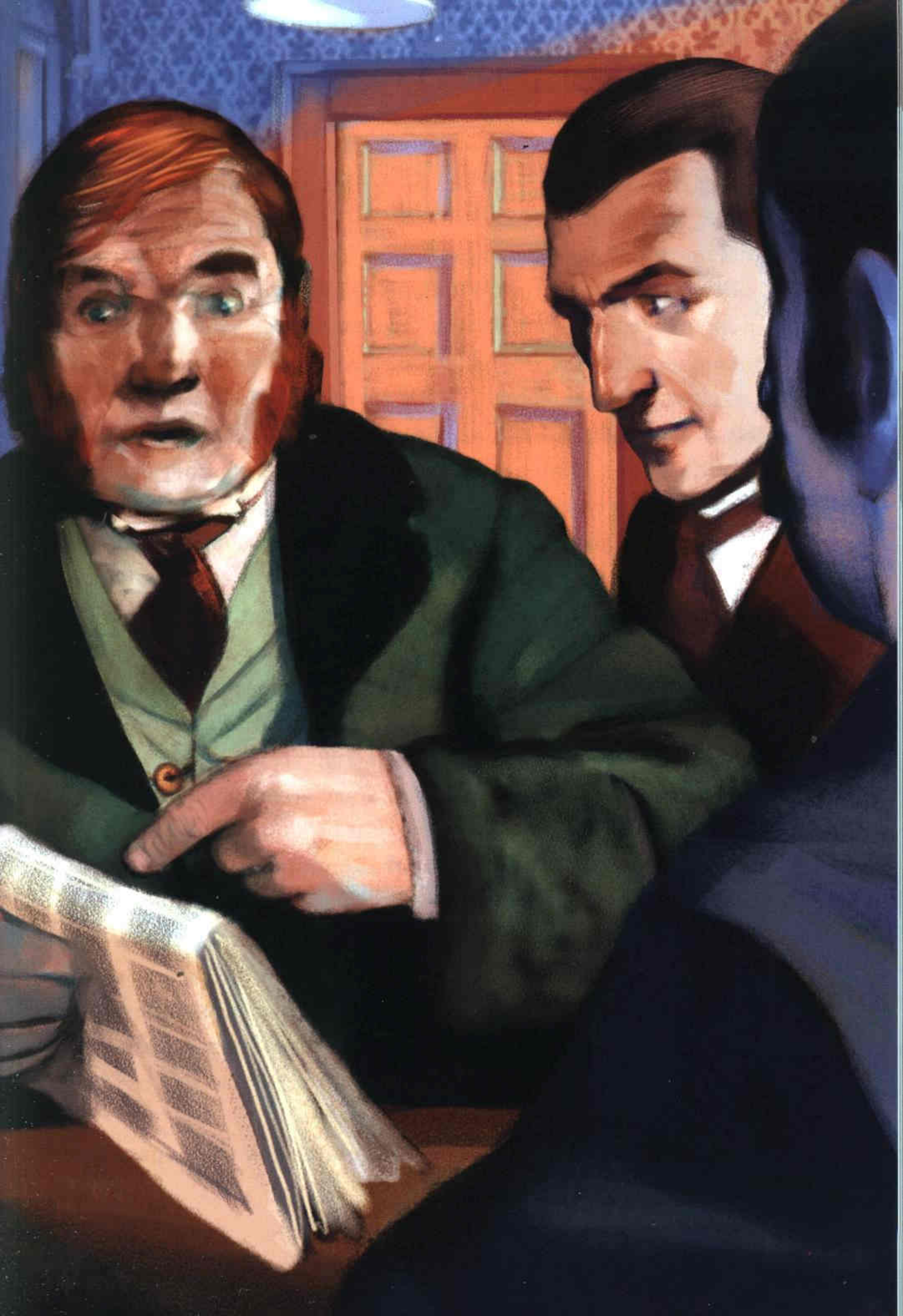
Mr Wilson laughed loudly and said, 'At first I thought you were extremely clever, but perhaps it wasn't so difficult after all!'

Holmes looked at me and said, 'Sometimes I think that it's better not to explain my methods, dear Watson.'

He turned to Mr Wilson and said, 'Did you find the advertisement?'

'Yes, here it is,' he said, pointing to it with his big, red finger. It was an advertisement in the *Morning Chronicle* of two months before.

END





The Red-Headed League

THE RED-HEADED LEAGUE.

Man needed for new job at League.

Pay: four pounds/week. Work: office-based.

Job only open to people with red hair. Come to Red-Headed League offices, 7 Pope's Court, Fleet Street, London at 11 o'clock, Monday morning. DUNCAN ROSS

'What does it mean?' I said, after reading this strange advertisement twice.

Holmes laughed happily. 'It's very unusual, Watson, isn't it? And now, Mr Wilson, please tell us everything about yourself, your home, your work and this Red-Headed League.'

'Well, I have a shop below my house at Saxe-Coburg Square in London. It isn't a very big business and I don't make much money now. I only have one assistant in the shop. Luckily he wants to learn the business, so he accepts half pay.'

'What is your young assistant's name?' asked Holmes.

'His name is Vincent Spaulding, but he's not very young. He's an excellent worker and he can make more money in another shop, but he's happy with me.'

'It's unusual to have an *excellent* assistant,' said Holmes. 'Tell me more about him.'

'Spaulding loves photography and spends a lot of time in the cellar¹ developing his pictures. He's sometimes in there for hours! But he's a very good worker.'

'Are there any servants in your home?'

'There's a young girl. She cooks and cleans the house. She,

1. **cellar** : a room below a building, under the ground.

Spaulding and I are the only people in the house. My wife is dead and I have no children.

'About two months ago Spaulding came into my office with this newspaper in his hand and said, "I'm sorry my hair isn't red!"

'I asked him why and he said, "Well, with red hair I can get an easy job and make a lot of money. Look at this advertisement! The Red-Headed League is a club for men with red hair and it's offering a job to men with red hair. You should apply for the job — you have bright red hair!"

'I asked him, "What's the pay?"

'He said, "Four pounds a week, and you can easily continue working here."

'Well, Mr Holmes, two hundred pounds a year is very useful to me. So I asked Spaulding for more information. He showed me the advertisement and said, "I've heard that the club's money came from a rich American, Ezekiah Hopkins. He was a strange man with red hair. He died and left all of his money to the Red-Headed League. The money is used to give easy jobs to men with red hair."

"But thousands of men have red hair!" I said. "I can never get the job."

"No, Mr Wilson," said Spaulding. "The Red-Headed League gives jobs only to people from London. Ezekiah Hopkins was born in London and he loved this city. Also, only men with *bright* red hair can get these jobs. The club doesn't accept men with dark red hair or light red hair. You can get the job easily!"

Go back to the text

1 Comprehension

Complete the following sentences. Choose from the endings (A-F).

- 1 ☐ Mr Wilson is
- 2 ☐ When Mr Wilson was young, he was
- 3 ☐ Ezekiah Hopkins started
- 4 ☐ Vincent Spaulding is
- 5 ☐ Spaulding developed his pictures
- 6 ☐ The Red-Headed League paid Mr Wilson

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------|
| A a shop assistant. | B in the cellar. |
| C a workman. | D four pounds a week. |
| E a shopkeeper. | F the Red-Headed League. |

'An unusual case'

Look at this sentence from Chapter One: *This case is very **unusual**.*
 In English we use the prefix **-un** before an adjective to mean 'not'.
 For example: *Watson was not happy.* → *Watson was **unhappy**.*

- 2 Make the opposite of these adjectives by adding the prefixes **-un** or **-in** and then fill in the gaps in the sentences.

decisive popular comfortable kind
 interesting expensive correct

- 1 Sherlock Holmes did not like cases.
- 2 The old chair was very
- 3 The man was to the poor dog.
- 4 She was never sure of what to do — she was
- 5 The children didn't like the new teacher — he was
- 6 The advertisement was — there were three mistakes.
- 7 His mobile phone didn't cost very much — it was

3 Complete these letters. Write ONE word for each space (1-9). There is an example at the beginning.

Dear Mr Fields,

Do you remember (0)me..... ? I came to (1) shop and bought some tea and sugar last week. You told me (2) a good detective in London. Please send me Sherlock Holmes's address because I (3) a serious problem.

Thank you (4) your help.

J. Wilson

Dear Mr Wilson,

I am sorry to hear that (5) have a problem. This is Sherlock Holmes's (6) : 221-b Baker Street, London. I hope he (7) help you.

Mr Holmes is usually (8) home (9) the morning.

R. Fields

T: GRADE 4

4 Topic — Hobbies

Vincent Spaulding is interested in photography. What are your hobbies? Choose one hobby and tell the class about it. Use these questions to help you.

- 1 Why do you like your hobby?
- 2 When did you start this hobby?
- 3 Do you need other people or any special objects for this hobby?
- 4 Where do you do your hobby?

Before you read

- 1 Look at the objects below, which we often find in an office. Add the missing letters to complete the name of each object. Then make a list of at least five other objects you can find in an office.



1 _ h _ _ r



2 _ _ k



3 _ o _ k _ _ s _



4 t _ _ _ _ r _ _ _ r



5 _ u _ _ _



6 _ _ b _ _

- 2 Now listen to the first part of Chapter Two, when Mr Wilson describes his new job. Which of the objects above (and those on your list) do you hear?

- 3 Now listen to the text again and complete the table below with the information you hear about Mr Wilson's new job.

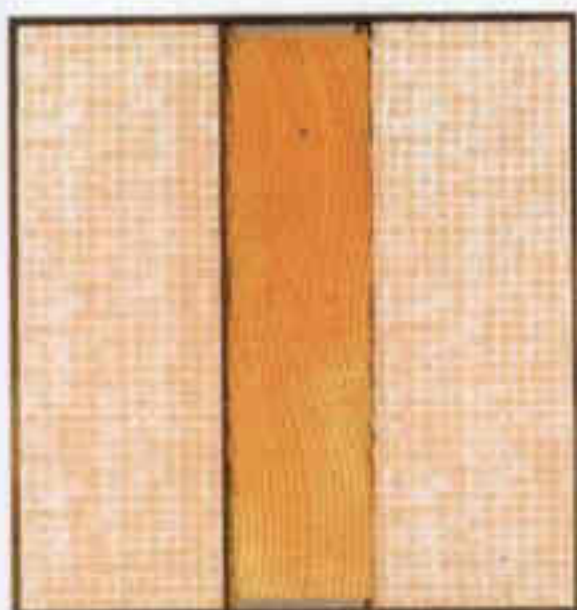
Working hours	From (1) a.m. to (2) p.m.
Job description	To (3) the Encyclopaedia Britannica.
Things he must bring	(4), (5), (6)
Pay per week	(7) in gold.

A



CHAPTER TWO

An unusual job



decided to ask Spaulding to come with me to the Red-Headed League's offices,' said Mr Wilson. 'I closed the shop for the day and we went to Fleet Street. Spaulding was happy to have a holiday.



'Fleet Street was full of red-haired men, and Pope's Court looked like a basket of oranges. But few men had bright red hair like mine. Spaulding pushed through all the people and we got to the office. There was little furniture — two uncomfortable chairs, a kitchen table and a bookcase. A small man with bright red hair sat at the table and spoke to lots of red-headed men. He said "No" to all of them, and then he talked to me. He was friendly and closed the door of the office behind us.

"This is Mr Jabez Wilson," said my assistant, "and he would like the job in the League."

"His hair looks fine," the man said, "but is it real? We must be careful!"

The Red-Headed League

'He suddenly took my hair in his hands and pulled it. I cried out because he hurt me. "You have real tears in your eyes — this means your hair is real. Congratulations — the job is yours!"

'He shook my hand ¹ warmly and said, "My name is Duncan Ross and I am the Secretary ² of the League. When can you begin?"

"Well, I have a business already," I said.

"Oh, don't worry about that, Mr Wilson!" said my assistant. "I can look after the shop for you."

"What are the working hours?" I asked Mr Ross.

"From ten o'clock in the morning until two o'clock in the afternoon."

'You see, Mr Holmes, I do most of my work in the evening. I could easily work for Mr Ross in the morning. And I knew Spaulding could look after the business in the morning.

"Those hours are fine," I said happily. "What must I do?"

"Your job is to copy the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*. You must bring your own pen, ink and paper. And you must never leave the office until two o'clock. Can you start tomorrow?"

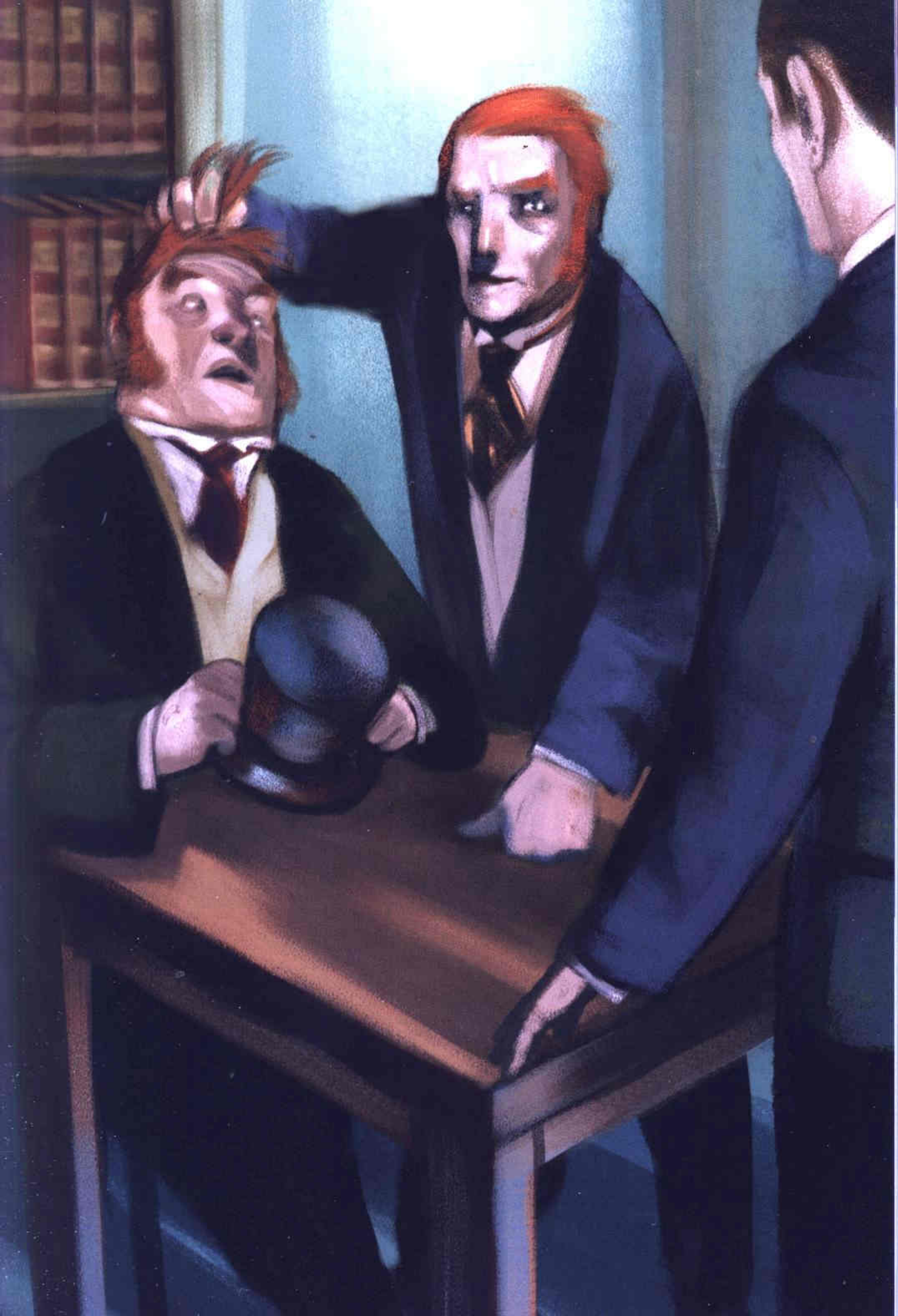
"Certainly!" I answered.

'The next morning I bought some paper and started working at Pope's Court. Mr Ross showed me the beginning of the letter "A" in the encyclopaedia and then he left. Every day I finished work at two o'clock. Each week Mr Ross gave me four pounds in gold. This continued for about eight weeks and I nearly finished copying the letter "A". Then, suddenly, everything ended.'

1. **shook my hand** :



2. **Secretary** : most senior and important member.





The Red-Headed League

'Ended?' asked Holmes.

'Yes, it happened this morning. I went to work at ten o'clock but the door was locked.¹ There was a notice on the door that said:

THE RED-HEADED LEAGUE
DOES NOT EXIST ANY MORE
9 October, 1890

Sherlock Holmes and I started laughing.

'I can't see anything funny!' said Mr Wilson angrily. 'If you think this is funny, I'll leave!'

'No, no!' cried Holmes. 'Your case is very unusual, but there is something a bit funny about it. Please, Mr Wilson, continue.'

'I asked the people in the building but no one knew about Mr Duncan Ross or the Red-Headed League. I was angry and confused.'

'What did you do then?' asked Holmes.

'I went home to Saxe-Coburg Square and told Spaulding. He was surprised and did not know what to say. So I decided to come to you, Mr Holmes, because I don't want to lose four pounds a week!'

'This is possibly a very serious case,' said Holmes.

'Of course it's a serious case, I'm losing four pounds a week!'

'You can't be too angry, Mr Wilson, the League paid you thirty-two pounds for eight weeks' work. And you learnt many things about the letter "A" in the encyclopaedia. Now, I'd like to ask you some questions. When did Vincent Spaulding start working for you?'

'About three months ago.'

'What is he like?'

1. **locked** : closed with a key.



‘He’s small but not thin, and he moves quickly. He’s about thirty years old and has a white mark just above his eyes.’

Holmes was suddenly excited.

‘A white mark!’ he cried. ‘And does he have little holes in his ears for earrings?’

‘Yes, he does.’

‘Hmmm,’ said Holmes, sitting back in his chair. ‘Well, Mr Wilson, I want to think about this case. Today is Saturday — on Monday I’ll have an answer.’

Go back to the text

KET 1 Comprehension

For questions 1-6, choose the correct answer (A, B or C).

- 1 Mr Wilson closed the shop for a day because
 - A ☐ he went on holiday.
 - B ☐ he went to Fleet Street.
 - C ☐ he went to visit Sherlock Holmes.
- 2 Pope's Court looked like 'a basket of oranges' because
 - A ☐ there was a fruit market there.
 - B ☐ all the houses were painted orange.
 - C ☐ there were many men with red hair.
- 3 Who was Duncan Ross?
 - A ☐ A small man with bright red hair.
 - B ☐ A friendly man without red hair.
 - C ☐ An old friend of Ezekiah Hopkins.
- 4 Mr Wilson's job at the Red-Headed League was to
 - A ☐ write the Encyclopaedia Britannica beginning with the letter 'A'.
 - B ☐ copy the Encyclopaedia Britannica beginning with the letter 'A'.
 - C ☐ write the story of Ezekiah Hopkins's life.
- 5 When the Red-Headed League did not exist anymore Mr Wilson
 - A ☐ was sad and worried.
 - B ☐ thought it was funny.
 - C ☐ was angry and confused.
- 6 Vincent Spaulding was about thirty years old and had
 - A ☐ a white mark under his left eye.
 - B ☐ short red hair and blue eyes.
 - C ☐ holes in his ears for earrings.



2 Listening

Listen to the interview between Duncan Ross and Mr Wilson. For questions 1-4, put a tick (✓) by the right answer.

1 How old is Mr Wilson?



2 Where was Mr Wilson born?



3 What are Mr Wilson's hobbies?



4 When does Mr Wilson's shop close?



'Few men had bright red hair like mine'

We use 'few' and 'little' to communicate a negative idea — to say 'not much' or 'not many'.

We use **few** with plural nouns and **little** with uncountable nouns. Look at these examples:

*She has **few** friends* = not many friends (plural noun)

*He has **little** money* = not much money (uncountable noun)

3 Few and little

Complete the sentences with *few* or *little*.

- 1 Mr Wilson had time to copy the encyclopaedia.
- 2 There were carriages on Fleet Street that morning.
- 3 Mr Wilson gave Vincent Spaulding very pounds for his work.
- 4 Vincent Spaulding had money in his pocket.
- 5 Dr Watson had books in his bookcase.

4 Pictures

Look at the picture on pages 28-29.

- 1 Who are the two people in this picture and where are they?
- 2 What are they looking at?
- 3 Think of two possible reasons why they are doing this.

Before you read



- 1 Listen to the first part of Chapter Three. Are these sentences true (T) or false (F)?

- 1 Watson thought the case was easy.
- 2 Holmes wanted silence for fifty minutes.
- 3 Watson could not go to the concert at St James's Hall.
- 4 There were old houses around Saxe-Coburg Square.
- 5 Holmes knocked on the door of the shop because he wanted to see the man's face.
- 6 Holmes was a musician and loved concerts.

T	F
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

CHAPTER THREE

Mr Wilson's shop



ell, Watson,' said Holmes when our visitor left, 'what do you think of this strange case?'

'I don't know, Holmes. It's very mysterious and confusing.'

'Yes, I agree,' replied Holmes. 'I must work hard on this case.'

'What are you going to do?'

'I'm going to smoke my pipe. Please don't speak to me for fifty minutes.' Holmes sat down in his chair, closed his eyes and started smoking his old black pipe.

'Holmes is probably sleeping,' I thought. But then he suddenly jumped up and put his pipe down on the table.

'There is a concert of classical music at St James's Hall this afternoon,' Holmes said. 'Let's go and listen!'

'Yes, I'm free today,' I replied.



The Red-Headed League

‘Good! Put on your hat and come. I want to have some lunch first.’

We went to see Saxe-Coburg Square — it was quite poor and ugly. There was some grass in the middle of the square and old houses around it. One of them had a shop window and shop door, as well as a house door. Outside the shop we saw a sign with the



Mr Wilson's shop

name JABEZ WILSON painted in big white letters. This was Mr Wilson's shop.

Holmes stopped and looked at the shop for a moment. Then he stood in front of the shop, and hit the large stones of the street with his walking stick.¹ Finally he knocked on the shop door.

1. walking stick :





The Red-Headed League

A young man opened the door immediately.

'Can you tell me the way to the Strand?'¹ asked Holmes.

'Third right, fourth left,' answered the assistant quickly.

'A very clever man!' said Holmes, as we walked away.

'Do you know him?' I asked.

'No, but I looked at the knees of his trousers.'

'And what did you see?'

'What I expected to see.'

'And why did you hit the stones of the street?'

'My dear doctor, this is a time for looking, not for talking. Let's go and look at the street behind the square.'

We left the square and we were soon in one of the noisiest streets in London. We saw a bakery, a newspaper shop, a restaurant and an office of the City and Suburban Bank.

'We did our work well, Watson,' said Holmes. 'Now let's have some lunch, and then go to the concert.' Holmes was a very good musician and he loved concerts.

After the concert he said, 'Do you want to go home now, Watson?'

'Yes, I do, Holmes.'

'I have many things to do,' he said. 'This case at Saxe-Coburg Square is serious. Someone is planning a serious crime, but I think we can stop it. Let's meet tonight.'

'At what time?'

'At ten o'clock.'

'I'll be at Baker Street at ten.'

'Good! There will possibly be danger tonight so bring your gun.' He waved his hand and walked off.

1. **the Strand** : a famous street in central London.

Mr Wilson's shop

I was quite confused about this case but Holmes, of course, was not. I saw and I heard exactly the same things as Holmes saw and heard, but he seemed to understand everything — and I understood nothing. I thought about it for a long time but everything was still a mystery to me.

When I arrived at ten o'clock, there were two carriages¹ outside the door at Baker Street. Two visitors were there too: a policeman called Peter Jones, and a tall, thin man with a sad face and dark clothes.

'Watson, I think you know Mr Jones? Let me introduce you to Mr Merryweather, the director of the City and Suburban Bank. He is going to be part of our adventure tonight.'

'I hope you're right, Mr Holmes,' said Mr Merryweather, 'because I didn't go to my usual card game with my friends this evening. And I have *never* missed my card game in thirty-seven years!

'I think this will be an exciting night, Mr Merryweather,' said Holmes. 'You are going to save thirty thousand pounds. And you, Jones, are going to catch a terrible criminal.'

'John Clay, the murderer and bank robber!'² exclaimed Jones. 'He's young but he's the cleverest and most dangerous criminal in England. His grandfather was a king's brother, and he is an Oxford University man.'

'It's time to go now,' said Holmes looking at his watch. 'Mr Merryweather, please go with Mr Jones in the first carriage, and Watson and I will follow you in the second one.'



1. carriages :

2. bank robber : a person who steals money from banks.

Go back to the text

KET 1 Comprehension

Are these sentences 'Right' (A) or 'Wrong' (B)? If there is not enough information to answer 'Right' (A) or 'Wrong' (B), choose 'Doesn't say' (C). There is an example at the beginning (0).

0 After Mr Wilson left, Sherlock Holmes was tired and went to sleep for an hour.

A Right **B Wrong** C Doesn't say

1 The concert at St James's Hall started at four o'clock.

A Right B Wrong C Doesn't say

2 There was sign with Mr Wilson's name outside the shop.

A Right B Wrong C Doesn't say

3 Holmes knocked loudly on the walls of the houses in Saxe-Coburg Square.

A Right B Wrong C Doesn't say

4 Holmes looked at the knees of the assistant's trousers.

A Right B Wrong C Doesn't say

5 Holmes brought his gun.

A Right B Wrong C Doesn't say

6 Mr Merryweather always played cards on Saturday evenings.

A Right B Wrong C Doesn't say

7 John Clay's grandfather was also a dangerous criminal.

A Right B Wrong C Doesn't say

2 Characters

Match the descriptions 1-15 with the characters A-I. You can use the same character more than once.

1 ☐ He is a murderer and robber.

2 ☐ He is a good musician.

3 ☐ He has a gun.

4 ☐ He is a police officer.

- 5 ☐ He is Mr Wilson's assistant.
- 6 ☐ He has a shop.
- 7 ☐ He is the Secretary of the Red-Headed League.
- 8 ☐ His hobby is photography.
- 9 ☐ He gave his money to the Red-Headed League.
- 10 ☐ He loves concerts.
- 11 ☐ He is the director of the City and Suburban Bank.
- 12 ☐ He is an Oxford University man.
- 13 ☐ He smokes an old black pipe.
- 14 ☐ He earned four pounds a week.
- 15 ☐ He wore dark clothes.

A Peter Jones

C Vincent-Spaulding

E John Clay

G Sherlock Holmes

I Duncan Ross

B Ezekiah Hopkins

D Dr Watson

F Mr Jabez Wilson

H Mr Merryweather

ET 3 Vocabulary

Read the descriptions below. What is the word for each one? The first letter is already there. There is one space for each other letter in the word.

- 1 Something that is impossible to understand. m _ _ _ _ _
- 2 You travel in it. c _ _ _ _ _
- 3 A person who plays music. m _ _ _ _ _
- 4 A person who steals. r _ _ _ _ _
- 5 A person who kills. m _ _ _ _ _
- 6 We wear them on our legs. t _ _ _ _ _
- 7 The opposite of beautiful. u _ _ _ _
- 8 Parts of the body. k _ _ _ _

Before you read

- 1 Match the pictures with the words in the box below.

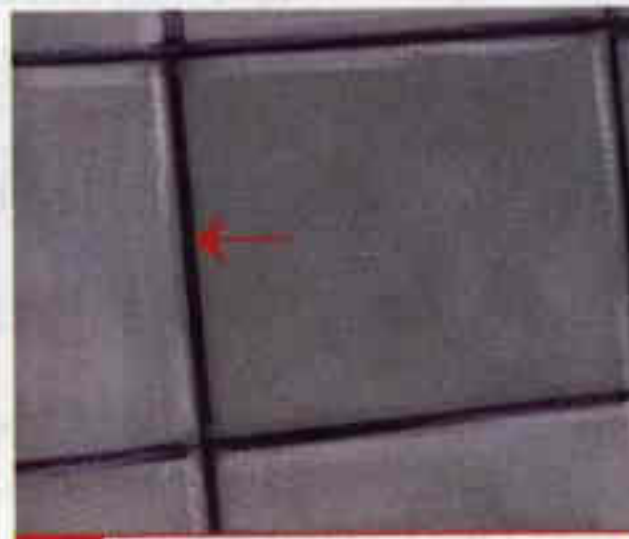
handcuffs tunnel magnifying glass cracks



A



B



C



D



KET

- 2 Listen to the first part of Chapter Four. For questions 1-5, tick (✓) A, B or C.

- 1 During the journey in the carriage, Holmes
 - A ☐ sang some music.
 - B ☐ talked to Watson.
 - C ☐ read the newspaper.
- 2 Mr Merryweather took Holmes and Watson
 - A ☐ to his office in the bank.
 - B ☐ to a cellar under the bank.
 - C ☐ to Mr Wilson's shop.
- 3 Holmes examined the cracks in the floor with his
 - A ☐ glasses.
 - B ☐ magnifying glass.
 - C ☐ fingers.
- 4 Inside the big boxes in the cellar there were
 - A ☐ thirty thousand pounds.
 - B ☐ twenty thousand pounds.
 - C ☐ thirteen thousand pounds.
- 5 Three policemen were waiting
 - A ☐ outside the bank.
 - B ☐ inside the cellar.
 - C ☐ outside Mr Wilson's house.



CHAPTER FOUR

The cellar



during the journey, Holmes spoke very little but he sang some of the music from the concert that afternoon. Finally the two carriages arrived at the City and Suburban Bank in the main street near Saxe-Coburg Square. Mr Merryweather took his keys and opened a side door of the bank. We went through many doors and dark corridors. Then he took a lamp and we went to a big cellar. There was a strong smell of earth and there were a lot of big boxes on the cellar floor.



‘The ceiling looks strong,’ said Holmes, holding up the lamp.

‘The floor is strong too,’ said Merryweather, hitting it with his stick. ‘Oh dear, it sounds empty!’

‘Please speak quietly!’ said Holmes. ‘The thieves must not hear us! Please sit down on one of those boxes and don’t say or do anything.’



The Red-Headed League

Mr Merryweather sat down silently. Holmes put the lamp on the floor and took out a magnifying glass from his pocket. He carefully looked at the cracks between the large stones of the floor.

'We probably have one more hour,' said Holmes. 'The thieves can't do anything until Mr Wilson is in bed. Then they'll work very quickly. Well, Watson, I'm sure you understand that we're in the cellar of one of London's biggest banks. Mr Merryweather is the director of the bank and he'll explain the situation to you.'

'You see, Dr Watson, it's our French gold,' the director said very quietly. 'Inside these big boxes there are thirty thousand pounds in gold coins! That is why the worst criminals are interested in this cellar.'

'Gentlemen, now we must wait in the dark,' said Holmes, turning off the lamp. Suddenly everything was black.

'They will soon be here,' he continued, 'so we must hide behind the boxes. When they come we must be ready to act quickly. These are dangerous men. If they shoot at us, Watson, you must shoot at them.'

I put my gun on top of a box and I was ready to shoot.

'There is only one way for them to escape,' Holmes continued, 'through Wilson's house and into Saxe-Coburg Square. Did you do what I asked, Jones?'

'Yes, Mr Holmes. Three policemen are waiting outside Mr Wilson's house,' said Jones.

'Very good! Now we must be silent and wait,' said Holmes.

We waited for an hour and a quarter but in the dark it seemed much longer. My legs and arms were tired. Suddenly I saw some light through the cracks in the floor. Someone pushed up a big





The Red-Headed League

stone and a white hand appeared. The light became brighter and a face appeared. It was Mr Wilson's assistant. The young man looked around and then climbed up into the cellar. He helped another man to climb out of the hole. Both men were small and the other man had bright red hair.



The cellar

Holmes ran forward and caught Mr Wilson's assistant.

'Jump down the hole again, Archie!' cried the assistant.

The other man climbed down quickly. Mr Wilson's assistant had a gun in his hand, but Holmes hit it to the floor with his stick.





The Red-Headed League

'You don't have a chance, John Clay,' said Holmes.

'I know, but my friend escaped.'

'There are three policemen waiting for your friend outside Mr Wilson's house,' said Holmes smiling.

'Oh, really!' John Clay answered calmly. 'You did everything perfectly. Well done, Mr Holmes.'

'Well done to you!' Holmes answered. 'Your idea of the Red-Headed League was new and unusual!'

'Give me your hands,' said Jones to Clay. 'I am going to put handcuffs on you now.'

'Don't touch me with your dirty hands!' cried Clay. 'I am the grandson of a king's brother. You must say "sir" and "please" to me.'

'All right, *sir*,' said Jones, smiling. '*Please* come upstairs with me, *sir*. We can call a carriage, *sir*, and take you to the police station.'

'That's better,' said Clay. He smiled to the three of us and walked away quietly with Jones.

'I don't know how to thank you, Mr Holmes!' said Mr Merryweather. 'This was certainly an exciting night. You stopped one of the biggest bank robberies in history.'

'This was a very interesting case, and I enjoyed it,' said Holmes.

In the early hours of the morning, Holmes and I returned to Baker Street.

'You see, Watson,' Holmes said, drinking his cup of tea, 'the reason for the Red-Headed League was very simple: Clay and his

friend Duncan Ross wanted to get Mr Wilson away from his shop for several hours every day.'

'But how did you know that they were planning a bank robbery?' I asked.

'Well, Watson, I thought of the assistant's hobby: photography. We knew that the young man spent a lot of time in the cellar developing his pictures. Mr Wilson described Vincent Spaulding to me, and I knew immediately that he was John Clay, the famous bank robber. Clay was doing something in Mr Wilson's cellar — he was in the cellar for several hours a day for many weeks. And what was he doing? He was digging a tunnel to another building.

'You were surprised when I hit the stones in Saxe-Coburg Square with my stick. Well, I wanted to know if the tunnel was in front of the house or behind it.

'Then I rang the bell. I didn't go into the shop, because I only wanted to see Spaulding's trousers. The knees of his trousers were dirty with brown earth.

'When I discovered that the City and Suburban Bank was behind Mr Wilson's house, I suddenly understood everything!'

'But how did you know that the robbery was tonight?' I asked him.

'My dear Watson, they closed the League office because they weren't interested in Mr Wilson's work any more. So I knew the tunnel was finished and they had to use it soon. Saturday night was the best time for them because no one could discover the robbery until Monday morning. So I *knew* the robbery was tonight.'

'You solved this mysterious case beautifully, Holmes,' I said.

'Thank you, Watson. Well, at least this case wasn't boring!'

Go back to the text

1 Comprehension

Choose the correct word for each sentence.

- 1 There was a strong smell of earth/smoke in the cellar.
- 2 The City and Suburban Bank was one of England's/London's biggest banks.
- 3 The floor/ceiling of the cellar sounded empty.
- 4 Holmes spoke very slowly/quietly because he didn't want the thieves to hear them.
- 5 Two men climbed into the cellar through a hole/door.
- 6 The real name of Mr Wilson's assistant was John Clay, the photographer/criminal.
- 7 The City and Suburban Bank was behind/in front of the shop.
- 8 Holmes knew that Saturday night was the worst/best time for the bank robbery.
- 9 Holmes thought that the case of the Red-Headed League was boring/interesting.

'The light became brighter'

'Brighter' is the comparative form of 'bright'.

To make the comparative of one-syllable adjectives we add -er.

bright → **brighter** *old* → **older**

When the adjective ends in consonant-vowel-consonant, we double the final consonant.

hot → **hotter** *big* → **bigger**

For adjectives of two syllables ending in 'y', we change the 'y' to 'i' and add -er.

happy → **happier** *easy* → **easier**

For adjectives with two syllables or more we put *more* in front:

interesting → **more interesting**

REMEMBER that *good* and *bad* have irregular comparatives.

good → **better** *bad* → **worse**

2 Write the comparative form of the adjectives below:

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| 1 expensive — | 6 warm — |
| 2 interesting — | 7 funny — |
| 3 bad — | 8 strong — |
| 4 dangerous — | 9 tall — |
| 5 pretty — | 10 good — |

3 Now write a list of the following things:

- 2 holiday destinations
- 2 celebrities
- 2 programmes you watch on television
- 2 members of your family
- 2 subjects you study at school

Use the comparative forms of the adjectives in exercise 2 to write a sentence comparing the things on your list. You can also add more adjectives of your own. For example:

*My uncle is **shorter than** my father.*

*I think New York is **more dangerous than** Barcelona.*

4 Vocabulary

Read the descriptions 1-10. What is the word for each one? The first letter for each word is already there. There is one space for each other letter in the word.

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| 1 Sherlock Holmes smoked this. | p _ _ _ |
| 2 A room under a house. | c _ _ _ _ |
| 3 A picture or design on your body. | t _ _ _ _ |
| 4 A long passage under the ground. | t _ _ _ _ |
| 5 Object for seeing very small things. | m _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ g _ _ _ _ |
| 6 Police use these on the hands of criminals. | h _ _ _ _ _ _ _ |
| 7 A club or organisation. | l _ _ _ _ _ |
| 8 You read it every day to get the news. | n _ _ _ _ _ _ _ |
| 9 They are part of a shirt. | s _ _ _ _ _ |
| 10 Mr Wilson kept his watch on one. | c _ _ _ _ |

5 Wordsearch

Now find the words from exercise 4 in the wordsearch below.

V	M	I	N	S	J	T	S	X	Q	A	B	C	A	E	M	K	Y
D	C	C	E	K	R	F	L	H	Z	L	L	E	H	Z	N	C	W
L	W	V	W	V	H	S	E	Y	P	E	U	L	P	Y	X	A	I
W	A	C	S	Z	L	H	E	C	R	A	B	L	C	Q	J	C	J
E	L	O	P	B	H	A	V	I	W	G	C	A	M	W	S	B	E
U	Q	C	A	R	Q	N	E	Q	C	U	Y	R	T	A	V	P	R
E	Y	V	P	Q	M	D	S	X	V	E	F	U	N	G	I	G	I
P	W	K	E	H	N	C	X	P	O	R	I	O	E	P	R	D	A
H	P	X	R	F	L	U	Z	K	Q	G	E	W	U	T	Z	B	N
G	M	A	G	N	I	F	Y	I	N	G	G	L	A	S	S	I	I
O	Y	I	Y	P	O	F	M	D	X	F	C	Z	R	Y	A	G	U
O	K	L	R	T	L	S	T	A	T	T	O	O	G	H	F	O	I
A	X	W	Z	E	F	O	T	Y	A	W	V	F	C	U	R	R	T
Y	M	I	N	I	Y	C	G	M	J	M	B	R	Y	O	M	D	J
B	X	N	H	C	U	I	U	X	Z	L	R	X	Z	G	W	Z	J
C	U	M	S	O	N	C	M	Y	P	P	I	Q	P	T	H	S	C
T	C	Q	B	N	H	L	H	G	H	G	Q	K	J	Z	G	T	B

6 Writing

Imagine you are Mr Merryweather, the director of the City and Suburban Bank. You want to tell your brother Robert about the night in the bank cellar with Holmes, Watson and Jones. Write him a short letter of about 80-100 words. You can begin your letter like this:

Dear Robert,

I didn't go to my usual card game on Saturday – but I did something much more exciting...

London in the Times of *Sherlock Holmes*

The people

At the end of the nineteenth century Britain had a population of around 37 million. Most people lived in big towns or cities. In the early 1880s many people moved from the country to London and other big cities because they wanted to find jobs in factories.

Factory workers worked many hours but their pay was low. They were poor and lived in 'slums' – the poor areas of cities. The slums were dirty, noisy and crowded.¹ The houses in the slums were small and dark, without bathrooms or running water. Some people did not have a job or a home, and lived on the streets. Living and working conditions for the poor began to get a little better towards the end of the century.

Doctors, teachers, policemen, and shopkeepers were part of the middle class. They lived in flats or houses in the good areas of London. (Holmes and Watson were part of the middle class, too.)

The rich had big, elegant and comfortable homes with gardens. These people were usually aristocrats or owners of factories and industries – they were part of the upper class.

The streets

The streets in central London were often noisy and dirty. There was a lot of traffic, with horses pulling carriages, carts² and buses. In 1863 the London Underground opened. This was the world's first railway system where the trains ran under the streets of the city. This helped to solve some of the traffic problems.

1. crowded : full of people.

2. carts :



During the day the streets were often full of people: newspaper boys shouted the latest news on street corners, street musicians played their music, street sellers and flower girls were everywhere. At night, the streets of London were dangerous because there were thieves and criminals.



St. Martin-in-the-Fields (1888) by William Logsdail.



Prisoners Exercising (1890) by Vincent van Gogh.

Crime

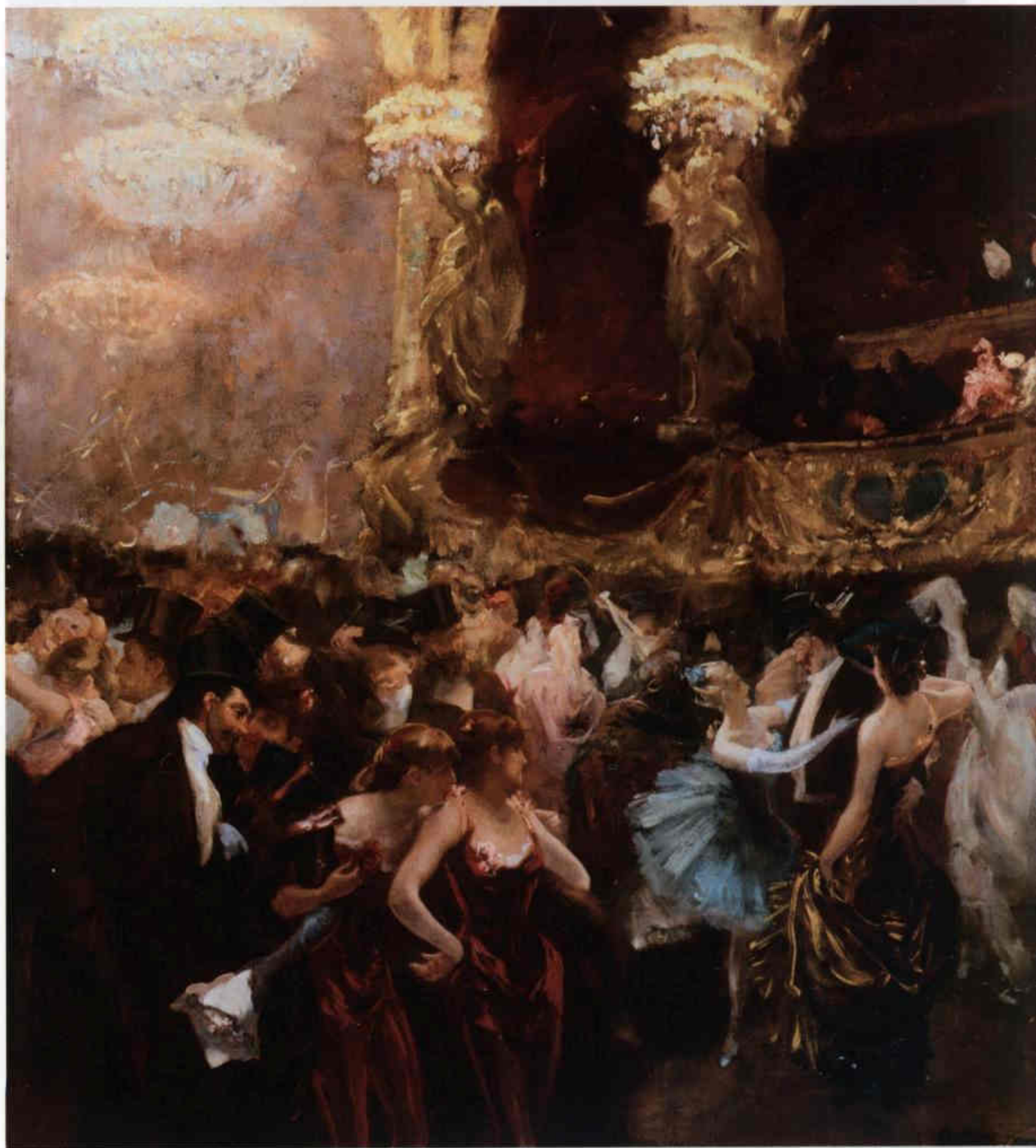
In the 1880s Britain had many social and economic problems and in big cities like London there was a lot of crime. In the crowded city, criminals disappeared easily and were never found. Punishments were often severe, even for children. A person could be sent to prison for stealing some bread. Prisons were crowded and living conditions for the prisoners were terrible.

In 1829 London had a small police force, with headquarters¹ at 'Scotland Yard'. A detective department called the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) was created in 1878. The police were not always very good at catching criminals and people often paid a private detective (like the character of Holmes) to solve difficult cases.

1. **headquarters** : the main, central offices of an organisation or business.

Entertainment

People of the middle and upper class enjoyed many kinds of entertainment: the theatre, the opera, the ballet, big society parties, concerts, museums and libraries. Playwrights like Oscar Wilde became successful and popular during this time.



The Masked Ball at the Opera (end of the 19th century) by Charles Hermans.

People with little money went to the music halls. Here they could watch a lively show for a few pennies. In the 1890s more than 350 music halls opened in London.

Sports

Many modern football teams were started in the 1880s and 1890s. Cycling also became a popular sport. A bicycle was cheaper than a horse, and many people cycled to work.



Football Match (1896) by Thomas M. Henry.

The weather

London was a foggy city in the nineteenth century. The fog was usually *smog* – a mixture of smoke from the factories and fog. The two words were put together and the word smog was created. Air pollution was a serious problem in London for many years. It was unhealthy to breathe London's air, particularly in the winter.

1 Are the following sentences true (T) or false (F)? Correct the false ones.

	T	F
1 Towards the end of the nineteenth century most people lived in the country.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2 At that time Britain had a population of around 37 million.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3 Factory workers lived in the slums of London.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4 The middle class lived in flats and houses in the suburbs.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5 There was little crime in London because there was a good police force.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6 There was a lot of noise, people and traffic on the streets of London.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7 Very few people used bicycles in London at this time.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8 Music halls were very popular with the upper class.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9 Smog was a serious problem in London for many years.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10 The word smog comes from two words: smoke and fog.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

The Speckled Band



The story's title

Look at the title of this story. In English, the adjective 'speckled' describes something with spots or small coloured marks.

The word 'band' can have more than one meaning. Look at these sentences:

- 1 Three bands played at the concert last night.
- 2 She always ties her hair back with an elastic band.
- 3 Last night a band of thieves stole from the city's biggest banks.
- 4 The national football team wore black bands on their arms after the president's death.

Now read the definitions of the word band (A-D) and match each one with the sentences above (1-4).

- A ☐ a piece of material used for keeping things together
- B ☐ a small group of musicians
- C ☐ a piece of material that goes around something
- D ☐ a group of people with a common interest

What do you think the speckled band will mean in this story? In small groups think of two possible interpretations. Then read the story to find out.

Before you read



- 1 Listen to the first part of Chapter One. Are the following sentences true (T) or false (F)?

- 1 The case of the 'speckled band' was very unusual.
- 2 Sherlock Holmes usually got up early in the morning.
- 3 The visitor was a young lady.
- 4 The visitor was dressed in white clothes.
- 5 Sherlock Holmes offered to get her a cup of coffee.
- 6 The woman was very cold.

T	F
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



CHAPTER ONE

An early morning visitor



he case of the 'speckled band' was one of my first investigations with my friend Sherlock Holmes, and it was also one of the most unusual.



At that time Holmes and I were living in Baker Street. I promised to keep this case a secret, but the lady is dead now and it is important for people to know the truth.

Early one morning in April 1883, I woke up and saw Sherlock Holmes standing by my bed. I was surprised because it was only seven o'clock and Holmes usually got up late.

'I'm very sorry to wake you, Watson,' he said.

'What is it? A fire?' I asked.

'No, we have a visitor — a young lady. She is very unhappy and wants to see me. When young ladies walk around London at this early hour, they usually want to talk about something



The Speckled Band

important. If you want to help me with this case, come and listen to her story.'

'I'll be ready immediately,' I said.

I was always happy to help Holmes with his detective work. He loved his work and was not interested in the money it brought him. He only accepted interesting and unusual cases. I got dressed quickly and followed Holmes down to the living room.

A woman dressed in black clothes was sitting by the window. She got up when we entered the room.

'Good morning, madam. My name is Sherlock Holmes. This is my friend Dr Watson. You can say anything you want to us and we'll keep it a secret. I see you're shaking,¹ please sit close to the fire and I'll get you a cup of hot coffee.'

'I'm not shaking because I'm cold,' said the woman. 'I'm frightened, Mr Holmes! That's why I'm shaking.' We could see that she was very frightened. She was about thirty years old but some of her hair was already white and her face was pale² and tired.

'Don't be frightened,' said Holmes, gently touching her arm. 'We can help you. I see you came by train this morning.'

'Yes, but how did you know?'

'Because you are holding your train ticket in your left hand. And I see you came in a cart early this morning, too.'

Again, the lady was surprised.

'It's not a mystery, madam,' said Holmes smiling. 'Your jacket is dirty. When you travel by cart that often happens.'

1. **shaking** : the way we move when we are very cold or shocked.

2. **pale** : without colour.





The Speckled Band

'You're right, sir!' she said. 'I left home before six and took the first train to London. Oh, I'll go mad if I don't find help! You once helped a friend of mine, Mr Holmes. Now please help me. I can't pay much now, but in a month or two I'll have more money.'

'I'll do my best for you, madam. Please don't worry about paying me immediately, there's no hurry. Now, tell us about your problem.'

'It's difficult to tell you about my problem,' she said, 'because I don't have many facts.'

'Tell me everything you know, madam, and tell me about your family.'

'My name is Helen Stoner and I live with my stepfather, ¹ Dr Roylott. He comes from the famous old Roylott family of Stoke Moran in Surrey.'

'I know the name,' Holmes said.

'His family was once the richest in England. They had a lot of land and money. But in the last one hundred years they spent all the money and sold the land. Now the family only has a small piece of land and the old house. My stepfather is the oldest son. He became a doctor and went to India. He lived well there, but one day a thief came and stole a lot of his things. My stepfather got very angry with his servant and killed him. He was sent to prison for a long time, and then he returned to England. He was an angry, unhappy man.'

'When Dr Roylott was in India he married my mother. She was a rich widow ² with two little girls — my twin sister and me. My

1. **stepfather** : not her real father; he is the man her mother married.

2. **widow** : this woman's husband is dead.

An early morning visitor

mother died eight years ago and left all of her money to Dr Roylott. But before dying she told him, "When my daughters get married you must give them some money each year." She left enough money for all of us.

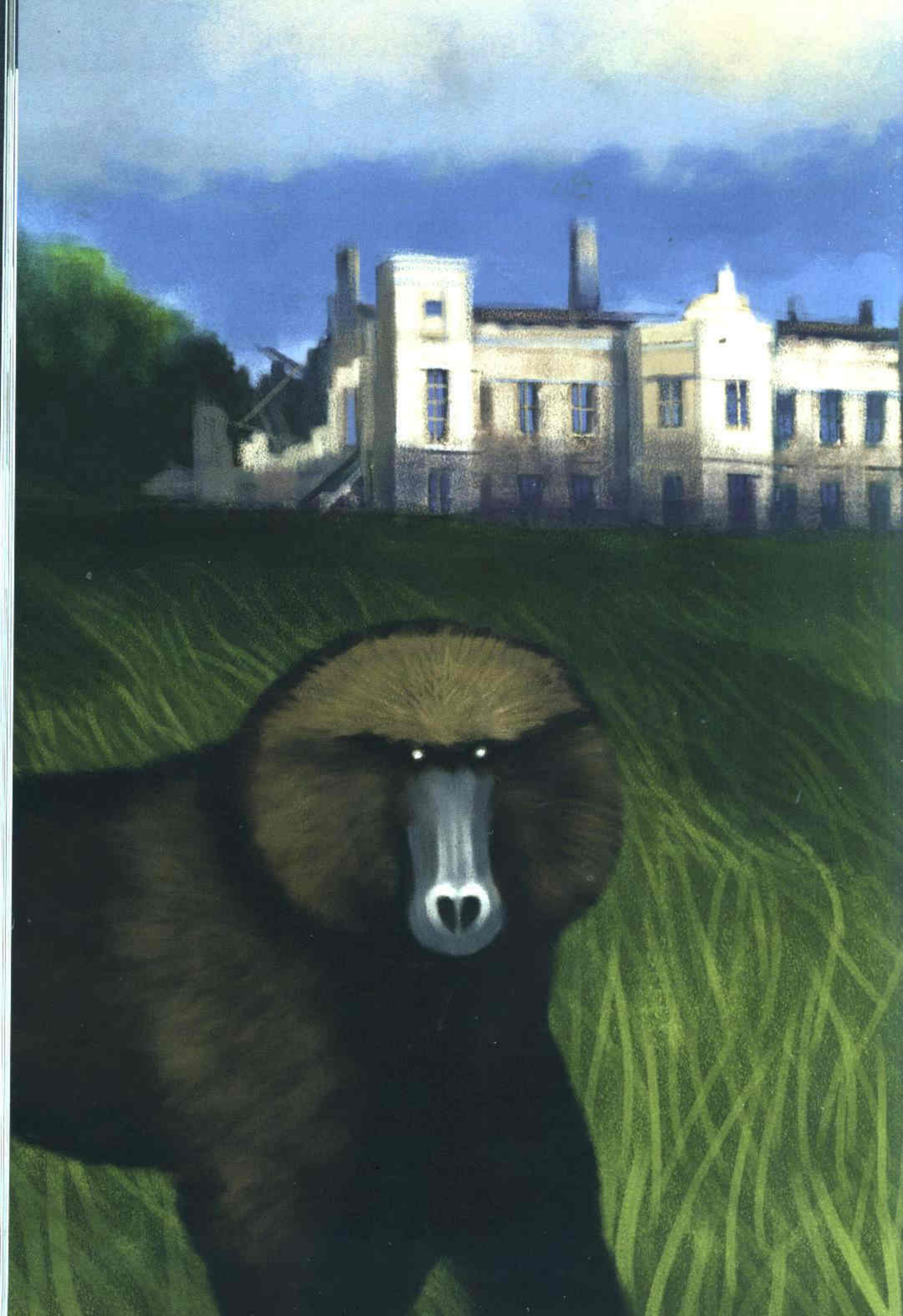
'But my stepfather changed for the worse. We left London and went to live in the old family house at Stoke Moran. It's a very big house with many rooms and a large, beautiful garden all around it. He didn't make friends with our neighbours — he argued¹ with everyone. The people in the village were afraid of him. He also kept animals from India at Stoke Moran. At the moment we have a tiger and a big monkey and they scare everyone.

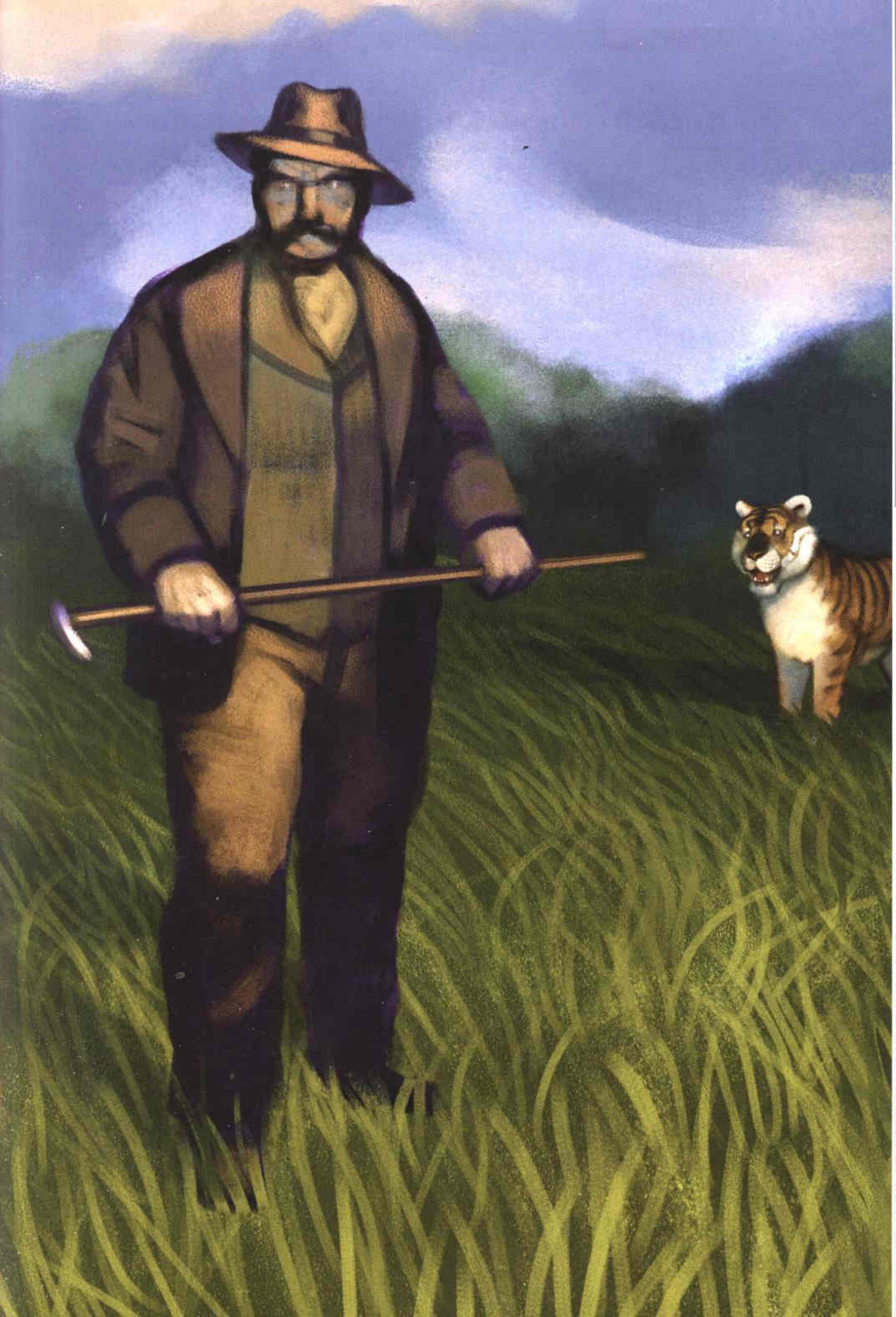
'As you can imagine, my poor sister Julia and I didn't have much fun in our lives. Servants didn't stay with us for long and we did all the work in the house. We were always alone without any friends. No one came to visit us — it was a lonely life for two young women. Julia was only thirty years old but some of her hair was already white, just like mine.'

'Was? Is your sister dead?' asked Holmes.

'Yes, she died two years ago, and that is why I am here now. My sister and I were staying with an aunt in London at Christmas two years ago. My sister met a man there and decided to marry him. When we returned to Stoke Moran our stepfather seemed pleased about the marriage. But two weeks later something terrible happened and that is why I am here this morning, Mr Holmes.'

1. **argued** : spoke angrily and disagreed with.





Go back to the text

KET 1 Comprehension

For questions 1-6, choose the correct answer (A, B or C).

- 1 Sherlock Holmes woke up Dr Watson at 7 o'clock in the morning because
 - A ☐ there was a fire in the building.
 - B ☐ a young lady wanted a cup of coffee.
 - C ☐ he wanted Watson to listen to a new case.
- 2 The young lady was shaking because
 - A ☐ she was frightened.
 - B ☐ she was cold.
 - C ☐ she was ill.
- 3 Where did Doctor Roylott live when he was a young doctor?
 - A ☐ Surrey.
 - B ☐ India.
 - C ☐ London.
- 4 What must Dr Roylott do when his two stepdaughters get married?
 - A ☐ Give them the house at Stoke Moran.
 - B ☐ Give them a small piece of land.
 - C ☐ Give them money each year.
- 5 Why were the people in the village afraid of Dr Roylott?
 - A ☐ Because he killed a man in India.
 - B ☐ Because he was from London.
 - C ☐ Because he argued with everyone.
- 6 Where did Helen and Julia stay at Christmas time two years ago?
 - A ☐ In London with their aunt.
 - B ☐ In London with their mother.
 - C ☐ At Stoke Moran with their stepfather.

'His family was once the richest in England'

'Richest' is the superlative form of 'rich'.

To make the superlative of adjectives with one syllable we add -est to the end of the adjective: *rich* → *richest*

For adjectives of two syllables ending in 'y', we change the 'y' to 'i' and add -est: *happy* → *happiest*

For adjectives with two syllables or more we put *most* in front of the adjective: *interesting* → *the most interesting*

2 Complete the table below with the superlative forms of the adjectives.

Adjective	Superlative form
tall	
important	
poor	
easy	
bad	
short	
strange	
mysterious	
small	
noisy	

3 Complete the following sentences using the superlative form of the adjective in brackets. There is an example at the beginning (0).

- 0 Dr Roylott was the *oldest* (old) son in the family.
- 1 Helen Stoner was the (pretty) young woman at Stoke Moran.
- 2 'Sherlock Holmes is the (good) detective in our city,' said Dr Watson.
- 3 Dr Roylott came from the (rich) family in Surrey.
- 4 'Julia was the (frightened) woman I have ever seen!' said Helen.
- 5 It was the (dangerous) snake in India.

4 Vocabulary

Circle the word that is different and explain why.

1 daughter, sister, uncle, neighbour

.....

2 detective, doctor, teacher, thief

.....

3 jacket, hair, coat, hat

.....

4 train, ticket, cart, boat

.....

5 coffee, orange juice, milk, water

.....

6 unhappy, unusual, strange, fear

.....

5 Pictures

Look at the picture on pages 58-59.

- 1 Describe the man in the picture. What is he holding in his hands?
- 2 Circle the adjectives below that you think describe the picture's atmosphere:

warm dark welcoming dangerous
mysterious happy cold light sad

- 6 Are you a good detective? What do you think Helen Stoner's problem is? Read the following possibilities (A-C) and then write one of your own (D). Now put them in order of probability from 1-4; 1 is the most probable and 4 is the least probable.

- A ☐ Someone killed Helen Stoner's mother in India and she wants to find out why.
- B ☐ Helen Stoner thinks someone wants to kill her and she needs Holmes's help.
- C ☐ Helen Stoner wants her stepfather's money and she needs Holmes's help.
- D ☐

7 Tigers

Doctor Roylott keeps a tiger at Stoke Moran. How much do you know about tigers? Listen to the recording and complete the notes in the table below.

1 Where do tigers live?	In parts of
2 Which country has the greatest number of tigers?	
3 How big are they?	Around metres long. Around kilograms or more.
4 When do they hunt?	
5 What do they like doing?	
6 How many cubs does a female tiger have?	
7 How many tigers are there in the world today?	
8 How many kinds of tigers are now extinct?	



INTERNET PROJECT



Save the Tigers!

Connect to the Internet and go to www.blackcat-cideb.com or www.cideb.it. Insert the title or part of the title of the book into our search engine. Open the page for *Sherlock Holmes Stories*. Click on the Internet project link. Go down the page until you find the title of this book and click on the relevant link for this project.

Work in small groups. Write a brief report on tigers and present it to the class. In your report, answer the following questions:

- ▶ Why are tigers in trouble?
- ▶ What can we do to save them?

If your class has a bulletin board, put up your reports.

Before you read



- 1 Listen to the first part of Chapter Two and answer the following questions. For each question there are three pictures. Choose the correct picture and put a tick (✓) in the box below it.

1 Where was Sherlock Holmes sitting?



2 How many bedrooms were there on the ground floor?



3 What can you see from the bedroom windows?



4 What was Dr Roylott smoking?





CHAPTER TWO

A mysterious death



herlock Holmes was sitting in his chair with his eyes closed, but now he opened them.



‘Please tell me everything that happened that day.’

‘That’s easy because I remember every event of that terrible day very clearly. Let me explain the house to you. The bedrooms are on the ground floor. Dr Roylott’s bedroom is first, my sister’s is second and mine is third. They all open out into the same corridor. The windows of these three rooms open out into the garden. On the terrible night my sister died Dr Roylott went to his room early. Later that night Julia and I went to our rooms, but my sister came to my room and talked to me.

“I can’t sleep,” she said, “because he’s smoking an Indian cigar and I can smell it in my room.” We talked until about eleven o’clock and then she got up to go. She stopped at the door of my room for a moment.



The Speckled Band

"Tell me, Helen, have you ever heard someone whistling¹ late at night?"

"No," I said, "why?"

"Well, at about three o'clock in the morning I can hear a low whistle and it wakes me up. I don't know where it comes from." Then she left my room and I heard her lock her door.'

'Did you always lock your doors at night?' asked Holmes.

'Always, because my stepfather keeps dangerous animals that run about at night.'

'I understand,' said Holmes. 'Please continue.'

'I couldn't sleep that night because I had a strange feeling, and there was a big storm outside. Suddenly, I heard a woman's terrified scream; it was my sister. I jumped out of bed and ran to the corridor. I heard a low whistle and then the sound of metal. Then I saw my sister. Her face was white and she was shaking.

'I ran to her and put my arms around her, but she fell to the ground. "Oh, Helen! It was the band! The speckled band." Our stepfather ran out of his room and we tried to save her life, but she died immediately.'

'One moment,' said Holmes. 'Are you sure about the whistle and the sound of metal?'

'I think I heard it, but the storm was making a lot of noise too.'

'Was your sister dressed?'

'No, she had her nightdress on and she had a match² and a match box in her left hand.'

1. whistling:



2. match:





The Speckled Band

‘That shows she was looking for something that night,’ said Holmes. ‘What did the police say?’

‘No one could find a reason for her death. She was alone in her room because the door was locked.’

‘Was there any poison?’¹

‘She was examined but no poison was found.’

‘Why did she die then?’ asked Holmes

‘I think she died because she was frightened of something.’

‘What did she mean by a “speckled band”?’

‘I don’t know. Perhaps she meant the gypsies.’² A group of gypsies live near Stoke Moran and some of them wear scarves with spots on them on their heads.’

Holmes was silent for a moment and then said, ‘I’m not sure... Please continue your story.’

‘My life is very lonely, Mr Holmes. A month ago a dear friend, Peter Armitage, asked me to marry him. My stepfather seemed pleased about our marriage. Then, two days ago he said, “You must sleep in your sister’s room. Your room needs some work.” But last night I was in bed in my sister’s room and I heard a low whistle — I was so frightened! I jumped up and lit the lamp but I saw nothing. I was too frightened to go to sleep again. Early this morning I decided to come to London and see you.’

‘You did the right thing, but have you told me everything?’

‘Yes, I have.’

‘Miss Stoner, I don’t think you have. You are protecting your stepfather for some reason.’

1. **poison** : a substance that hurts or kills people and/or animals.

2. **gypsies** :



A mysterious death

‘Why, what do you mean?’

Instead of answering, Holmes picked up Helen’s hand. There were the red marks of four fingers on her white skin.

‘Your stepfather is unkind to you,’ said Holmes.

Helen Stoner’s face became red and she covered her hand. She did not know what to say. Then she looked at Holmes and said, ‘My stepfather’s a difficult man and he doesn’t know how strong he is.’

There was a long silence and Holmes looked at the fire. Then he spoke.

‘This is a very serious case. I need to know much more before I can do anything. Can we come to Stoke Moran today and see these bedrooms? Or is your stepfather there?’

‘He’s coming to London today so he’ll be away all day. You can come at any time.’

‘Excellent! Will you come with me, Watson?’

‘Yes, of course I will.’

‘What are your plans Miss Stoner?’ asked Holmes.

‘I’m going back to Stoke Moran this morning and I’ll meet you there. Thank you for seeing me. I feel much better now. I’m sure you can help me.’ She got up and left the room.

Go back to the text

KET 1 Comprehension

Are these sentences 'Right' (A) or 'Wrong' (B)? If there is not enough information to answer 'Right' (A) or 'Wrong' (B), choose 'Doesn't say' (C). There is an example at the beginning (0).

- 0 Helen Stoner could not remember what happened on the day her sister died.
 A Right **B** Wrong C Doesn't say
- 1 Each bedroom on the ground floor had two big windows.
 A Right B Wrong C Doesn't say
- 2 Julia couldn't sleep because she smelt Dr Roylott's Indian cigar.
 A Right B Wrong C Doesn't say
- 3 The police examined Julia and found some poison in her body.
 A Right B Wrong C Doesn't say
- 4 Peter Armitage was a young doctor who wanted to marry Helen.
 A Right B Wrong C Doesn't say
- 5 Helen was very frightened because she was sleeping in her sister's room when she heard a low whistle.
 A Right B Wrong C Doesn't say

2 Writing

When Helen returned to Stoke Moran she wrote about her meeting with Sherlock Holmes in her diary. Complete her diary with the past simple tense of the verbs in brackets.

22 April 1883 — Today I finally (1) (meet) Sherlock Holmes and his friend Dr Watson. Last night I (2) (have) a terrible night and (3) (cannot) sleep. So I (4) (get) up, (5) (leave) home early and (6) (catch) the first train to London. Then I (7) (take) a cab to Baker Street. I (8) (arrive) at seven in the morning and (9) (wake) everyone up! Mr Holmes and Dr Watson (10) (be) very kind to me and (11) (give) me a cup of hot coffee. They both (12) (listen) carefully to everything I (13) (say). Mr Holmes (14) (ask) me lots of questions. I (15) (tell) him about my stepfather and about Julia's mysterious and horrible death.

I am pleased that Mr Holmes and Dr Watson are coming to Stoke Moran today. I feel safer already!

3 Vocabulary

Read the descriptions below and then write the correct word. The first letter is already there. There is one space for each other letter in the word.

- 1 You use it to light a fire. m _ _ _ _
- 2 Julia Stoner slept in this. n _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _
- 3 This woman's husband is dead. w _ _ _ _
- 4 A person who steals. t _ _ _ _
- 5 A substance that can hurt or kill you. p _ _ _ _

4 Listening

Helen Stoner is at Waterloo Station in London. She wants to take a train to Stoke Moran in Surrey. Listen to the information she hears at the train station and complete the sentences below.

TRAIN

To: Leatherhead, Surrey

Day of journey: (1)

Date of journey: (2)

Train leaves at: (3)

Train leaves from platform: (4)

Food on train: (5)

T: GRADE 3

5 Topic — Jobs

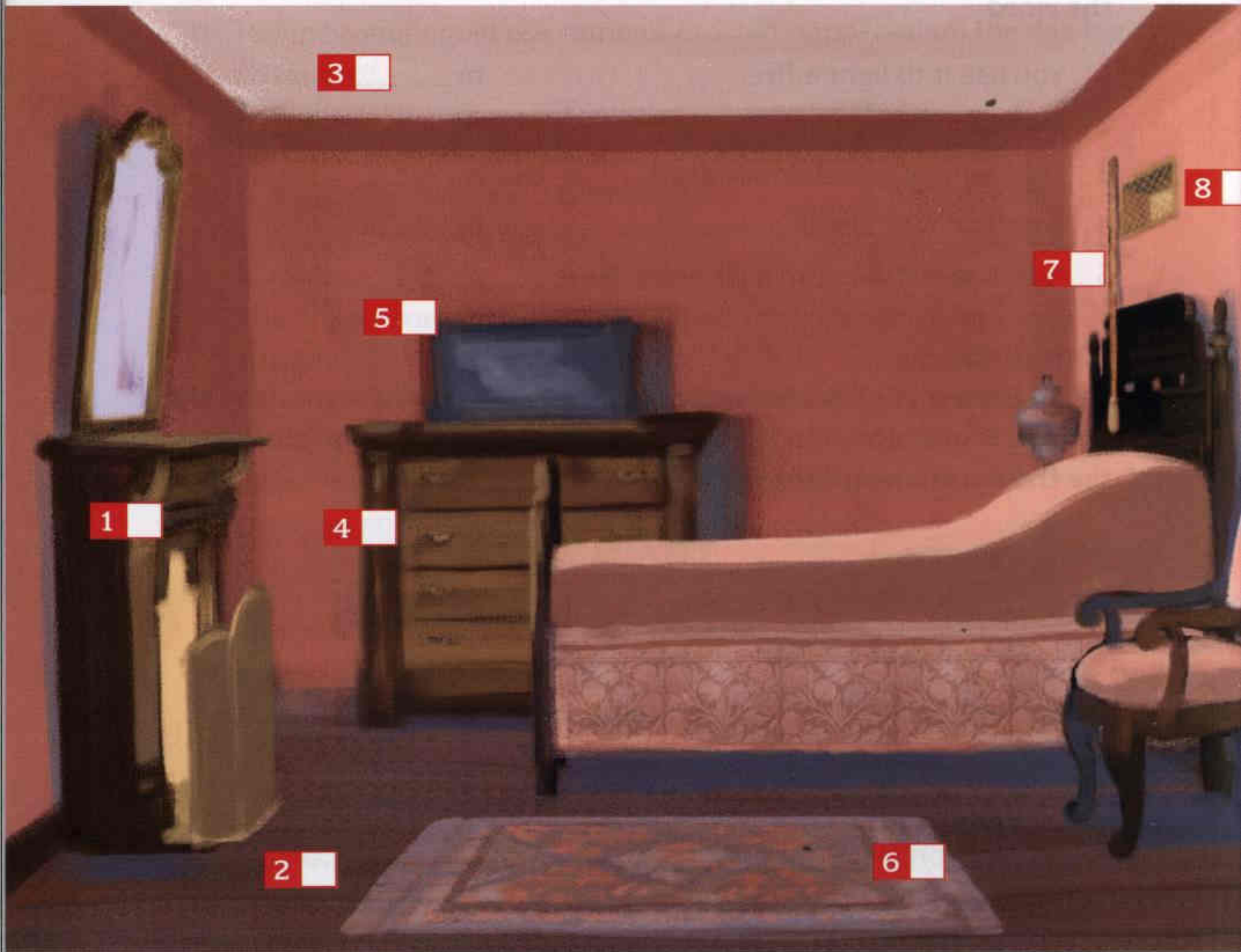
Sherlock Holmes is a detective and Watson is a doctor. What job interests you? Tell the class about it and use the questions below to help you.

- 1 What kind of job do you want to do?
- 2 What do you like about this job?
- 3 What school subjects do you need to study to do this job?

Before you read

1 Label the words in the picture:

- A ventilator B bell rope C metal chest D fireplace
E chest-of-drawers F rug G ceiling H floor



2 Now match four of the words from exercise 1 to these descriptions:

- 1 ☐ You keep clothes here.
- 2 ☐ You pull this to ring a bell and call a servant.
- 3 ☐ You heat the room by making a fire here.
- 4 ☐ You lock this and keep things safe.
- 5 ☐ This brings fresh air into the room.



CHAPTER THREE

Dr Roylott and Stoke Moran



What do you think of this case, Watson?' asked Sherlock Holmes.

11

'It seems to be very mysterious,' I said. 'Gypsies, whistles in the night, and the sound of metal... Perhaps Dr Roylott doesn't want his stepdaughters to marry because he doesn't want to give them the money.'

'Perhaps you're right, Watson, and that's why I want to go to Stoke Moran today. But what's this!' cried Holmes as the door suddenly opened and a big man appeared. He was tall and had an angry face.

'Who is Holmes?' asked the man angrily.

'That is my name, sir,' said Holmes, 'and who are you?'



The Speckled Band

'I am Dr Grimesby Roylott of Stoke Moran.'

'Please sit down,' said Holmes calmly.

'No, I will not. My stepdaughter was here. What did she tell you?'

'It's a bit cold for April...' said Holmes.

'What did she tell you?' screamed the old man angrily.

'...But I hear that the flowers are growing,' continued Holmes, calmly.

'Ha! I know you. You think you're a great detective — but you only make trouble!'

Holmes smiled and then laughed. 'Thank you for your visit. When you go out, please close the door because it's getting cold in this room.'

'I know Miss Stoner was here. Leave me alone. I'm a dangerous man. Stay away from me!' he said, and he left the room quickly.

'Friendly man,' said Holmes laughing. 'I only hope he won't hurt Miss Stoner. And now, Watson, I'm going to the Records Office¹ to get some help with this case.'

Holmes came back at two o'clock. He was holding a piece of paper full of notes and numbers.

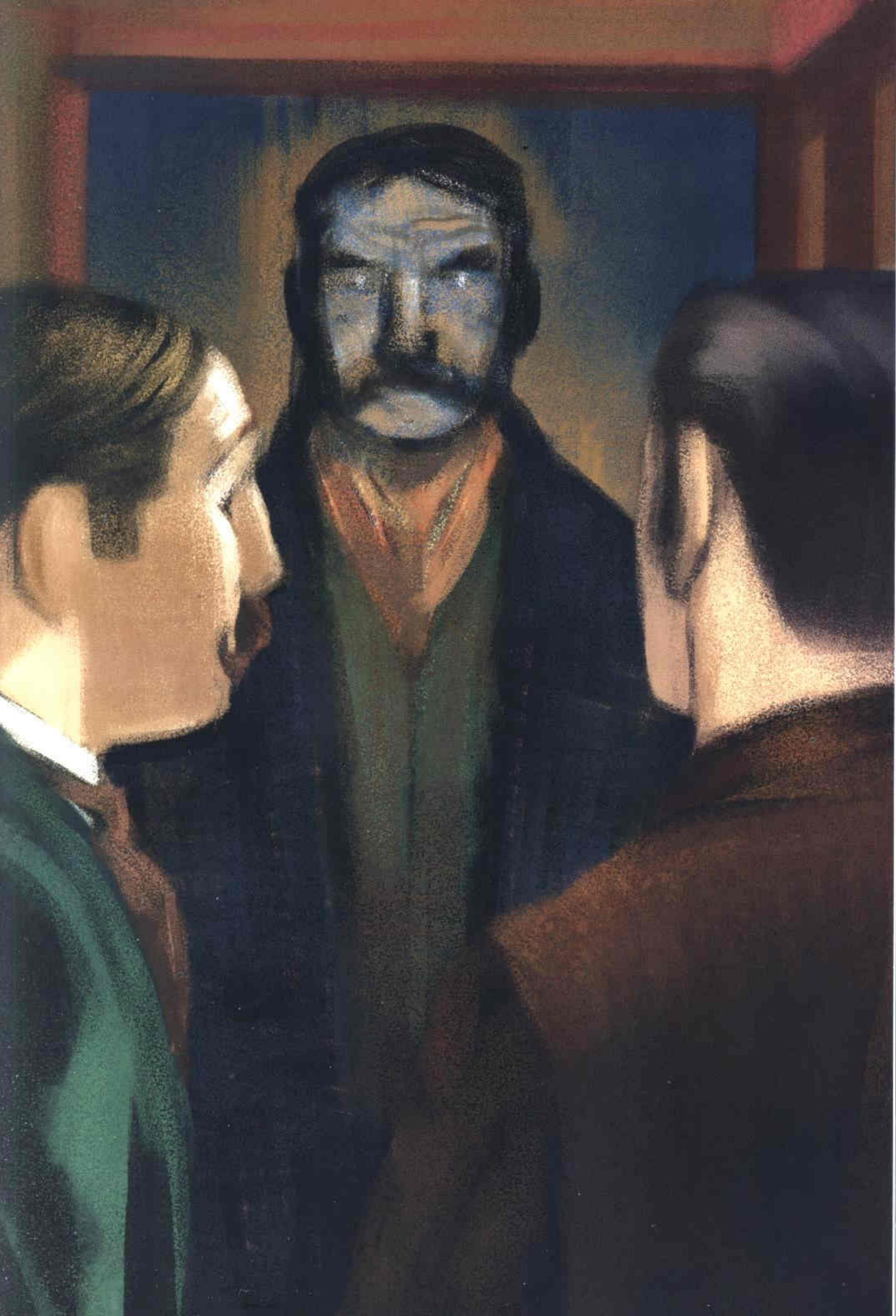
'I saw the will² of Dr Roylott's wife and studied it carefully. If the sisters marry, they receive most of the doctor's money! He certainly has a good reason to want to stop them marrying! And now, Watson, we must leave for Stoke Moran immediately. Bring your gun and your toothbrush.'

We caught the train for Leatherhead³ and then took a carriage to Stoke Moran. Miss Stoner was waiting for us.

1. **Records Office** : official documents are kept in this public office.

2. **will** : an official document saying who you want to give your money to after you die.

3. **Leatherhead** : a village in Surrey near Stoke Moran.





The Speckled Band

'I'm very happy to see you,' she said warmly. 'Dr Roylott went to London and won't be back until late this evening.'

'We already met the doctor this morning,' said Holmes. 'He's a very angry man.' Miss Stoner's face became white.

'Goodness! He followed me to your house!'

'Yes, but we said nothing of your visit,' said Holmes.

'I'm afraid of him. What will he say when he returns home?'

'Tonight you must lock yourself in your room,' said Holmes. 'Now, please take me to see the bedrooms.'

Holmes looked at the outside of the old house and examined the windows carefully. Then he looked at the three bedrooms.

'Is this your room, Miss Stoner?'

'Yes, it is.'

'It looks fine. I don't think it needs any work.'

'No, but for some reason my stepfather said "From now on, you must sleep in your sister's room."'

'Hmmm,' said Holmes. 'The door and window of your rooms are locked at night, aren't they?'

'Always!' said Helen Stoner.

We went into Julia's small bedroom and Holmes sat down in the corner of the room and looked all around.

'Who answers that bell?' he asked, pointing to a bell rope. The rope hung down near the bed.

'It goes to the servant's room.'

'It seems newer than the other things here.'

'Yes, it was put there two years ago.'

'Did your sister want it?'

'No, because there isn't usually a servant in the house.'

'Then she didn't need a bell,' said Holmes and pulled the bell rope.

Dr Roylott and Stoke Moran

'Why, this isn't a real bell!' he exclaimed. 'It doesn't ring. It's fixed to the wall just above the ventilator.'

'I never saw that before!' said Miss Stoner.

'This is very strange,' said Holmes.

'The bell rope and the ventilator were put in at about the same time,' said Miss Stoner.

We went to the doctor's room. There was a round table, a chair, and a big metal chest against the wall. Holmes looked at everything carefully.

'What's in here?' he asked, pointing to the chest.

'My stepfather's papers.'

'Is there a cat here?'

'No, why?'

'There's a small bowl of milk on top of the chest,' said Holmes, with a worried, angry face. 'Now, let's return to the garden.'



Go back to the text

1 Comprehension

Are these sentences true (T) or false (F)?

	T	F
1 Dr Royslott suddenly appeared before Holmes and Watson.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2 Dr Royslott spoke very quietly.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3 Dr Watson went to the Records Office.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4 Helen Stoner's mother left a will before she died.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5 When Helen marries Dr Royslott must give her some land in Surrey.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6 In Julia's bedroom there was a bell rope that did not work.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7 Dr Royslott kept an Indian cat in the big metal chest.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2 Characters

Match the descriptions 1-12 with the characters A-G. Some names can be used more than once.

- 1 ☐ He lived in India and then returned to London.
- 2 ☐ She wore black clothes and was frightened.
- 3 ☐ He liked helping his friend with his detective work.
- 4 ☐ He only accepted strange and unusual cases.
- 5 ☐ She wore a dirty jacket.
- 6 ☐ She was a widow with two small children.
- 7 ☐ He killed a man in India and went to prison.
- 8 ☐ He wanted to marry Helen Stoner.
- 9 ☐ She couldn't sleep because she smelt an Indian cigar.
- 10 ☐ He usually got up late.
- 11 ☐ She had four red marks on her hand.
- 12 ☐ He argued with all of his neighbours.

A Helen Stoner

B Julia Stoner

C Dr Royslott

D Sherlock Holmes

E Dr Watson

F Peter Armitage

G Helen Stoner's mother

3 Vocabulary

Circle the adjectives in the box below that describe Dr Roylott.

polite friendly kind huge dangerous short tall helpful
calm rude angry happy funny old young good-looking

- 1 Which adjectives in the above list are opposites? For the adjectives that do not have an opposite in the list, write one yourself.

young/old

- 2 Look back at Chapters 1-3 and find some adjectives that describe Helen Stoner.

.....

KET 4 Complete the conversation below. What does Dr Watson say to Sherlock Holmes? For questions 1-5, put the correct letter A-H in the space.

Holmes: Are you free this afternoon?

Watson: (0) G.....

Holmes: Do you want to come to Stoke Moran with me?

Watson: (1)

Holmes: What time is the next train?

Watson: (2)

Holmes: Where is your gun?

Watson: (3)

Holmes: Can you go and get it quickly?

Watson: (4)

Holmes: Good! I'll meet you at Waterloo Station. Don't be late!

Watson: (5)

A Don't worry, I won't be.

C Of course I do.

E Later.

G Yes, I am.

B Very well.

D In my desk at home.

F At half past two.

H I'll try to be quick.

Before you read

1 Pictures

Look at the picture on pages 84-85.

- 1 Describe the scene you see in this picture.
- 2 Describe the expression on Dr Roylott's face.
- 3 What does he have around his head?



2 Listen to the first part of Chapter Four. For questions 1-5, tick (✓) A, B or C.

KET

- 1 What does Sherlock Holmes want to do?
 - A ☐ He wants to save Helen's life.
 - B ☐ He wants to talk to Dr Roylott.
 - C ☐ He wants to have dinner at the Crown Inn.
- 2 What can Holmes and Watson see from the Crown Inn?
 - A ☐ The village.
 - B ☐ The house at Stoke Moran.
 - C ☐ The sea.
- 3 When must Helen Stoner put a lamp in the window?
 - A ☐ When Dr Roylott goes to bed.
 - B ☐ When she goes to bed.
 - C ☐ When she hears a low whistle.
- 4 What is fixed to the floor?
 - A ☐ The chair.
 - B ☐ The bed.
 - C ☐ The metal chest.
- 5 At what time did Holmes and Watson see the light in the window?
 - A ☐ At nine o'clock.
 - B ☐ At midnight.
 - C ☐ At eleven o'clock.



CHAPTER FOUR

A dangerous night



In the garden Sherlock Holmes spoke very seriously to Miss Stoner. 'You must listen to my instructions carefully. I want to save your life.'

12

'I'll do everything you say!'

'First, Watson and I must stay in your sister's room tonight.'

Miss Stoner and I were both surprised.

'Now let me explain. Watson and I will be at the Crown Inn in the village — we can see your window from there, can't we?'

'Yes, you can.'

'Very well,' said Holmes. 'This evening you must go to your sister's room early and not see your stepfather. When you hear him go to bed, open the window and put a lamp there. When Watson and I see the lamp in the window we'll come. Then you must leave your sister's room and go to your own room.'

'What will you do?' she asked.

The Speckled Band

'We'll go to your sister's room and see what happens.'

'Do you know how my sister died?' she asked.

'Perhaps, but I'm not sure.'

'Oh, Mr Holmes, please tell me, did she die of terror?'

'No, I don't think so. Now we must go. Be brave¹ and do everything I told you. You'll soon be safe.'

Sherlock Holmes and I got our room at the Crown Inn. From there we could see the house at Stoke Moran clearly.

'I think there will be danger tonight, Watson.'

'Danger? What did you see in those rooms that I didn't see?'

'I knew there was a ventilator, because Helen Stoner said her sister could smell the smoke of Dr Roylott's cigar.'

'Is that important?'

'It's strange. Just think, a ventilator is made, a bell rope is put there and the lady in the bed dies.'

'I don't understand.'

'Did you see that the bed was fixed to the floor? The lady could not move her bed. It had to stay there, near the bell rope, under the ventilator.'

'Holmes!' I cried, 'I'm beginning to understand. We must stop another murder!'

'Yes. This will be a terrible night.'

We waited at the Crown Inn. Suddenly, at eleven o'clock, we saw a lamp in one of the windows. We left the inn quickly and went into the garden at Stoke Moran. We climbed into the bedroom through the window. Holmes looked around the room and whispered, 'We mustn't make any noise and we must sit in

1. **brave** : adjective to describe a person who is not frightened.

A dangerous night

the dark. The doctor can see the light through the ventilator.'

'Very well,' I whispered.

'Don't sleep, Watson, your life is in danger. Keep your gun ready. I'll sit on the bed and you sit on the chair.'

I put my gun on the corner of the table. Holmes had a long, thin stick and a box of matches. We were alone in the silence and darkness.

How can I ever forget those terrible hours? Holmes and I sat and waited. We could hear the church bell every hour. Twelve o'clock, one, two and three — and nothing happened.

Suddenly we saw a light through the ventilator. There was a quiet sound — something was moving! Holmes jumped up from the bed, lit a match and hit the bell rope with his stick.

'Do you see it, Watson?' he cried. 'Do you see it?'

But I saw nothing. I could hear a low clear whistle, and I saw that Holmes's face was white with terror.

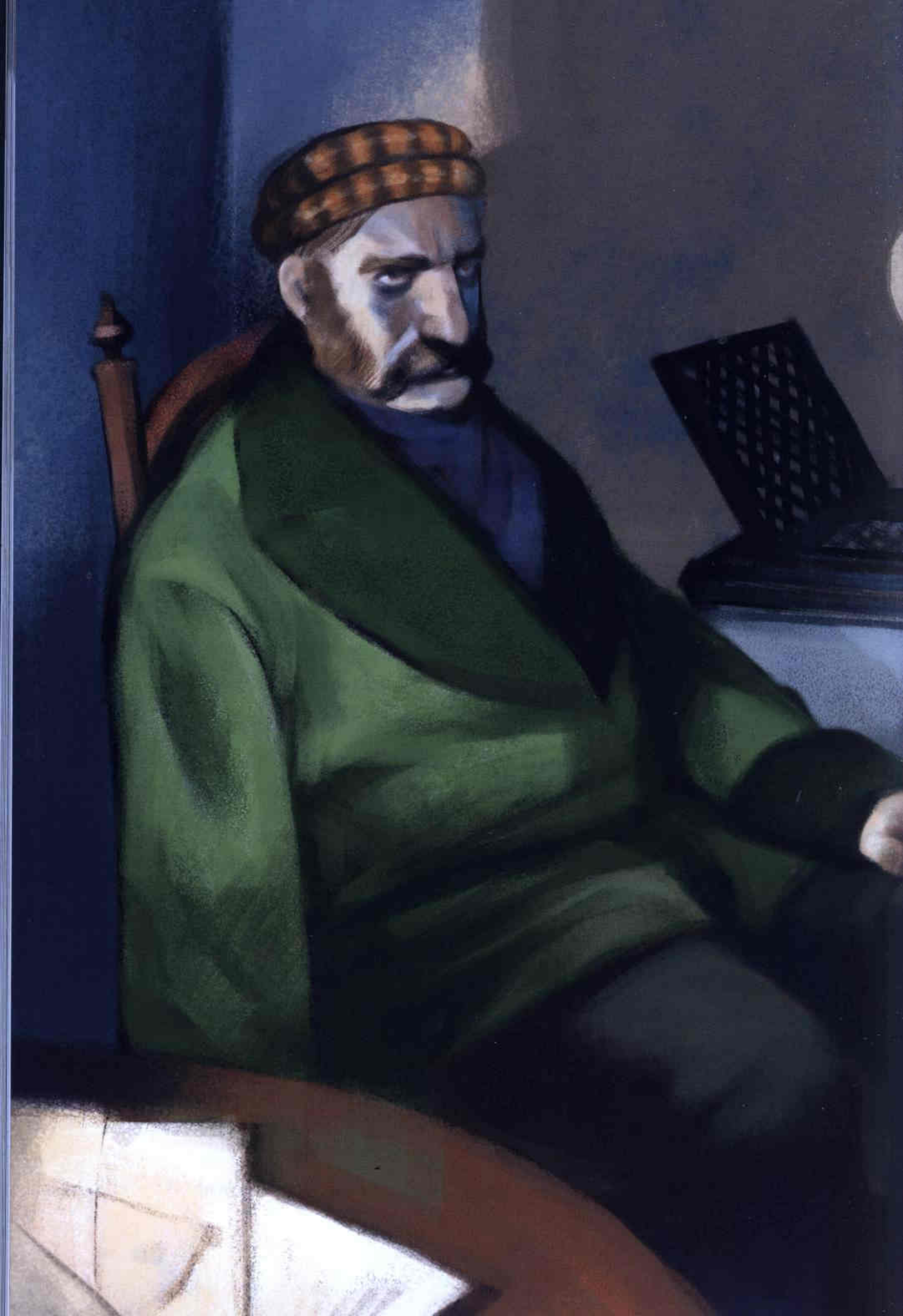
Then Holmes stopped hitting the bell rope and looked at the ventilator. Suddenly we heard a loud, horrible cry. It was a cry of terror, pain and anger. Then it stopped and there was silence.

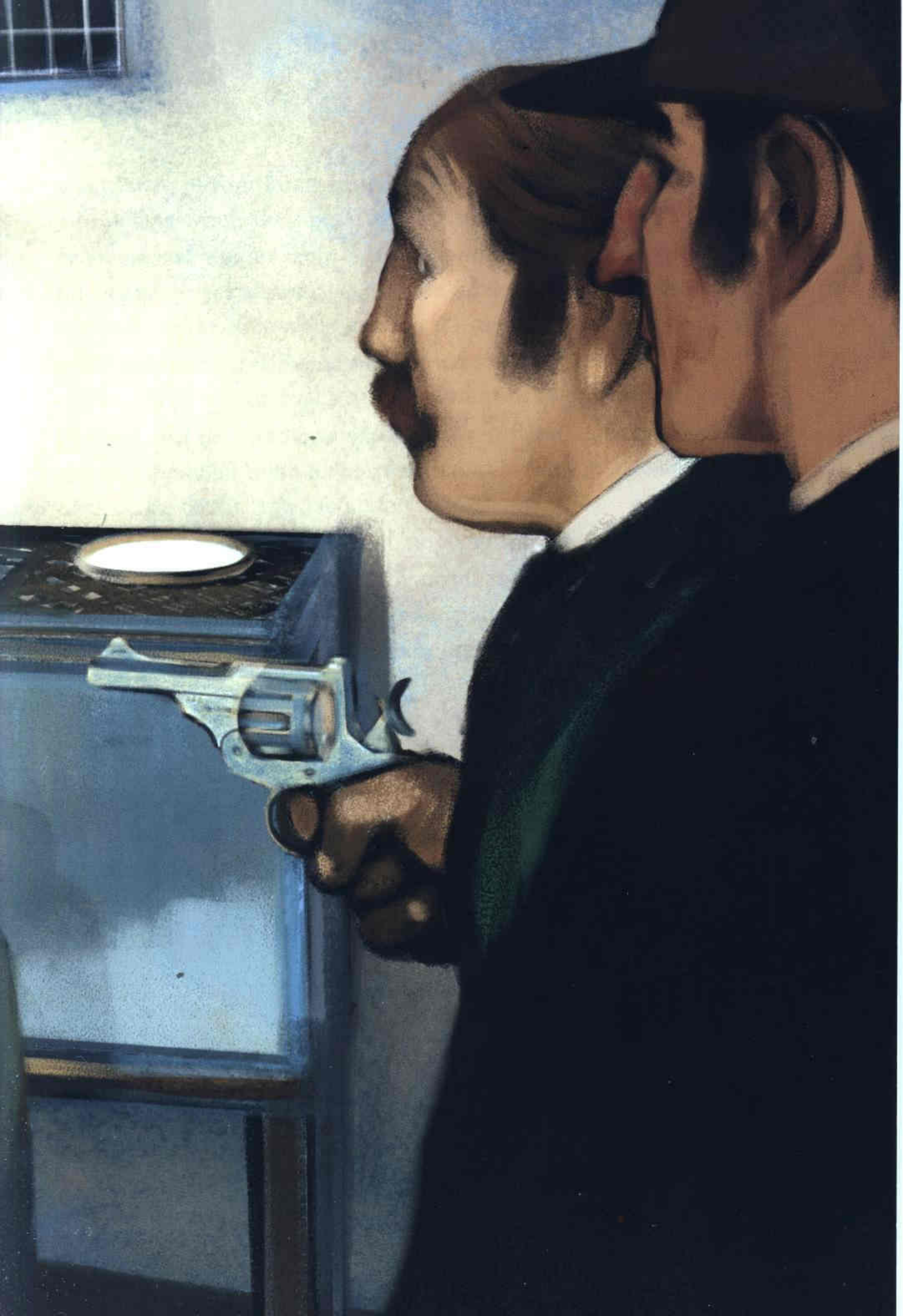
'What does it mean?' I whispered.

'It means that it's all over,' Holmes answered. 'Take your gun and let's go to Dr Roylott's room.'

We went to the doctor's room and I had my gun ready in my hand. There was a lamp on the table and the metal chest was open. Dr Roylott was sitting on a chair: his eyes were open. He was not moving. Around his head there was a yellow band with brown spots.

'The band! The speckled band!' whispered Holmes.





The Speckled Band

I stepped forward and the speckled band moved — it was a snake.

‘This snake,’ cried Holmes, ‘is the most dangerous snake in India! The doctor is dead: he died ten seconds after the snake bit him.’

With his stick Holmes threw the snake into the chest and closed it.

Miss Stoner heard the terrible cry and came to the doctor’s room. She was terrified. Holmes tried to calm her and told her his story.

‘I knew that the danger was in the ventilator and the bell rope. Nothing could enter through the locked door or window.’

‘Did you know about the snake?’ asked Miss Stoner.

‘I knew the doctor kept animals from India. That snake has a poison that can’t be discovered by the police. He learnt about this in India. It was the perfect way to kill someone.’

‘It was easy to put the snake through the ventilator. The snake then climbed down the bell rope and went onto the bed. When your sister moved, the snake bit her. When the snake heard the whistle it returned to the doctor. The doctor gave the snake a bowl of milk and put it in the metal chest. He then locked the metal chest — that was the sound of metal you heard, Miss Stoner.’

‘I will never forget that metal sound or the low whistle,’ she said nervously.

‘I knew the snake was coming through the ventilator because I heard a hissing¹ sound. I hit the snake with my stick and it

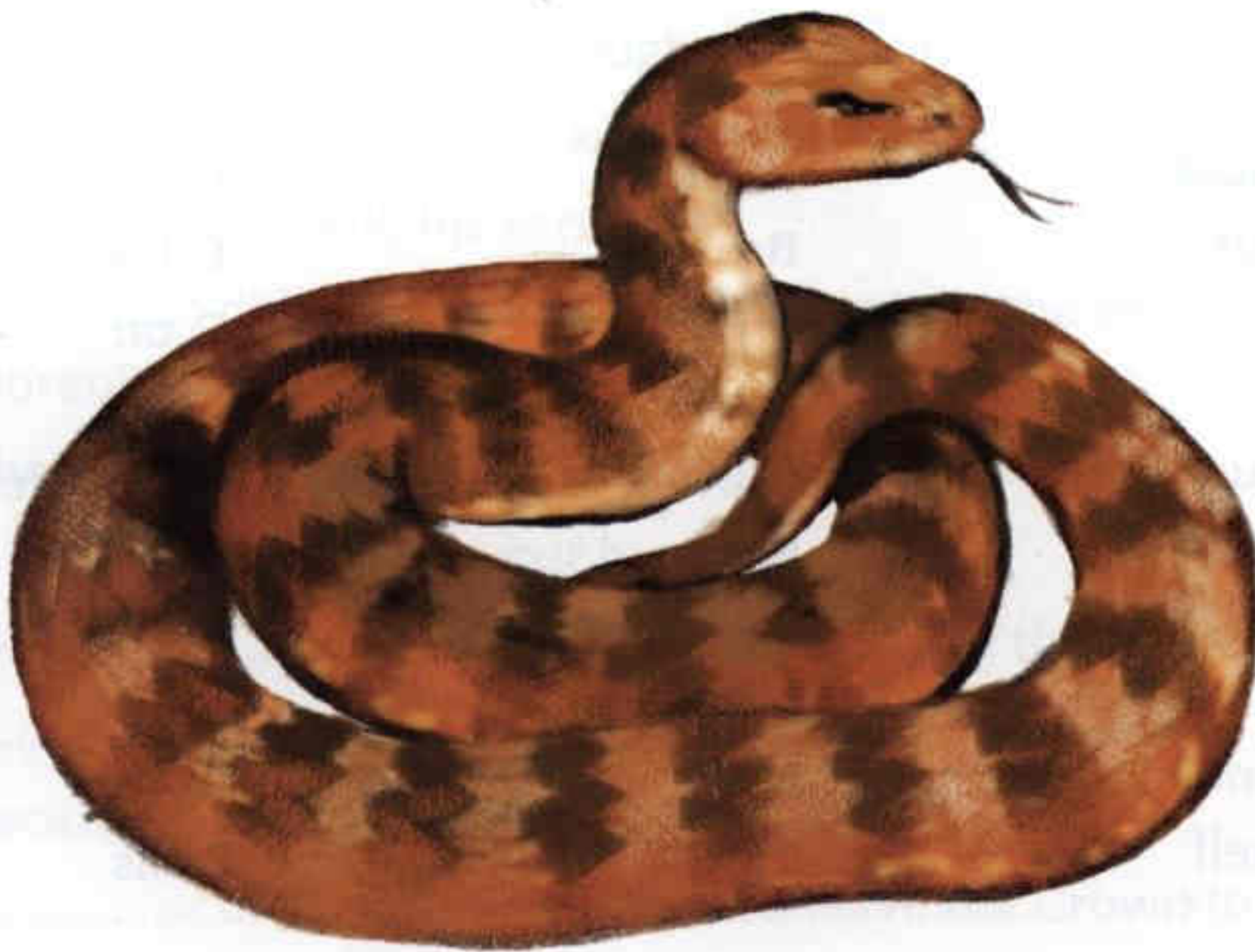
1. **hissing** : the sound a snake makes.

A dangerous night

went back through the ventilator. It was very angry, and snakes bite people when they get angry. It went back into the doctor's room and bit him.'

'I can hardly believe it!' said Miss Stoner. 'My stepfather killed my poor sister Julia and then he wanted to kill me, too. Thank you! You saved my life.'

Miss Stoner was finally safe and went to stay with her aunt in London. After the investigation the police decided that the doctor was killed by his pet snake. And these are the true facts of the case of the 'speckled band'.



Go back to the text

KET 1 Comprehension

Read the paragraph below and choose the best word (A, B or C) for each space. There is an example at the beginning (0).

Helen Stoner must (0) *listen* to Sherlock Holmes's instructions (1) he wants to save her life. Holmes and Watson (2) the Crown Inn (3) eleven o'clock and go to Stoke Moran. They enter Julia Stoner's room and wait in the dark. Watson has (4) gun ready, and Holmes has a long stick. Suddenly they see a light (5) the ventilator. Then Holmes hears (6) hissing sound. He lights a match and beats the bell rope with his stick. Then Holmes and Watson (7) a terrible, loud cry. They go (8) Dr Roylott's room. There is a 'speckled band' (9) his head — he is dead. His Indian snake killed (10) Dr Roylott murdered Julia but now Helen is finally safe.

- | | | |
|--------------|----------|-----------|
| 0 A do | B hear | C listen |
| 1 A because | B why | C so |
| 2 A go out | B exit | C leave |
| 3 A in | B at | C on |
| 4 A him | B he | C his |
| 5 A through | B on | C between |
| 6 A some | B a | C an |
| 7 A make | B listen | C hear |
| 8 A to | B in | C at |
| 9 A around | B in | C near |
| 10 A himself | B him | C his |



2 Question words

We use words like *when, why, how, where, what, who* to make questions. Look at the questions and answers below. Choose the correct word from the list above and complete the questions (1-10). Then complete the answers by putting the verb in brackets () into the past tense.

- 1 did Dr Roylott kill his stepdaughter?
Because he (*not want*) to give her any money.
- 2 did Helen Stoner's aunt live?
She (*live*) in London.
- 3 did Dr Roylott die?
He (*die*) ten seconds after the snake bit him.
- 4 was the 'speckled band'?
It (*be*) an Indian snake.
- 5 did the snake enter the bedroom?
It (*come in*) through the ventilator.
- 6 did Dr Roylott kill in India?
He (*kill*) his servant.
- 7 did Holmes and Watson get into the bedroom of Stoke Moran?
They (*climb*) in through the window.
- 8 did Watson put his gun?
He (*put*) his gun on the corner of the table.
- 9 did Holmes's face turn white?
Because he (*see*) the snake.
- 10 did Holmes and Watson leave the Crown Inn?
They (*leave*) the Crown Inn at eleven o'clock.

KET 3 Which notice (A-H) says this (1-5)? There is an example at the beginning (0).

- 0 **F** You need personal identification if you want to enter here.
 1 You can rent a flat here.
 2 You can visit this place on Sundays.
 3 You can't buy a train ticket before 7 am.
 4 This shop opened in the 19th century.
 5 If a snake bites you, go to this place.

A

**BAKER STREET
ESTATE AGENCY**

E

CARTS FOR HIRE
Low hourly rates

B

**SLOW!
RAILWAY
CROSSING**

F

CITY OF LONDON
Records Office
Personal Identification
Required

C

**HOSPITAL
EMERGENCY ROOM**
Poison Centre

G

SURREY STATION
Ticket Office
open every day
from 7 am to 7 pm

D

SURREY ZOO
Wild Animals from Asia
Open all year!

H

**PENELOPE'S
PET SHOP**
Since 1880

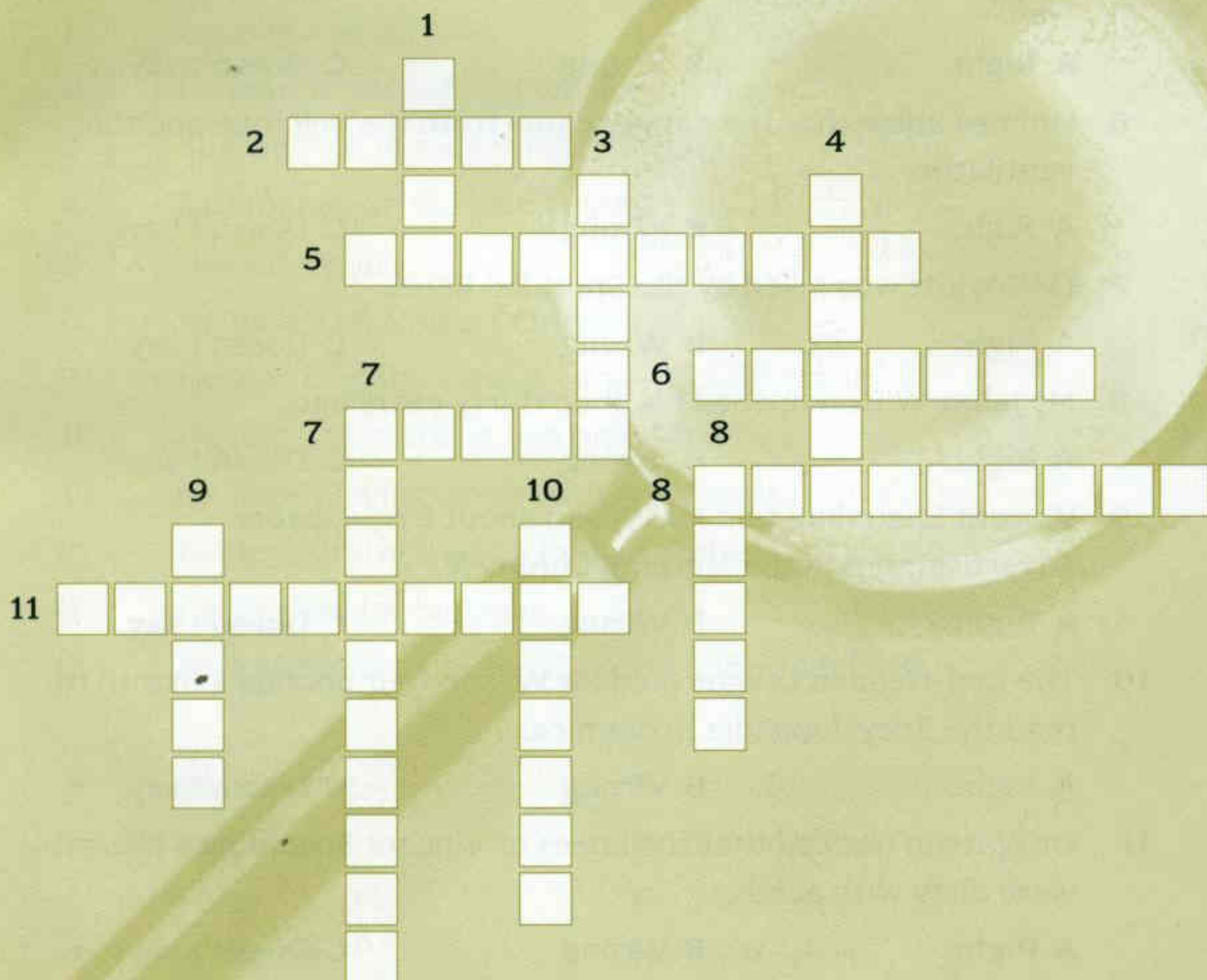
4 Complete the crossword below.

Across

- 2 not scared
- 5 this brings fresh air into a room
- 6 the sound a snake makes
- 7 a wild animal
- 8 not safe
- 11 another word for 'scared'

Down

- 1 without colour
- 3 Dr Roylott smoked this
- 4 this substance can kill you
- 7 you use this to clean your teeth
- 8 not clean
- 9 this woman's husband is dead
- 10 you sleep here



E X I T T E S T

1 Are these sentences 'Right' (A) or 'Wrong' (B)? If there is not enough information to answer 'Right' (A) or 'Wrong' (B), choose 'Doesn't say' (C).

- 1 Helen and Julia Stoner lived with their stepfather at Stoke Moran after their mother died.
A Right B Wrong C Doesn't say
- 2 Julia Stoner was only twenty years old when she died.
A Right B Wrong C Doesn't say
- 3 The police found poison in Julia Stoner's body.
A Right B Wrong C Doesn't say
- 4 Sherlock Holmes talked to an old Indian servant at Stoke Moran.
A Right B Wrong C Doesn't say
- 5 Holmes and Watson went to stay in Dr Roylott's room for one night.
A Right B Wrong C Doesn't say
- 6 Holmes knew that the danger came from the bell rope and the ventilator.
A Right B Wrong C Doesn't say
- 7 Dr Roylott was killed by the Speckled Band.
A Right B Wrong C Doesn't say
- 8 Mr Jabez Wilson opened his shop thirty years ago.
A Right B Wrong C Doesn't say
- 9 Vincent Spaulding told Mr Wilson about a newspaper advertisement in the *Morning Chronicle*.
A Right B Wrong C Doesn't say
- 10 The Red-Headed League paid Mr Wilson four pounds a month to read the Encyclopaedia Britannica.
A Right B Wrong C Doesn't say
- 11 Dr Watson noticed that the knees of Vincent Spaulding's trousers were dirty with earth.
A Right B Wrong C Doesn't say

12 Mr Wilson was angry and confused when the Red-Headed League closed its offices.

A Right

B Wrong

C Doesn't say

13 Holmes discovered that the City and Suburban Bank was behind Mr Wilson's shop.

A Right

B Wrong

C Doesn't say

14 Peter Jones and Mr Merryweather were digging a tunnel from the cellar of the shop to the cellar of the bank.

A Right

B Wrong

C Doesn't say

2 Who is it?

Match the descriptions 1-12 with the characters A-I. Some characters can be used more than once.

1 ☐ He was a policeman.

2 ☐ He kept animals from India in his house.

3 ☐ She wanted to marry Peter Armitage.

4 ☐ He smoked an old black pipe.

5 ☐ He had a gun.

6 ☐ He pulled Mr Wilson's bright red hair.

7 ☐ He was England's most dangerous criminal.

8 ☐ He had a tattoo of a fish on his hand.

9 ☐ He liked playing cards with his friends.

10 ☐ His grandfather was a king's brother.

11 ☐ He worked for half-pay.

12 ☐ He had the keys to the City and Suburban Bank.

A Sherlock Holmes

B Mr Merryweather

C Duncan Ross

D Peter Jones

E John Clay

F Mr Wilson

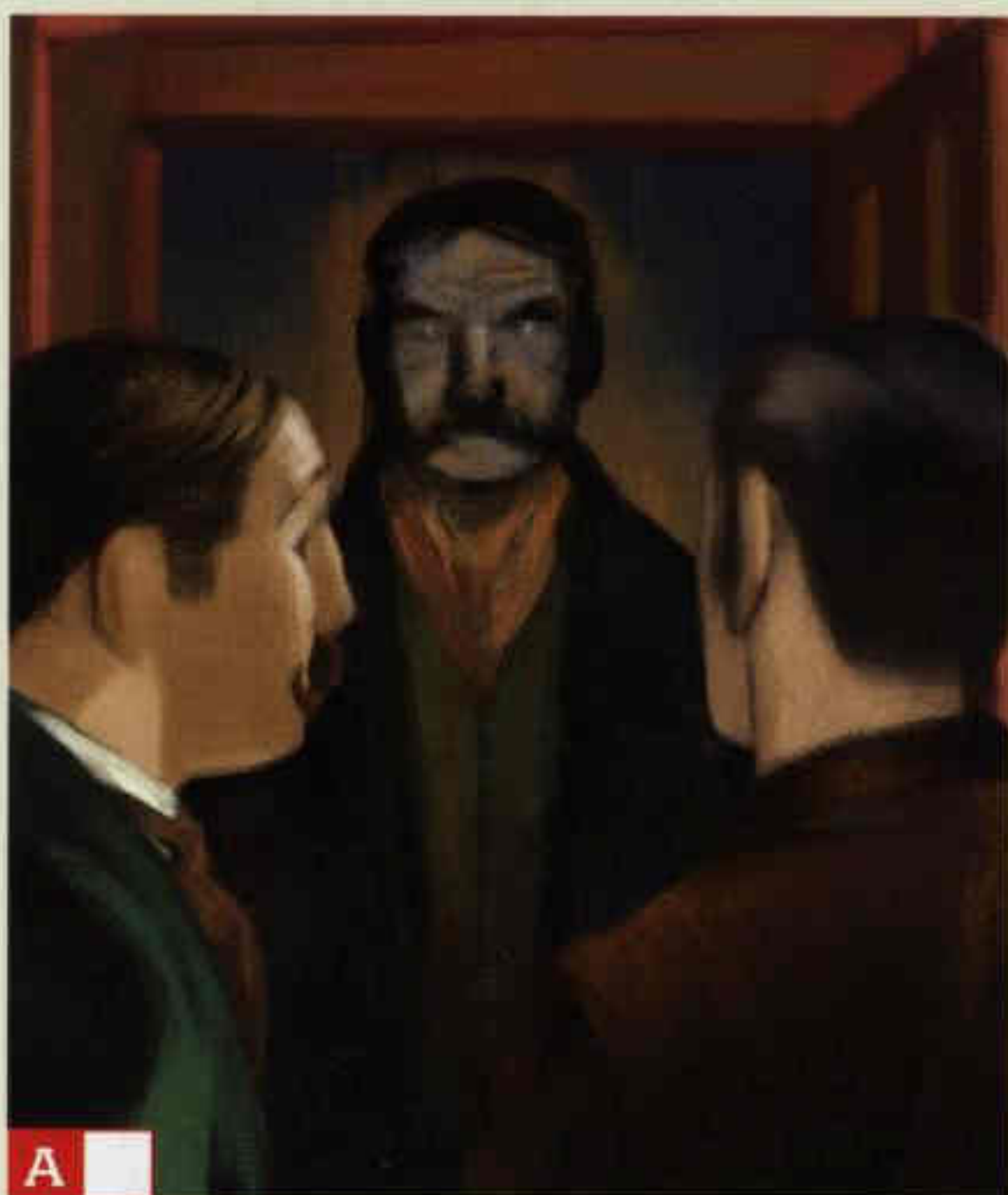
G Helen Stoner

H Dr Roylett

I Dr Watson

3 Who can you see in the pictures (A-G)? Then look at the captions below (1-7). Match each picture to the correct caption.

- 1 He showed them the strange advertisement.
- 2 He was an excellent worker and accepted half-pay.
- 3 He checked the stones of the street in front of the shop.
- 4 He helped another man climb out of the hole.
- 5 She was shaking and her face was pale and tired.
- 6 He was tall and had an angry face.
- 7 I held her in my arms but it was too late.





Key to Exit Test

1 1A 2B 3B 4C 5B 6A
7A 8C 9A 10B 11B 12A
13A 14B

2 1D 2H 3G 4A 5I, E 6C
7E 8F 9B 10E 11E 12B

3 1C 2A 3C 4A 5B 6B
7A 8A 9B 10C 11A
12B 13C

Key to Sherlock Holmes Quiz, page 8

1F 2G 3D 4C 5E 6A 7B

This reader uses the **EXPANSIVE READING** approach, where the text becomes a springboard to improve language skills and to explore historical background, cultural connections and other topics suggested by the text.

The new structures introduced in this step of our **READING & TRAINING** series are listed below. Naturally, structures from lower steps are included too. For a complete list of structures used over all the six steps, see *The Black Cat Guide to Graded Readers*, which is also downloadable at no cost from our website, www.blackcat-cideb.com or www.cideb.it. The vocabulary used at each step is carefully checked against vocabulary lists used for internationally recognised examinations.

Step One A2

*All the structures used in the previous levels, plus the following:

Verb tenses

Present Simple

Present Continuous

Past Simple

Past Continuous

Future reference: Present Continuous;
going to; *will*; Present Simple

Present Perfect Simple: indefinite past
with *ever*, *never* (for experience)

Verb forms and patterns

Regular and common irregular verbs

Affirmative, negative, interrogative

Imperative: 2nd person; *let's*

Passive forms: Present Simple; Past Simple

Short answers

Infinitives after verbs and adjectives

Gerunds (verb + *-ing*) after prepositions and common verbs

Gerunds (verb + *-ing*) as subjects and objects

Modal verbs

Can: ability; requests; permission

Could: ability; requests

Will: future reference; offers; promises; predictions

Would ... like: offers, requests

Shall: suggestions; offers

Should (present and future reference): advice

May (present and future reference): possibility

Must: personal obligation

Mustn't: prohibition

Have (got) to: external obligation

Need: necessity

Types of clause

Co-ordination: *but*; *and*; *or*; *and then*

Subordination (in the Present Simple or Present Continuous) after verbs such as:
to be sure; *to know*; *to think*; *to believe*; *to hope*; *to say*; *to tell*

Subordination after: *because*, *when*, *if*
(zero and 1st conditionals)

Defining relative clauses with: *who*, *which*, *that*, zero pronoun, *where*

Other

Zero, definite and indefinite articles

Possessive *'s* and *s'*

Countable and uncountable nouns

Some, *any*; *much*, *many*, *a lot*; *(a) little*, *(a) few*; *all*, *every*; etc.

Order of adjectives

Comparative and superlative of adjectives
(regular and irregular)

Formation and comparative/superlative of adverbs (regular and irregular)

Available at Step One:

■ **Alien Alert in Seattle** Gina D. B. Clemen

■ **Home for Christmas**
Andrea M. Hutchinson

■ **Miami Police File: the O'Neill Case**
Gina D. B. Clemen

■ **Missing in Sydney** Andrea M. Hutchinson

■ **Sherlock Holmes Stories**
Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

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■ **Tristan and Isolde**

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READING & TRAINING



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Step Two	■	CEFR B1.1	Exam Preparation PET
Step Three	■	CEFR B1.2	Exam Level PET
Step Four	■	CEFR B2.1	Exam Preparation FCE
Step Five	■	CEFR B2.2	Exam Level FCE
Step Six	■	CEFR C1	Exam Preparation CAE

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