

SHERLOCK HOLMES

Investigates

Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes appeared for the first time in *A Study in Scarlet* in 1887, and he soon became the most famous literary detective of all time.

Here we see him at work in three stories: solving the problem of the hat and the goose in 'The Blue Carbuncle'; finding the missing fiancé in 'A Case of Identity'; and discovering the identity of the strange creature in 'The Yellow Face'.

- Accessible adaptation at elementary level
- PET-style activities
- Trinity-style activities (Grades 5, 6)
- Wide range of activities covering the four skills
- Recording of all three stories
- Dossiers on Conan Doyle and the *Titanic*
- Exit test



beginner

Exam Preparation: PET (B1)

elementary

Exam: PET (B1)

pre-intermediate

Exam Preparation: FCE (B2)

intermediate

Exam: FCE (B2)

upper-intermediate

Exam Preparation: CAE (C1)

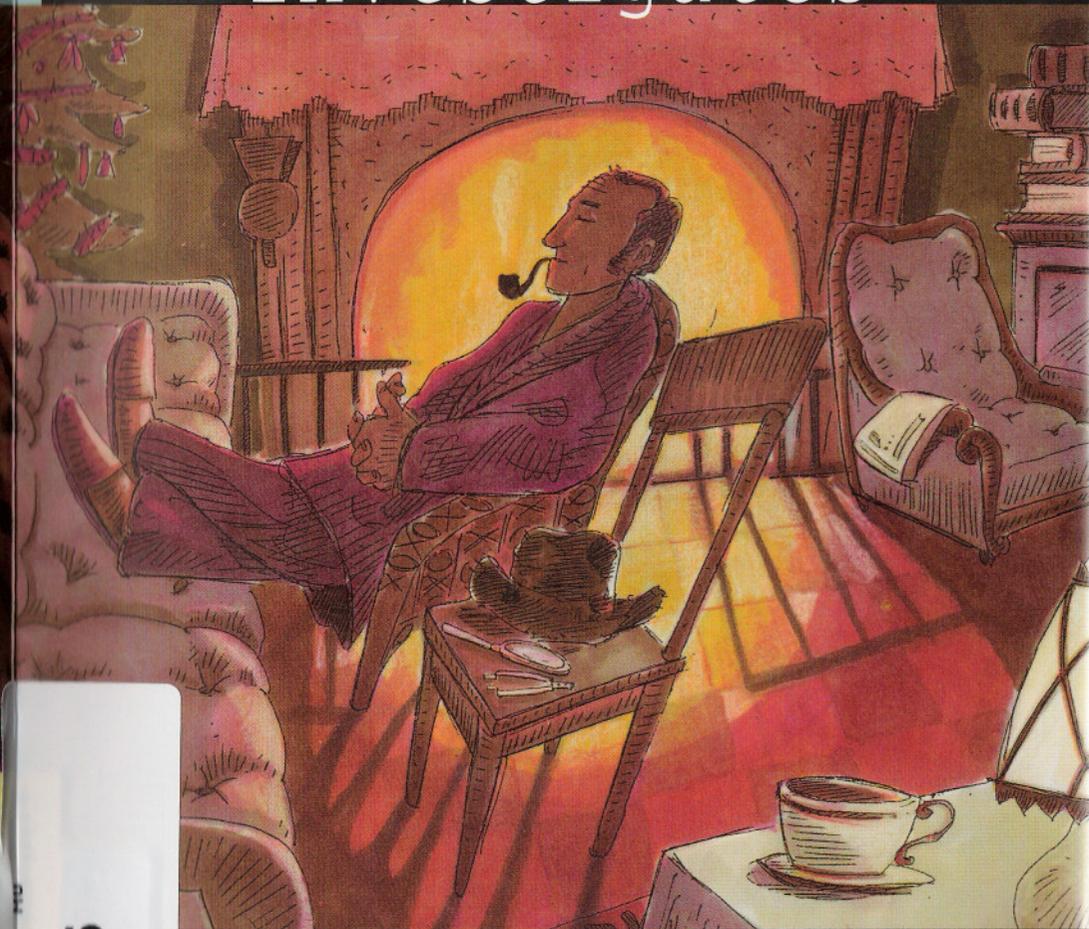
Sir Arthur Conan Doyle
SHERLOCK HOLMES
INVESTIGATES
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Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

SHERLOCK HOLMES

Investigates



SIR A. CONAN DOYLE SHERLOCK HOLMES Investigates

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Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

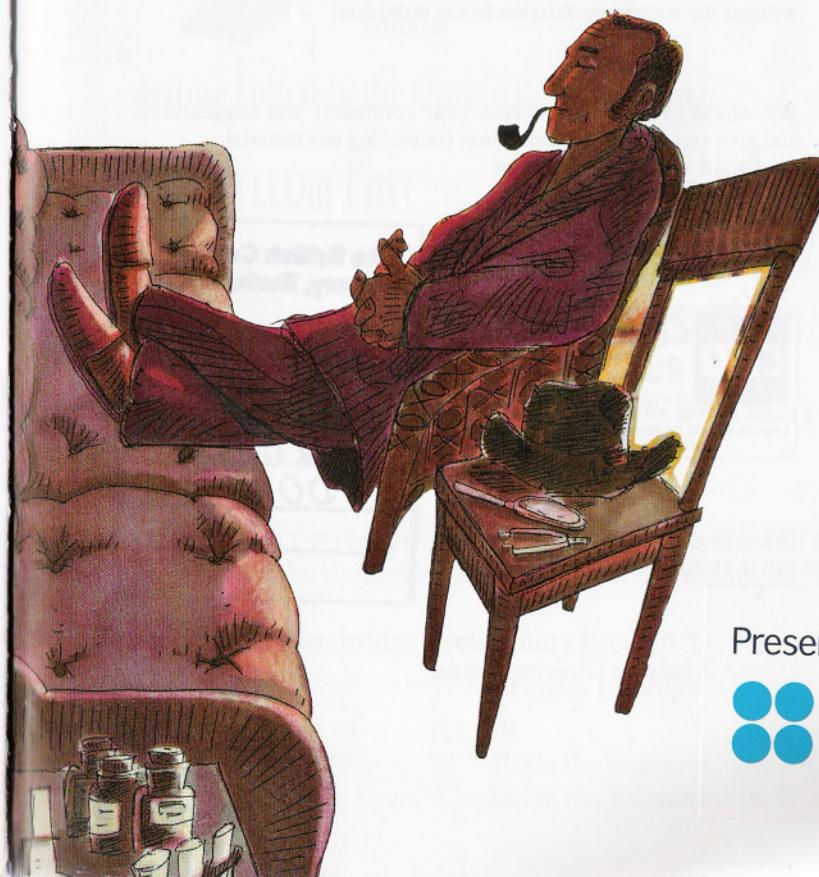
SHERLOCK HOLMES

Investigates

THREE STORIES OF DETECTION

Text adaptation, notes and activities by **Kenneth Brodey**

Additional activities by **Frances Evans**



Presented by



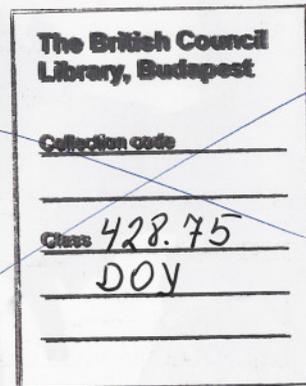
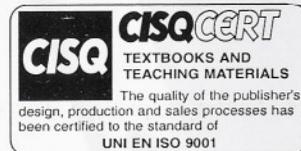
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INTERNET PROJECT : for further information and links for this project visit the student area on our site at www.blackcat-cideb.com

PET Cambridge Preliminary English Test-style exercises

T: GRADES 5, 6 Trinity-style exercises (Grades 5, 6)

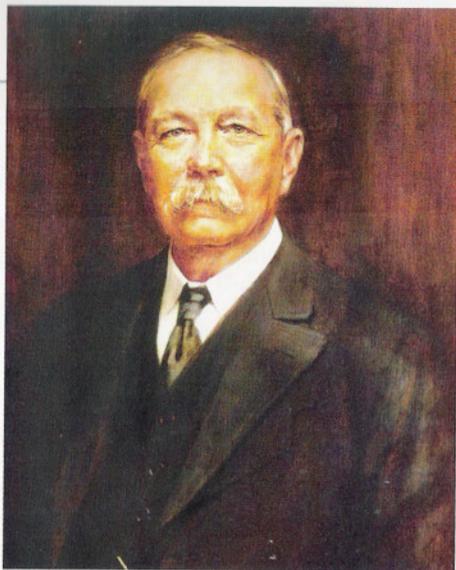
These stories are recorded in full.



END

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





Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.
National Portrait Gallery, London.

The Man who Created Sherlock Holmes:

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

Sherlock Holmes and Dr John Watson are two of the most famous and best loved characters in all of literature. But Arthur Conan Doyle, their creator, was just as fascinating as his creations. Arthur Conan Doyle was born on 22 May 1859 in Edinburgh, Scotland. His father was a timid and impractical civil servant ¹ and when Arthur was still a young man his father had to go to live in a mental hospital because he was an alcoholic and epileptic.

1. **civil servant** : somebody who works for the government.

His mother, on the other hand, was a strong, proud ¹ woman who came from a distinguished military family. She filled Arthur with ideas of honour and chivalry ² – two ideas that are present in all his writings and actions.

In 1876 Arthur began his medical studies at Edinburgh University. Because he had very little money, Arthur worked for a doctor called Joseph Bell. Joseph Bell amazed ³ his students because he could guess the jobs and lifestyle ⁴ of his patients by simply observing them carefully. Joseph Bell was Arthur's principal model for Sherlock Holmes.

In 1880 Arthur accepted a job as ship's doctor on an arctic whaler. ⁵ During the seven-month voyage of this ship Arthur had many exciting adventures: he saw the killing of Greenland seals ⁶



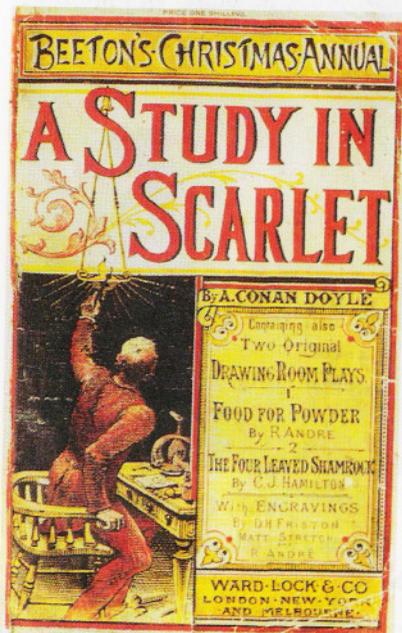
Mary Doyle.
Conan Doyle's mother in 1891.
The Richard Lancelyn Green Collection.

1. **proud** : dignified and self-respecting.
2. **chivalry** : polite, kind and unselfish behaviour.
3. **amazed** : greatly surprised.

4. **lifestyle** : how a person lives.
5. **whaler** : a ship that looks and hunts for whales.
6. **seals** :



and whales ¹ and he himself almost drowned ² in icy ³ arctic waters. After this Arthur finished his medical studies and started a practice ⁴ in Southsea, England in 1882, but it was not a success. Very few patients came, so Arthur had time to write. One of the books he wrote was a novel called *A Study in Scarlet*. This was the first Sherlock Holmes story.



Beeton's Christmas Annual (1887) containing *A Study in Scarlet*. The Richard Lancelyn Green Collection.

To make money, Arthur sent a short story about Holmes to a popular monthly magazine called the *Strand*. Holmes soon became a big success. The *Strand* immediately asked Arthur for more stories about Sherlock Holmes, but from the beginning he had a strange relationship with his famous creation: he did not think his stories about Sherlock Holmes were serious and artistic enough. He wanted to write serious historic novels. So, from the beginning, Arthur planned the death of Sherlock Holmes. When Arthur told his

1. **whales** :



2. **drowned** : died in the water.

3. **icy** : freezing cold.

4. **practice** : (here) place where a doctor works.

mother about his plans to eliminate Sherlock Holmes forever she wrote to him, 'You won't! You can't! You *mustn't!*' But in 1893 Arthur wrote a story called *The Final Problem* in which Holmes dies.



The magazine *Strand* (1927) featuring a new Sherlock Holmes story. The Stanley MacKenzie Collection.

The reaction of readers was immediate. The *Strand* lost 20,000 readers, and people wrote thousands of letters to Doyle begging ¹ him to bring Holmes back to life. Many people even insulted him. One woman wrote these eloquent words to Arthur: 'You Brute.' Finally, in 1901 Arthur wrote a serialised Sherlock Holmes novel ² called *The Hound of the Baskervilles*; the *Strand's* circulation increased by thirty thousand copies. From then on Holmes appeared in the *Strand* until 1927, just three years before Arthur's death.

But Arthur's life was not just Sherlock Holmes. He was very active in public affairs. Arthur spoke in favour of a Channel

1. **begging** : imploring, asking fervently.

2. **serialised ... novel** : these were novels that appeared a chapter or a few chapters at a time in magazines. In Victorian times many novels were first published this way.



The photograph of Frances Griffiths and the fairies (1917), which Conan Doyle believed was real. The Richard Lancelyn Green Collection.

Tunnel, steel helmets¹ for soldiers and inflatable life jackets² for sailors. He also used his real Holmesian³ analytic skills to solve crimes and to defend people who were unjustly accused of crimes (see, Arthur Defends the Underdog page 106).

Arthur also became an important advocate of spiritualism. Spiritualism

is the belief that it is possible to communicate with the spirits of the dead. Arthur also believed in the existence of fairies,⁴ and he said that some photographs of a little girl with fairies were real. He even wrote a book in 1922 called *The Coming of the Fairies*. Of course, Arthur, the creator of the most logical man in the world, Sherlock Holmes, was greatly ridiculed for these beliefs, but Arthur did not seem to care. As always, he stuck to⁵ his beliefs with honour and with pleasant good humour.

1. steel helmets : 
2. inflatable life jackets : 
3. Holmesian : Sherlock Holmes is so famous that he has his own adjective!
4. fairies : 
5. stuck to : did not change.

Arthur died in Crowborough, Sussex, England on 7 July 1930, one of the most famous and best loved men of his day.

The Sherlock Holmes Books

The Sherlock Holmes stories were first published in the *Strand* magazine. The dates below say when these stories were first published as books.

<i>A Study in Scarlet</i>	(1890) This is the first Holmes novel and it appeared in a magazine called <i>Beeton's Christmas Annual</i>
<i>The Sign of the Four</i>	(1890) a novel
<i>The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes</i>	(1892) Both <i>The Blue Carbuncle</i> and <i>A Case of Identity</i> appeared in this collection
<i>The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes</i>	(1894) <i>The Yellow Face</i> appeared in this volume.
<i>The Return of Sherlock Holmes</i>	(1905) a collection of stories
<i>The Hound of the Baskervilles</i>	(1902) a novel
<i>The Valley of Fear</i>	(1915) a novel
<i>His Last Bow</i>	(1917) a collection of stories
<i>The Case-Book of Sherlock Holmes</i>	(1927) a collection of stories

PET

1 Decide if each sentence is correct or incorrect. If it is correct, tick (✓) A; if it is incorrect, tick (✓) B.

- | | A | B |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 Conan Doyle's two most famous creations are Sherlock Holmes and Dr John Watson. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2 Conan Doyle's father was a banker. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3 Conan Doyle's father was the model for Sherlock Holmes. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4 Conan Doyle wanted to kill Sherlock Holmes because he did not think that his stories were serious and artistic enough. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5 When Conan Doyle published <i>The Hound of the Baskervilles</i> the <i>Strand's</i> circulation increased by fifty thousand copies. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6 Spiritualism is the belief that you can solve any crime. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

INTERNET PROJECT

Sherlock Holmes is one of the world's most famous detectives. People all over the world go to London to visit his museum at 221b Baker Street. We can visit it too without having to go to London! Ask your teacher to help you find it on the Internet and you can even have a virtual tour of Sherlock Holmes' study.

Write a short report about your visit to the museum including the following things:

- ▶ How the building became a museum.
- ▶ Describe Holmes' study: the furniture, style, colours and objects.
- ▶ What is on the second and third floors.

The original Sherlock Holmes

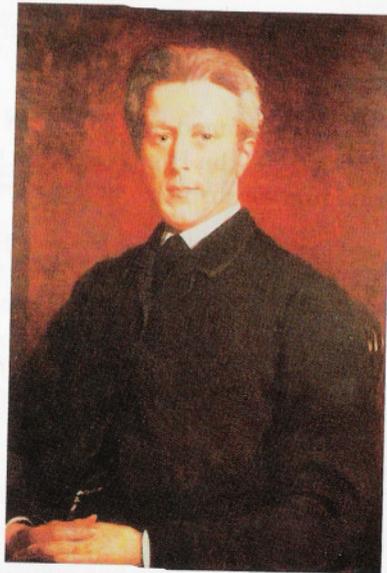
2 Arthur Conan Doyle was a doctor. Arthur himself described Sherlock Holmes as 'a scientific detective'. Sherlock Holmes' methods are very similar to the methods of a doctor. His 'detecting' work is like the 'diagnosing' work of a doctor. The 'clues' of the crime are like the 'symptoms' of a disease. In fact, Arthur's model for Sherlock Holmes was a doctor called Joseph Bell.

Below is an example of a conversation between Dr Joseph Bell – the original Sherlock Holmes – and one of his patients.

- a. Dr Bell – Well, my man you've served in the army.
Patient – Aye, sir. ('Aye' means 'Yes' in Scotland and various parts of northern England.)
- b. Dr Bell – And you have left the army recently?
Patient – Yes, sir.
- c. Dr Bell – And you belonged to a Highland regiment? (A Scottish regiment – 'the Highlands' are the mountainous region of northern and western Scotland.)
Patient – Aye, sir.
- d. Dr Bell – And you were an officer?
Patient – Aye, sir.
- e. Dr Bell – And you were stationed at Barbados? (The easternmost island of the West Indies.)
Patient – Aye, sir.

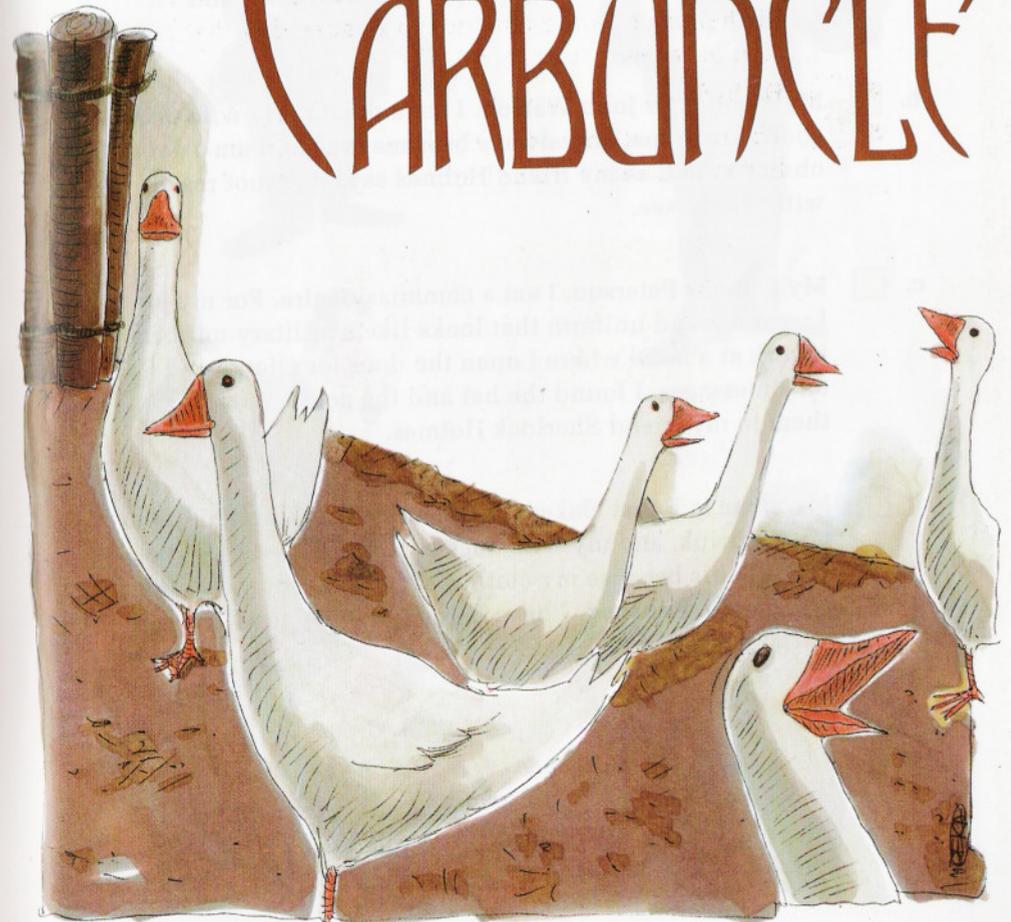
Now match the explanations given by Bell himself as to how he was able to guess so many things about this man by simply observing him closely.

1. d He had an air of authority.
2. His disease was elephantiasis, a disease which occurs only in tropical countries, and which is also called 'Barbados Leg'.
3. The man was very respectful, but he did not remove his hat. In the army men do not remove their hat as a sign of respect; they salute.
4. He had a Scottish accent.
5. The man had not been a civilian long enough to have the habit of removing his hat as a sign of respect.



Dr. Joseph Bell.
The Stanley MacKenzie Collection.

THE BLUE CARBUNCLE



Before you read

1 The characters of the first part of the story present themselves below. Match their presentations with the picture of each one.

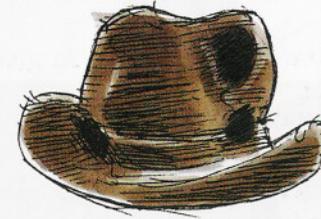
- a. My name is Sherlock Holmes. I am a scientific detective. I solve crimes by logical reasoning and with the help of scientific instruments like forceps and magnifying glasses. When I am at home I like to relax and be comfortable. At home I often wear my purple dressing-gown and smoke a pipe.
- b. My name is Dr John Watson. I am a doctor. My wife takes good care of me, and always brushes my hat. I am a good observer, but, as my friend Holmes says, I do not reason with what I see.
- c. My name is Peterson. I am a commissionaire. For my job I wear a grand uniform that looks like a military uniform. I work at a hotel where I open the door for clients and take messages. I found the hat and the goose, and took them to my friend Sherlock Holmes.
- d. My name is Henry Baker. This is not a good time for me. I often drink, and my wife doesn't love me anymore. You can see this because my clothes are always dirty and my hat is never brushed. I have lost my hat and my Christmas goose.



Listen to this

 **2** Listen to the first section of Part I, and then number the sentences below in the right order. Then listen again, and fill in the blanks.

- a. I sat down in an armchair and warmed my 1..... in front of the fire because it was very cold outside.
- b. I 2..... my friend Sherlock Holmes on the second morning of Christmas. When I arrived he was sitting in front of the fire, wearing his purple dressing-gown.
- c. 3..... to the sofa was a wooden chair, and on the chair was a dirty old hat. A magnifying glass and a forceps were on the chair, so the 4..... was probably part of one of Holmes' investigations.
- d. 'No, no. No crime,' said Sherlock Holmes, laughing. 'It is only one of those strange things that happens when four million human beings 5..... within the small area of a city. With so many people every imaginable combination of events is 6....., and sometimes you can find a problem that is striking and strange but not criminal. Do you 7..... Peterson, the commissioner?'
- e. 'You are busy,' I 8..... 'Perhaps I interrupt you.' 'Not at all,' he replied, and indicated the hat. 'The problem is very 9....., but it is still interesting and maybe even instructive.'
- f. 'I imagine,' I said, 'that this hat is connected with a terrible 10.....'



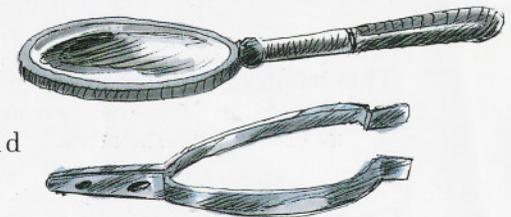
PART I



I visited my friend Sherlock Holmes on the second morning of Christmas. When I arrived he was sitting in front of the fire, wearing his purple dressing-gown. ¹ Next to the sofa was a wooden chair, and on the chair was a dirty old hat. A magnifying glass ² and a forceps ³ were on the chair, so the hat was probably part of one of Holmes' investigations.

'You are busy,' I said. 'Perhaps I interrupt you.'

'Not at all,' he replied, and indicated the hat. 'The problem is very simple, but it is still interesting and maybe even instructive.'



1. **dressing-gown** : a kind of comfortable jacket worn in the house.

2. **magnifying glass** : 

3. **forceps** : 

SHERLOCK HOLMES INVESTIGATES



I sat down in an armchair and warmed my hands in front of the fire because it was very cold outside.

'I imagine,' I said, 'that this hat is connected with a terrible crime.'

'No, no. No crime,' said Sherlock Holmes, laughing. 'It is only one of those strange things that happens when four million human beings live within ¹ the small area of a city. With so many people, every imaginable combination of events is possible, and sometimes you can find a problem that is striking ² and

strange but not criminal.

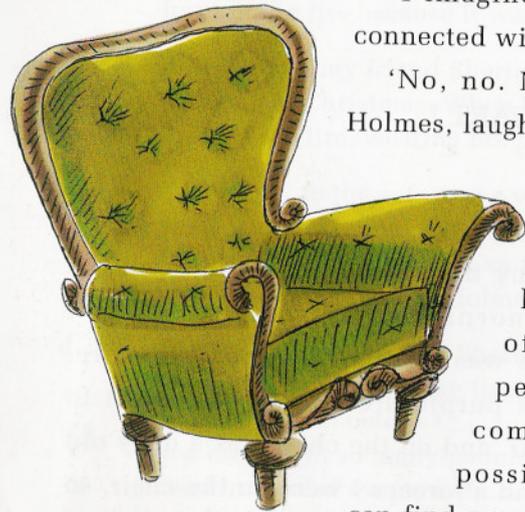
'Do you know Peterson, the commissioner?' ³

'Yes.'

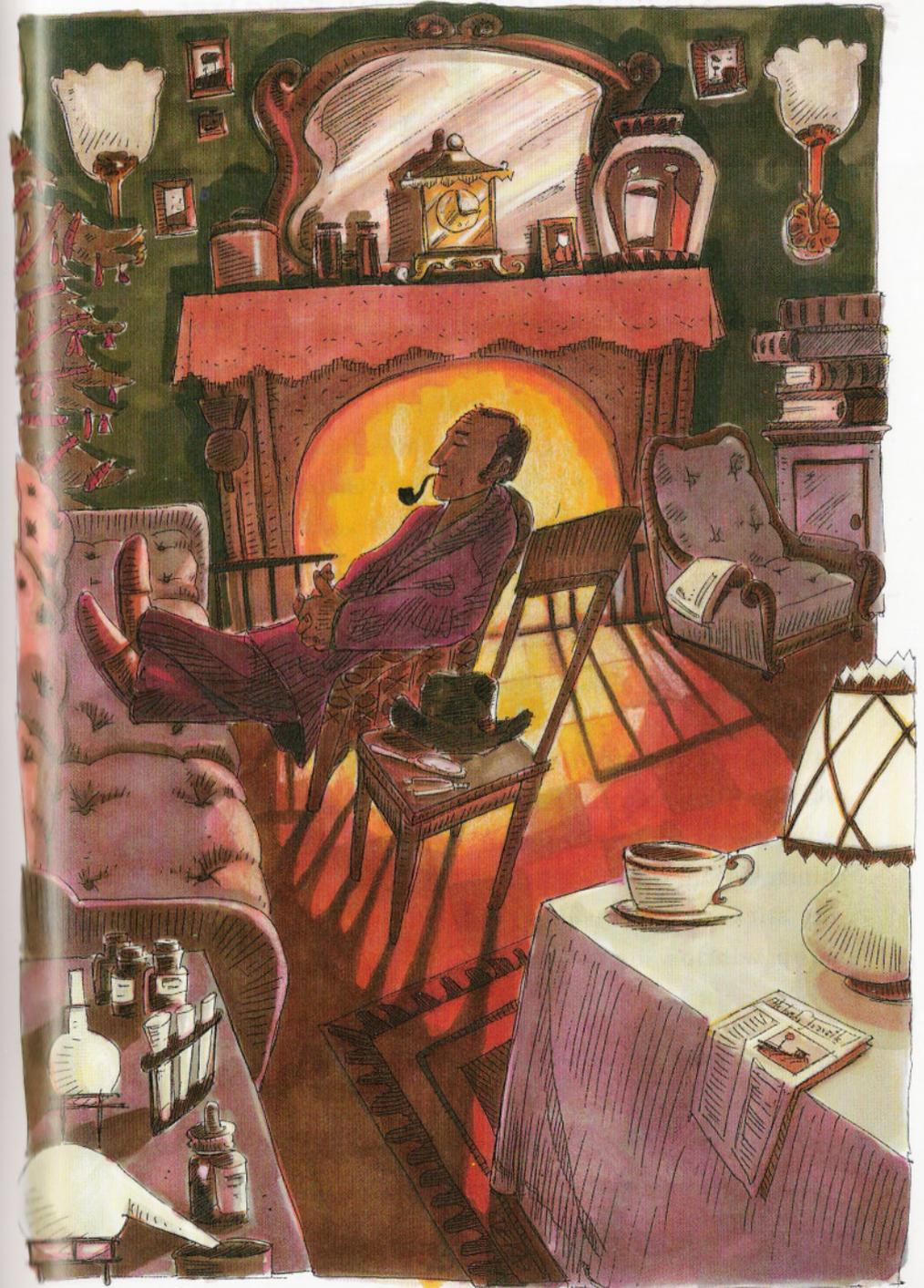
'This trophy ⁴ belongs to him.'

'It is his hat?'

1. **within** : inside the confines or limits of.
2. **striking** : particularly interesting.
3. **commissionaire** : a member of the Corps of Commissionaires; an association of pensioned soldiers, grandly uniformed, who worked as messengers and porters.
4. **trophy** : (here used ironically) prize you receive for winning a sporting event.



END



SHERLOCK HOLMES INVESTIGATES



'No, no. He found it. Its owner ¹ is unknown. Look at it carefully, and not as a dirty old hat, but as an intellectual problem. It arrived here on Christmas morning together with a good fat goose. ² That goose is probably cooking at Peterson's house at this very moment.

'These are the facts. About four o'clock on Christmas morning Peterson was returning from a party along Tottenham Court Road. In front of him he saw a tall man carrying a white goose. Then he



saw some men attack the tall man. One of the attackers knocked his hat off, ³ so the man lifted his walking stick ⁴ to defend himself. But when he lifted the stick he broke a shop window by



1. **owner** : the person who possesses (owns) something is the 'owner'.
2. **goose** : (plural: geese) a large bird similar to a duck.
3. **knocked ... off** : pushed his hat off with force.
4. **walking stick** : a pole that helps you to walk.

THE BLUE CARBUNCLE



mistake. Peterson ran to help the man, but when the man saw Peterson with his commissionaire uniform, he thought he was a policeman, and he ran away and so did the attackers. Peterson was there all alone with the hat and the goose.'

'Of course, Peterson then returned the goose to its owner,' I said.

'No,' replied Holmes, 'that is the problem. It is true that "For Mrs Henry Baker" was written on a small card attached to the leg of the goose, and that the initials "H.B." are written on the lining ¹ of the hat. But there are thousands of Bakers and hundreds of Henry Bakers in London.'



'What, then, did Peterson do?'

'He brought both the goose and the hat to me on Christmas morning, because he knows that I am interested in even the smallest problems. I kept the goose until this morning and then I gave it to Peterson to cook for dinner.'

'Did the man who lost the goose put a notice in the newspaper?'

'No.'

'Then how can you discover who he is?' I asked.

1. **lining** : the material covering the inside of a hat, coat, jacket, etc.

SHERLOCK HOLMES INVESTIGATES



'From his hat,' replied Holmes.

'You are joking! ¹ What can you learn from this dirty, old hat?'

'Here is my magnifying glass,' replied Holmes. 'You know my methods. Look at the hat and see what you can discover about the identity of the man.'

I picked up ² the hat and looked at it carefully. It was a very ordinary round black hat. It was very worn ³ and inside I could see the initials 'H.B.'.

There was a hole in the brim ⁴ for the hat-securer, ⁵ but the elastic was missing. It was very dusty ⁶ and spotted ⁷ in several places, but the owner had tried to cover these spots with black ink.

'I can see nothing,' I said, and gave the hat to Holmes.

'On the contrary, Watson, you can see everything, but you do not reason with what you see.'

1. **You are joking** : You are not serious.

2. **picked up** : took in my hand.

3. **worn** : in bad condition because it has been used a lot.

4. **brim** : 

5. **hat-securer** : a band that holds the hat on the head.

6. **dusty** : covered with dust (small dry particles).

7. **spotted** : marked with dirty spots.

THE BLUE CARBUNCLE



'Then please tell me what you can deduce from this hat,' I said.

'Well,' said Holmes as he looked at the hat carefully, 'I can see that the man was highly intellectual, and that three years ago he had enough money, but recently he has had difficulties with money. He had foresight ¹ in the past, but much less now, which means he has some problem, probably drink. ² This is probably the reason why his wife has stopped loving him.'

'My dear Holmes!'

'He has, however, kept some self-respect,' continued Holmes. 'He stays at home and goes out very little.

He is totally out of training, ³ is middle-aged, has grey hair, which has been

recently cut, and he uses

lime-cream. ⁴ These are

the main facts. Also, I do

not think he has gas

lighting in his house.'

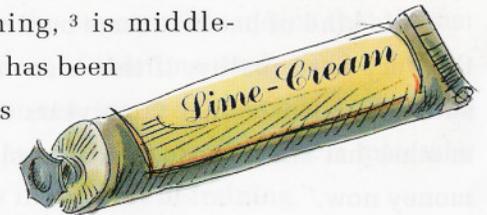
'You are certainly joking, Holmes.'

1. **foresight** : careful planning for the future.

2. **drink** : (here) the habit of drinking too many alcoholic drinks: whisky, beer, etc.

3. **out of training** : in bad physical condition because he does not exercise very much.

4. **lime-cream** : a hair cream.



SHERLOCK HOLMES INVESTIGATES



‘Not at all. Don’t you understand how I inferred ¹ these things?’

‘I am certain that I am very stupid,’ I replied, ‘but I can’t follow your reasoning. For example, how did you deduce that this man was an intellectual?’

To answer me Holmes put the hat on his head. The hat was too big for him and covered his eyes.

‘It’s a question of volume,’ said Holmes. ‘If a man has such a big brain, he must have something in it.’

‘How do you know he has less money now than in the past?’

‘This kind of hat first came out three years ago. It is a hat of the very best quality. If this man had enough money to buy such an expensive hat three years ago, but he has not bought another hat since then, then it is clear that he has much less money now.’

‘Well, that is clear enough, certainly. But how about the foresight?’

Sherlock Holmes laughed. ‘Here is the foresight,’ he said, pointing at the hat-securer. ‘Hat-securers are never sold with hats. This means that he ordered it, which is a certain sign of foresight. But since he has not replaced ² the broken elastic,

1. **inferred** : deduced, decided.

2. **replaced** : substituted with another one.

THE BLUE CARBUNCLE



this means that he has less foresight than before. But he has tried to hide some of the spots on his hat with ink which means he has not completely lost his self-respect.’

‘Your reasoning is certainly very good,’ I said.

‘That he is middle-aged, that his hair is grey, that his hair has been recently cut and that he uses lime-cream can all be seen by looking closely at the inside of the hat. With the magnifying glass you can see the partially grey hairs cut by a barber’s scissors. They stick to the hat and there is the distinct odour of lime-cream. Also, you will observe that the dust on the hat is the soft, brown dust you find in houses, not the hard, grey dust you find in the streets. This means that the hat is kept inside the house most of the time, and that he doesn’t go out very often. Also you can see the sweat ¹ stain ² on the inside of the hat, which means he perspired ³ a lot. A man who perspires so much can’t be in the best of training.’

‘But his wife – you said that she stopped loving him.’

‘This hat has not been brushed ⁴ for weeks. When a man’s wife lets him go out in such bad condition it means that she doesn’t love him anymore.’

1. **sweat** [swet] : perspiration, the liquid that comes out of the skin when you are hot.

2. **stain** : dirty mark.

3. **perspired** : exuded perspiration.

4. **brushed** : cleaned with a brush.

SHERLOCK HOLMES INVESTIGATES



'But he could be a bachelor,'¹ I said.

'No, he was bringing the goose to make peace with his wife. Do you remember the card on its leg?'

'You have an answer for everything. But how did you deduce that he doesn't have gas lighting in his house?'

'Well, if you saw one or two wax² stains on a hat, it could be by chance. But I can see at least five on this hat, which means that this man must use candles very frequently.'

'Well, it is very ingenious,' I said laughing, 'but since a crime has not been committed, all this seems to be a waste of time.'



1. **bachelor** [bætʃələ]: a man who is not married.

2. **wax**: candles are made of wax.

Go back to the text

1 Read the first part of the story and answer the following questions.

- a. When did Watson visit Holmes?
.....
- b. Was the hat connected with an important crime?
.....
- c. Why did Holmes think that the hat was interesting?
.....
- d. Who was Peterson?
.....
- e. Who attacked Henry Baker?
.....
- f. Why did the man carrying the goose run away when he saw Peterson?
.....
- g. Peterson knew that the man's name was Henry Baker, so why didn't he return the goose and the hat?
.....
- h. Why did Peterson bring Holmes the goose and the hat?
.....
- i. How was Holmes going to find out more about the identity of the man who lost the hat and goose?
.....

A dirty hat

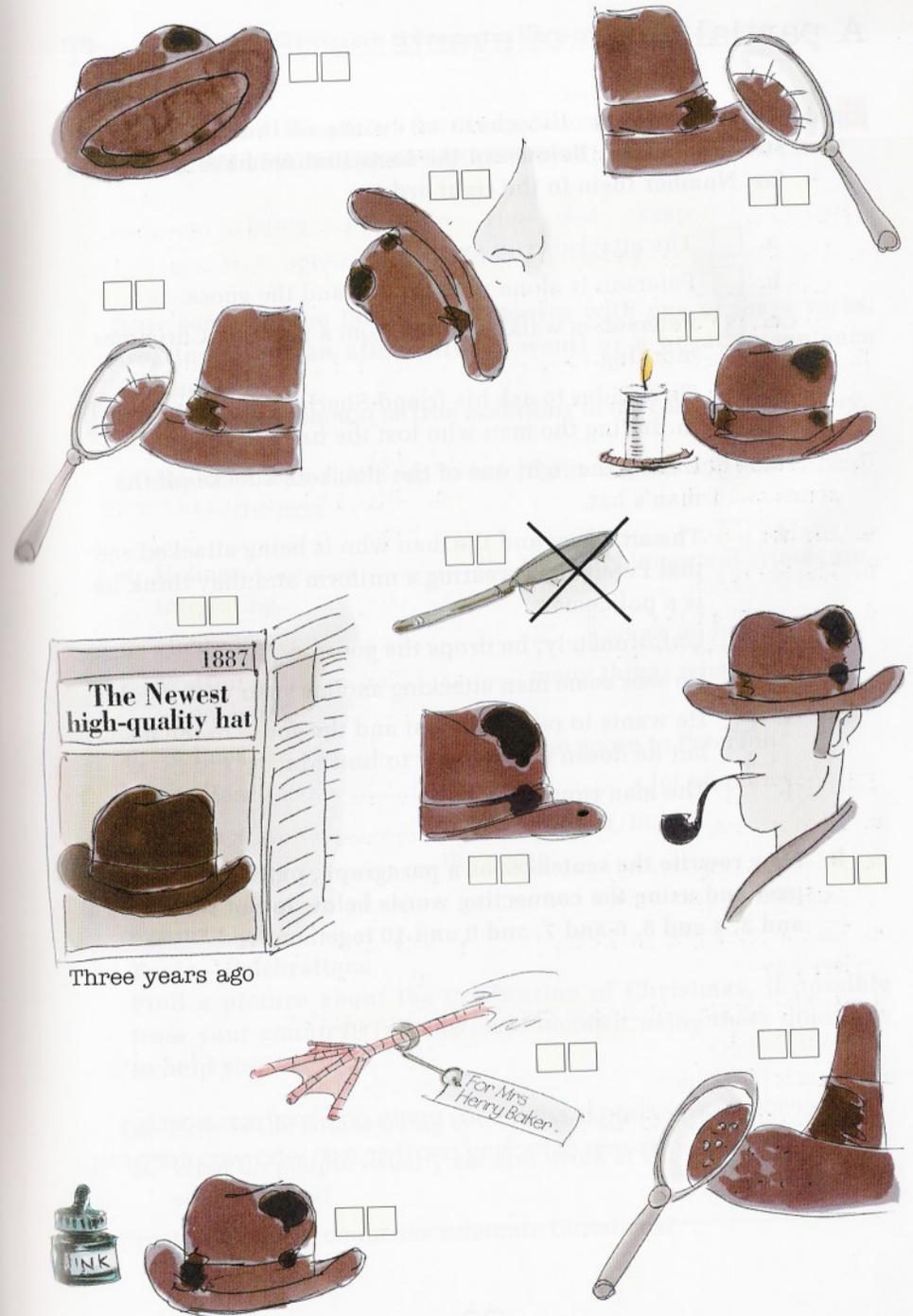
2 Match the pictures of the clues with the written descriptions below. Then match the clues with Sherlock Holmes' deductions.

THE CLUES

1. There is dust on his hat, and it is the kind of dust you find in houses, not on the street.
2. There are some hairs sticking to the hat and there is the distinct odour of lime-cream.
3. There are at least five wax stains on his hat.
4. His hat is not brushed.
5. The hat is big.
6. He bought a hat-securer, but when it broke he did not replace it.
7. There are pieces of cut hair stuck to the inside of the hat.
8. There was the label on the leg of the goose which says 'For Mrs Henry Baker' and there were the initials 'H.B.' written on the inside of the hat.
9. His hair is greyish in colour.
10. This hat came out three years ago, and it is quite worn.
11. He has tried to cover up the stains with ink.
12. There are sweat stains on the hat.

THE DEDUCTIONS

- a. He is intellectual.
- b. He had enough money in the past, but doesn't now.
- c. He had foresight, but he has less now.
- d. He has not completely lost his self-respect.
- e. He is middle-aged.
- f. He has recently had his hair cut.
- g. He uses lime-cream.
- h. He doesn't go out very often.
- i. He is not in the best of training.
- j. His wife has stopped loving him.
- k. He is married.
- l. He does not have gas lighting in his house.



A partial chain of events

3 a. As you will see, the chain of events of this story is very striking indeed. Below are the facts that we have learned so far. Number them in the right order.

- a. The attackers run away.
- b. Peterson is alone with the hat and the goose.
- c. Peterson is walking home from a party on Christmas morning.
- d. He decides to ask his friend Sherlock Holmes for help in finding the man who lost the hat and the goose.
- e. During the fight one of the attackers knocks off the man's hat.
- f. The attackers and the man who is being attacked see that Peterson is wearing a uniform and they think he is a policeman.
- g. Unfortunately, he drops the goose.
- h. He sees some men attacking another man with a goose.
- i. He wants to return the hat and the goose to the man but he doesn't know how to find him.
- j. The man runs away too.

b. Now rewrite the sentences as a paragraph, putting them in the past and using the connecting words below to put sentences 1 and 2, 4 and 5, 6 and 7, and 9 and 10 together.

so but when so

Peterson was walking home from a party on Christmas morning when he saw some men attacking another man who was carrying a goose.

.....

The Baker Street irregulars

4 Find the Past Simple of the irregular verbs below in the verb square. All of them appear in the story.

come put lie run see keep
give lose say have/has

Now complete the following sentences with one of these verbs, creating either an affirmative (I went) or a negative sentence (I didn't go).

These sentences should be true according to the context of the story.

Example: Holmes *didn't run* to help the man. Peterson *ran* to help the man.

- a. Holmes that only important crimes are interesting.
- b. Henry Baker a goose and a hat.
- c. Watson many things when he looked at the hat.
- d. Holmes the goose to Peterson.
- e. Mr Henry Baker a lot of money.
- f. Holmes the hat, but he the goose.

T: GRADE 5

5 Topic – Celebrations

Find a picture about the celebration of Christmas, if possible from your country. Tell the class about it using these questions to help you:

- a. How is Christmas being celebrated in the picture?
- b. What do people usually eat and drink at this celebration in your country?
- c. Which other countries celebrate Christmas?

This trophy belongs to him

6 Look at the pictures on the opposite page and match the objects with their owners.

Now write five dialogues as in the example. Make sure the verb is conjugated correctly and use the correct possessive pronoun (*mine, yours, his/hers, ours, yours, theirs*).

- Who does this trophy belong to?
It belongs to Peterson.
- Are you sure it's his?
Yes, I am.

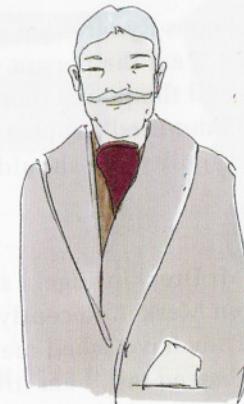
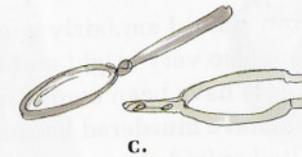
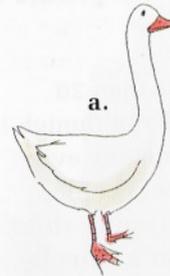
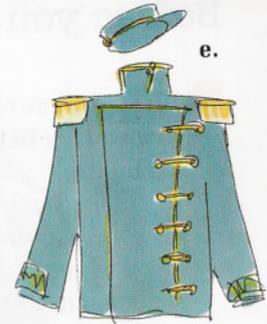
a. Who.....?
..... Mr and Mrs Henry Baker.
Are you sure?
Yes, I am.

b. Who.....?
..... Watson's wife.
Are you sure?
Yes, I am.

c. Who.....?
..... Holmes.
Are you sure?
Yes, I am.

d. Who.....?
..... Mr Henry Baker.
Are you sure?
Yes, I am.

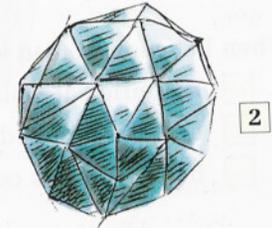
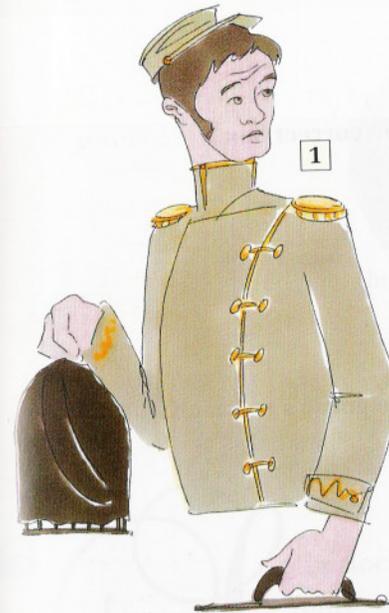
e. Who.....?
..... Peterson.
Are you sure?
Yes, I am.



Before you read

1 The characters of the second part of the story present themselves below. Match their presentations with the picture of each one.

- a. I am from China, and I am fairly young, less than 20 years old. I am also very bright and shiny. Even though I am very young, I have been connected with many evil things. People have murdered because of me. People have committed suicide because of me. The police think that I was taken from the Countess of Morcar's room by a young man called John Horner, a plumber. I can cut glass like butter.
- b. My name is John Horner. I am a plumber. I was accused of stealing the blue carbuncle, but I am innocent! It is true that I committed a robbery many years ago. But now I work honestly. You must find the person who really stole the blue carbuncle, or I will go to prison for seven years.
- c. My name is James Ryder. I am an attendant at the Hotel Cosmopolitan. I am the person who discovered the robbery. I called the police immediately. I knew that John Horner had committed a robbery many years ago. I am sure that he is guilty. He should go to prison for his crime.
- d. My name is Mr Breckinridge. I sell geese at a stall in Covent Garden Market. Recently many people have come to my stall. They have asked me about a certain white goose with a barred tail. I am tired of this. If they come again, my dog will attack them. After all, I am a goose salesman not a detective!



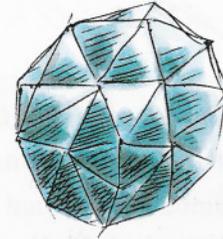
Listen to this

PET 2 Listen to the first section of Part II.



For each question, put a tick (✓) in the correct box.

- When Peterson rushed in
 - he smiled at Holmes.
 - he looked incredibly shocked.
 - he took off his coat.
- What did Peterson's wife find in the goose's stomach?
 - A red necklace.
 - An old shoe.
 - A precious blue stone.
- Who does the stone belong to?
 - The Countess of Morcar.
 - Peterson's wife.
 - Sherlock Holmes.
- What is the blue stone?
 - A diamond.
 - A blue carbuncle.
 - A piece of glass.
- Holmes shows Watson and Peterson
 - an old book he read.
 - a newspaper article.
 - a letter from the Countess of Morcar.



PART II



Sherlock Holmes had opened his mouth to reply, when the door opened and Peterson, the commissioner rushed in. ¹ He looked incredibly shocked.

'The goose, Mr Holmes! The goose, sir!' he cried.

'What? Has it returned to life and flown out of your kitchen window?' said Holmes.

'Look here, sir! Look what my wife found in its stomach!' He showed us a shiny ² blue stone in his hand.

'By Jove, ³ Peterson,' said Holmes, 'this is a treasure! Do you know what you have got?'

'A diamond, sir! A precious stone! It cuts glass like butter.'

1. **rushed in** : hurried in, came in quickly.

2. **shiny** : bright, reflecting light.

3. **By Jove** : exclamation of surprise.



'It is more than a precious stone. It's *the* precious stone.'

'Not the Countess of Morcar's blue carbuncle ¹ that was stolen?' I cried.

'Precisely so,' responded Holmes, 'and here is the newspaper article that tells the story:'

END

Hotel Cosmopolitan Jewel Robbery

John Horner, 26-year-old plumber, has been arrested for stealing the famous blue carbuncle from the Countess of Morcar.

James Ryder, an attendant at the hotel, said that he had sent Horner to the Countess' room on the day of the robbery to repair a bar of the grate. ² Ryder said that he stayed with Horner for a few minutes, but then he had to leave. When Ryder returned he saw that somebody had forced open the

Countess' bureau. ³ Ryder called the police and the police arrested Horner that same evening. Catherine Cusack, the Countess' maid ⁴ said that she heard Ryder call for help. She ran into the room and saw the same things that Ryder described to the police. In addition, the police discovered that Horner had already been charged with ⁵ robbery in the past, but Horner says that in this case he is innocent. His trial ⁶ will be soon.

1. **carbuncle** : generally it is a red precious stone, but here it is blue, which makes it especially valuable.
2. **grate** : metal bars on a fireplace which hold the coal or wood.
3. **bureau** : writing desk.
4. **maid** : female servant.
5. **charged with** : formally accused of.
6. **trial** : the legal procedure before a judge to decide if someone is guilty or not.

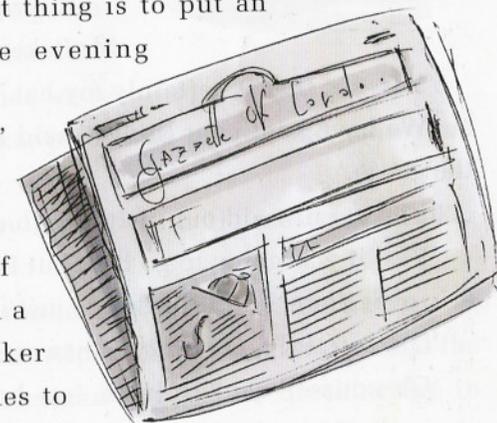


'Hum! So much for ¹ the police report,' said Holmes throwing the paper on a chair. 'You see, Watson, our little deductions about the hat have become much more important and less innocent. Here is the stone: the stone came from the goose, and the goose came from Mr Henry Baker, the gentleman with the bad hat which we examined so carefully. Now we must discover Mr Baker's part in this mystery. To find him, the simplest thing is to put an advertisement ² in the evening newspaper.'

'What will you say?' I asked.

'Well,' said Holmes, "Found at the corner of Goodge Street a goose and a black hat. Mr Henry Baker can have them if he comes to 221b Baker Street at 6.30 this evening."

Then Holmes sent Peterson to buy another goose to give to Baker if he came, and to put the advertisement in all the newspapers. I left to work for the day.



1. **So much for ...** : That's all there is to say about ...
2. **advertisement** : notice.



SHERLOCK HOLMES INVESTIGATES



That evening when I returned, I saw a tall man wearing a Scotch hat ¹ waiting outside Holmes' house. We entered together.



'Mr Henry Baker, I believe,' said Holmes when he saw us. 'Please sit by the fire and get warm. Ah, Watson, you have come at the right time. Is that your hat, Mr Baker?'

'Yes, sir, that is certainly my hat.'

'We have kept your things,' said Holmes, 'but we had to eat the goose.'

'You ate it!' said our visitor with excitement.

'Yes, it was going to go bad, but I bought you another goose. It is over there, and I think it is just as good.'

'Oh, certainly, certainly!' answered Mr Baker with relief. ²

'Oh course,' said Holmes, 'we have the feathers, legs and stomach of your bird if you want them.'

The man laughed loudly. 'Perhaps I could keep them to remember my adventure, but, no, I don't need them. Thank you, but I will take this goose and go.'

1. **Scotch hat** : 

2. **with relief** : happily because he knows that he has another goose.

THE BLUE CARBUNCLE



'There is your hat, then, and there is your bird,' said Holmes. 'By the way, ¹ could you tell me where you got your goose from? It was a splendid bird, and I would like to get another one like it.'

'Certainly, sir,' said Mr Baker, 'I got it at the Alpha Inn ² near the Museum. You see, the owner of the inn, Mr Windigate, started a goose-club. Each week we gave him a few pence, and then at Christmas we received a goose.'



After this Mr Henry Baker picked up his hat and goose, and left.

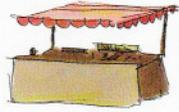
'So much for Mr Henry Baker,' said Holmes when Baker had gone.

We decided to go immediately to the Alpha Inn to investigate the goose. At the Alpha Inn we discovered that the goose had come from a salesman ³ called Mr Breckinridge in Covent Garden. So, once again, Holmes and I put on our coats and walked to Covent Garden to talk to Mr Breckinridge.

'Remember,' said Holmes as we walked to Covent Garden, 'at one end of this chain of events we have a simple goose, but

1. **By the way** : an expression used to add something to what you are saying.
2. **Inn** : an 'inn' is a place where you can drink, eat and have a room for sleeping.
3. **salesman** : a man whose job is to sell things.

SHERLOCK HOLMES INVESTIGATES



at the other end of the chain there is a man who will go to prison for seven years if we cannot show that he is innocent.'

We soon found Mr Breckinridge's stall,¹ and Holmes asked him about his geese. I was surprised when Mr Breckinridge replied angrily to Holmes' questions.

'I have had enough. I am tired of people asking me "Where are the geese?" and "Who did you sell the geese to?" and "How much money do you want for the geese?" Enough!'

With a little bit of difficulty, Holmes finally got the information we needed: the geese had come from Mrs Oakshott, 117 Brixton Road. We were walking away when we heard shouting from Mr Breckinridge's stall. We turned round and saw a little man in front of the stall.

'I've had enough of you and your geese! If you come here again, my dog will attack you!' shouted Mr Breckinridge at the little man.

The little man started walking away, and Holmes and I went after him. Holmes put his hand on the man's shoulder. The little man turned around and looked frightened. He said, 'Who are you? What do you want?'

'Excuse me,' said Holmes, 'but I heard you talking to the goose salesman, and I think I can help you.'

1. **stall** : a table or open-fronted shop in an outdoor market.

THE BLUE CARBUNCLE



'You? Who are you? How could you know anything about the matter?'¹

'My name is Sherlock Holmes. It is my business² to know what other people don't know.'

'But do you know anything about this?'

'Excuse me, I know everything about this. You are trying to find some geese which were sold by Mrs Oakshott, of Brixton Road, to a salesman called Breckinridge, who then sold them to Mr Windigate of the Alpha Inn, who then gave one of them to a member of his goose-club called Mr Henry Baker.'

'You are the man I wanted to meet,' said the little man, whose name, as we then discovered was John Ryder. Yes, John Ryder, the man who had called the police to report the stolen blue carbuncle. We then returned to Holmes' house to discuss the matter in front of a warm fire.

'Here we are!' said Holmes happily, as we entered his room. 'Now do you want to know what happened to those geese?'

'Yes, sir,' replied Ryder.

'But you really want to know what happened to that goose – the white one with a black bar across its tail.'

Ryder shook³ with emotion. 'Oh sir,' he cried, 'where did it go?'

1. **the matter** : (here) the situation.

2. **business** : concern, job.

3. **shook** : trembled.



'It came here.'

'Here?'

'Yes, and it was an incredible bird. I am not surprised that you want to find that goose. It laid an egg ¹ after it died – the brightest little blue egg that you have ever seen. I have it here in my museum.'²

Our visitor stood up and then almost fell down. Holmes took out the blue carbuncle, and Ryder stared ³ at it. He did not know if he should say it was his or not.

'The game is up, ⁴ Ryder. I know almost exactly what happened. Because you worked at the Hotel Cosmopolitan you knew that the Countess of Morcar had the blue carbuncle in her room.'

'It was the Countess' maid, Catherine Cusack, who told me about it.'

'I see,' continued Holmes, 'so you and Catherine Cusack broke the grate in the Countess' room so that Horner had to come and repair it. You knew that Horner had had a part in a robbery before so that he would be blamed ⁵ for this one. Then,

1. **laid an egg** : produced an egg (lay, laid, laid – to lay an egg).
2. **museum** : not a real museum but a cabinet. Holmes, as usual, is being ironic.
3. **stared** : looked for a long time.
4. **The game is up** : expression that is said to a criminal when he is caught. Here, 'We know you stole the carbuncle and we have caught you'.
5. **be blamed** : be accused of doing something wrong.

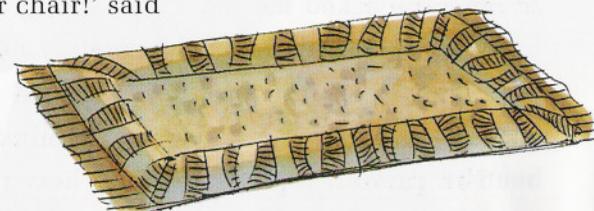


when Horner had finished repairing the grate, you called the police and the unfortunate man was arrested. You then...'

Ryder threw himself onto the rug ¹ and held onto Holmes' knees, ² 'For God's sake have mercy! ³ Think of my father! Think of mother! It would break their hearts.'

'Get back into your chair!' said

Holmes sternly. ⁴ 'It is easy to say that now, but you did not think of this poor Horner before.'



'I will go away, Mr Holmes, and without my testimony Horner will be free.'

'Hum! We will talk about that next,' said Holmes. 'And now tell us how the blue carbuncle came into the goose, and how the goose came into the open market. Tell us the truth because that is your only chance not to go to prison.'

Ryder moved his tongue over his dry lips and began his story.

1. **rug** : small carpet.
2. **knees** : 
3. **For God's sake have mercy!** : For the love of God have compassion!
4. **sternly** : severely.

SHERLOCK HOLMES INVESTIGATES



'I will tell you exactly what happened. After I had the blue carbuncle I was terrified. I did not know where to go. I thought I saw the police everywhere. Finally I decided to go to my sister's. My sister married a man called Oakshott and lives on Brixton Road, where she fattens ¹ geese for the market. When I arrived she asked me what was wrong. I told her that I was upset about the robbery at the hotel.

'I then went out into the backyard ² where the geese are, and smoked a pipe. I had a friend called Maudsley who had been in prison. He had told me how thieves ³ sold stolen property, ⁴ so I decided to go to him with the blue carbuncle. However, I did not know how I could carry the blue carbuncle to his house. Then I had the idea to force one of the geese to swallow ⁵ the stone. My sister had told me that I could have one of the geese for Christmas. So I caught one of the geese – a big white one with a barred tail, ⁶ and forced open its beak ⁷ and pushed the stone in with my finger. The goose then

1. **fattens** : gives animals food so that they become bigger and fatter.
2. **backyard** : enclosed area behind a house.
3. **thieves** : (singular, thief) somebody who steals things, somebody who takes things that are not his.
4. **stolen property** : things belonging to other people taken illegally.
5. **swallow** : send something from your mouth to your stomach.

6. **barred tail** :



7. **beak** :



SHERLOCK HOLMES INVESTIGATES



swallowed the stone. Then I told my sister that I wanted my Christmas goose then. She thought it was a bit strange, but in the end she said I could have the goose.

‘Unfortunately, while I was talking to my sister the goose escaped and went in the middle of the flock¹ with the other geese. I caught it again, killed it and took it to my friend Maudsley. I told him the story. We then cut open the goose, but we could not find the stone! I ran back to my sister, and asked her if there were any other white geese with barred tails. She said that there were two other ones, but she had sold them to the dealer² called Breckinridge of Covent Garden.

‘I went to him, and he told me that he had sold them all. You heard him tonight. Now I will be considered a thief, and I have not even touched the blue carbuncle. God help me!’

There was a moment of silence, and then Holmes got up and opened the door.

‘Get out!’³ shouted Holmes.

‘What sir? Oh thank you!’ cried Ryder.

‘No more words. Get out!’

And there were no more words. Ryder ran out of the room and out of the house.

1. **flock** : a group of birds.
2. **dealer** : a person who buys and sells things.
3. **Get out!** : Go away! Leave this room!

THE BLUE CARBUNCLE



‘After all, Watson,’ said Holmes, reaching for his pipe, ‘if the police can’t catch their own criminals, I don’t have to do it for them. Also this Ryder will never commit another crime again. He is too frightened. Besides,¹ this is the season of forgiveness.² Chance has given us an incredibly interesting little problem, and its solution should satisfy us. And now, Doctor, we shall begin another investigation in which a bird is also the most important part: our dinner.

THE END



1. **Besides** : In addition, moreover.
2. **forgiveness** : pardon, mercy.

Go back to the text

PET 1 Read the sentences below. For each question put a tick (✓) in the correct box.

- 1 Why did Peterson come to see Holmes?
- A Because he had lost his Christmas goose.
 B Because his goose had died.
 C Because the goose had come to life again and flown out of the window.
 D Because he had found a precious stone in the stomach of the goose.
- 2 How did Peterson know that it was a precious stone?
- A Because it was shiny.
 B Because it cut glass like butter.
 C Because Peterson had read about it in the newspaper.
 D Because Holmes told him that it was a precious stone.
- 3 Who is James Ryder?
- A He is the servant of the Countess of Morcar.
 B He is the hotel attendant who sent John Horner up to the Countess' room to repair a grate.
 C He is a friend of the Countess of Morcar.
 D He is a commissionaire, a friend of Sherlock Holmes.
- 4 Who is John Horner?
- A He is a hotel attendant.
 B He is the man who was sent to repair the grate in the Countess' room, and who was later accused of having stolen the blue carbuncle.
 C He is the Countess' servant.
 D He is a friend of James Ryder.

- 5 How does Holmes deduce that Mr Henry Baker had no part in the theft of the blue carbuncle?
- A Because he came to get his hat back.
 B Because he dropped the goose and ran away from Peterson.
 C Because he was only interested in having another goose and he did not want the stomach of the first goose, where the blue carbuncle was.
 D Because he got the goose from the goose-club, and Mr Windigat did not work at the hotel.
- 6 How did Holmes know that Ryder had stolen the blue carbuncle?
- A Because the goose salesman at Covent Garden told him.
 B Because Ryder was looking for the goose, so he must have known that the blue carbuncle was inside it.
 C Because Ryder had called the police to the report the stolen blue carbuncle.
 D Because Henry Baker had not stolen it, so Ryder must have stolen it.
- 7 Why did Ryder force the goose to swallow the blue carbuncle?
- A Because he needed a safe way of carrying the blue carbuncle to his friend Maudsley.
 B Because the goose was too thin.
 C Because he was afraid that his sister would find it.
 D Because he wanted to surprise Henry Baker.
- 8 How did Breckinridge get the goose with the blue carbuncle?
- A The goose escaped from Ryder and then he caught the wrong goose. The goose with the blue carbuncle was then sold by Ryder's sister to Mr Breckinridge.
 B The goose flew to Covent Garden and Mr Breckinridge caught it there.
 C Maudsley sold it to Mr Breckinridge by mistake.
 D Mr Breckinridge went to Ryder's sister and asked her for the goose.

The whole chain of events

2 Number the following sentences in the right order so as to show how the blue carbuncle arrived into Sherlock Holmes' hands.

- a. Mrs Oakshott, James Ryder's sister, sells the goose to Mr Breckinridge.
- b. Mr Peterson takes the goose home, and gives it to his wife who cuts it open to find, to her great surprise, the blue carbuncle!
- c. James Ryder takes the blue carbuncle to his sister's house and forces a goose to swallow it, but the goose escapes!
- d. While returning home with his goose, Mr Henry Baker is attacked by some men and he drops the goose and his hat, which are found by Mr Peterson.
- e. Mr Windigate of the Alpha Inn buys the goose from Mr Breckinridge for his Christmas goose-club.
- f. Mr Windigate of the Alpha Inn gives the goose to a member of his goose-club, Mr Henry Baker.
- g. Mr Peterson takes the goose and the hat to his friend Mr Sherlock Holmes – Holmes keeps the hat, but he gives the goose to Mr Peterson for his dinner.
- h. James Ryder, with the help of the Countess' maid, steals the blue carbuncle.
- i. Mr Peterson takes the blue carbuncle back to Holmes, who then begins his investigation of this incredible chain of events.
- j. The Countess of Morcar brings the blue carbuncle with her to the Hotel Cosmopolitan.

Put it in the past

3 Put all the verbs in the sentences above into the past and rewrite them as a paragraph using linking words.

Conan Doyle Defends the Crew¹ of the *Titanic*

Almost everybody knows about the *Titanic*, the luxury liner² which sank in the Atlantic Ocean on 15 April 1912. It has become a symbol of human arrogance and presumption. The *Titanic* left the English port of Southampton on Wednesday 10 April at full speed.³ It continued to travel at full speed even when it received four telegraph messages saying that there were icebergs in the area. The captain of the *Titanic* was certain that his look-outs⁴ would see the icebergs in time. In fact, at 11.40 p.m. on 14 April the look-outs telephoned the



Titanic in White Dock by G. Fraser.

1. **crew** : the people who work on a ship or aeroplane.
2. **luxury liner** : a ship that carries passengers and is for rich people.
3. **full speed** : as fast as it could go.
4. **look-outs** : the sailors who 'looked out for' icebergs.



Captain Smith.

bridge ¹ and said, 'Iceberg right ahead!' ² The captain then gave orders to change the course ³ of the ship, but he was not in time.

The *Titanic* hit the iceberg on the starboard side, ⁴ and the collision caused a 300-foot cut in its hull. ⁵

At about midnight the captain knew that the boat was going to sink, ⁶ and ordered the crew to begin preparing the lifeboats. ⁷ Unfortunately, not all of the crew knew which lifeboats were theirs or which passengers had to get on their lifeboats. This caused a lot of confusion.

Finally, at 12.30 a.m. the Captain gave the orders for the women and children to be put on the lifeboats, but many of them did not go: many did not realise that the *Titanic* was about to sink; others thought that another ship, the *Carpathia* was nearby; and others

1. **bridge** : the part of the boat where the captain controls the ship.
2. **right ahead** : directly in front of us.
3. **course** : (here) direction.
4. **starboard side** : term used for ships and aeroplanes, right-hand side as you are facing forwards.
5. **hull** : principal body of a ship.
6. **sink** : (sink, sank, sunk) go under the water to the bottom of the ocean.
7. **lifeboats** : the small boats on a ship used when the ship sinks.

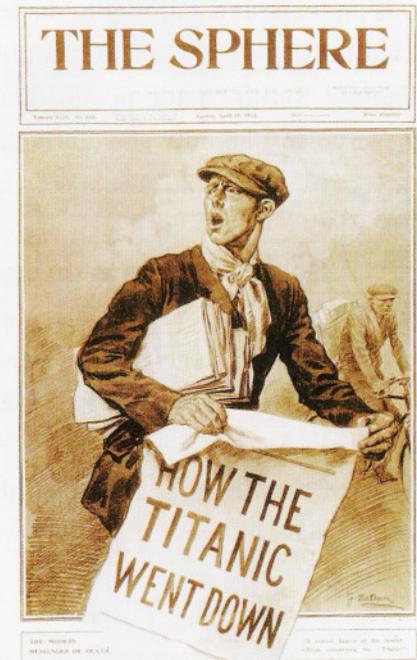
did not want to leave their husbands. Therefore, many lifeboats left half full, and even though the sea was calm, very few of the lifeboats returned to help the passengers in the water after the *Titanic* had sunk.

At 2.30 a.m. Captain Smith and his officers went down with the ship. ¹ Of the 2,200 passengers on board only about 700 survived.

The newspapers of the day wrote about the sinking of the 'unsinkable' ² *Titanic* in great detail. But according to the playwright ³ George Bernard Shaw the journalists did not write the truth. They wrote romantic lies. Arthur Conan Doyle, however, considered Shaw's attack on the journalists of the day as an attack on the crew of the *Titanic* itself and on the honour of Britain.

They both wrote a series of long letters to the newspapers.

1. **went down with the ship** : they stayed on the ship when it sank.
2. **unsinkable** : a boat or ship that can't be sunk is 'unsinkable'.
3. **playwright** : someone who writes plays (*Romeo and Juliet* is a play).



The tragic news was spread quickly.

Arthur wrote in one of his letters that the band on ship played the religious song 'Nearer to God' to keep the passengers calm. George responded that witnesses ¹ reported that the band played happy, quick songs so that the passengers – especially the third-class passengers – did not realise that the *Titanic* was sinking until the lifeboats had gone.

Conan Doyle said that Captain Smith, the captain of the *Titanic* was an honoured sailor who made one 'terrible mistake' and then tried to help save as many people as he could. Shaw replied that Captain Smith 'made no mistake. He knew perfectly well that icebergs are the only risk that is considered really deadly ² in his line of work, ³ and knowing it, he chanced it ⁴ and lost the hazard.'⁵

Arthur thought it was terrible that Shaw criticised the officers of the *Titanic* because they had done their duty very well. Shaw says that the officers in lifeboats refused to rescue ⁶ the people who were in the water after the ship sank because they were afraid.

Arthur Conan Doyle concluded his last letter about the *Titanic* by saying that George Bernard Shaw did not have the humanity that

1. **witnesses** : the people who see something happen.
2. **deadly** : something that kills is deadly.
3. **his line of work** : his kind of job (i.e. captain of a ship).
4. **chanced it** : took that chance, took that risk.
5. **lost the hazard** : he thought he would not hit an iceberg, but he did. Therefore he lost the hazard.
6. **rescue** : save (people in danger).



The *Titanic*'s band – all of them died.

'prevents a man from needlessly¹ hurting the feelings of others'.² Bernard Shaw felt that when people were deeply moved³ by a tragedy like the sinking of the *Titanic* 'they should speak the truth'. The truth? Or respect for the feelings of people who have suffered? Who was right? Shaw or Conan Doyle?

1 Answer these questions about the *Titanic*.

- a. What kind of ship was the *Titanic*?
.....
- b. Did the captain of the *Titanic* know that there were icebergs near his ship?
.....
- c. Why did many women not want to leave the *Titanic* and get on the lifeboats?
.....
- d. How many people were aboard the *Titanic*? How many survived?
.....

1. **needlessly** : for no real reason, unnecessarily.
 2. **hurting ... others** : (to hurt someone's feelings) offending others.
 3. **moved** : touched emotionally.

PET 2 You are one of the passengers that survived the tragedy of the *Titanic*. You want to write letter to a friend describing what happened. Write your letter in about 100 words.

Dear Mary,

3 Fill in the chart below.

What Arthur Conan Doyle thought	What George Bernard Shaw thought
The newspapers wrote good things about the crew of the <i>Titanic</i> .	
	The band on the ship played happy songs so that the poorer, third-class passengers would not know the ship was sinking, and therefore they would not try to get on the lifeboats reserved for the rich first-class passengers.
	Captain Smith knew that there were icebergs in the area, but he took a chance and lost. Because of this many people died.
The crew of the <i>Titanic</i> did their duty well. You should not hurt other people's feelings for no reason.	

4 Look at the construction.

The captain ordered me to come here.

I want you to help me.

She told him to go home.

Subject + verb (to want, to tell, to order) + **object** (noun or object pronoun: me, you, him/her/it, us, you, them) + **infinitive of verb**.

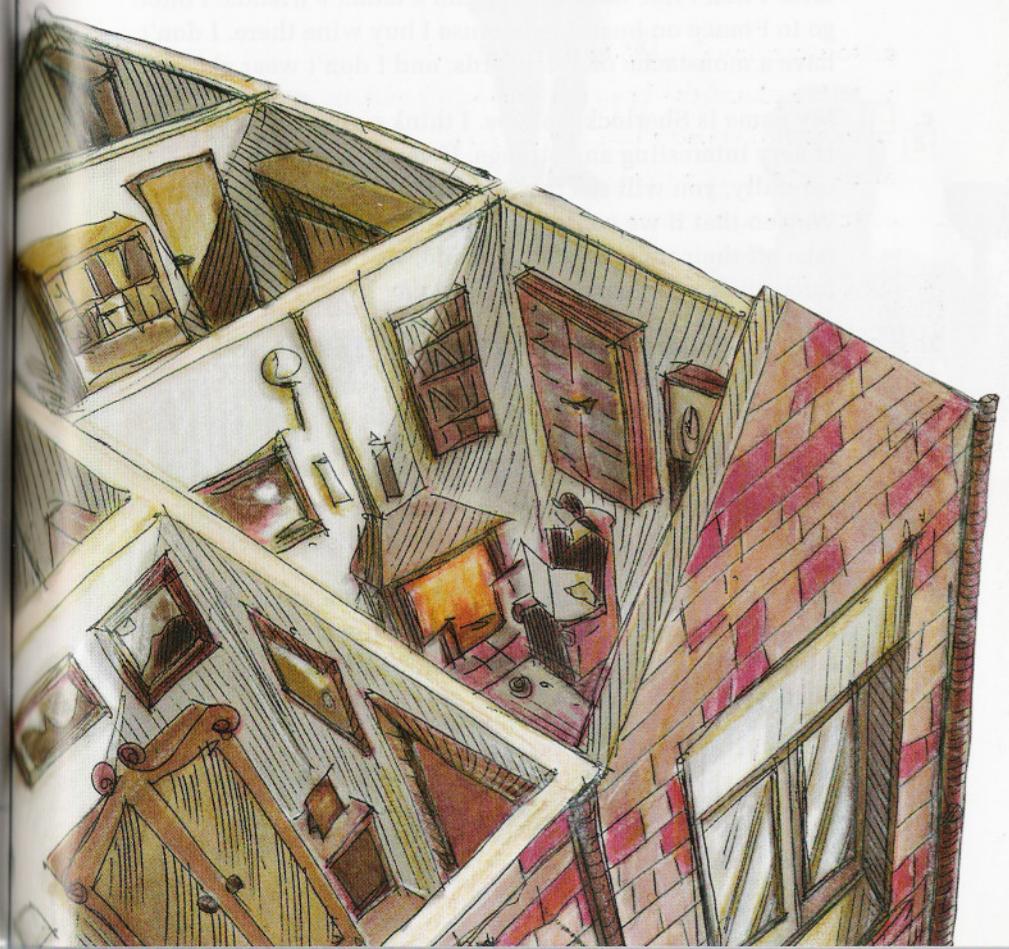
Write sentences using the elements below, and say what Captain Smith ordered or didn't order the crew of the *Titanic* to do.

- to slow down the *Titanic* in case of icebergs
- to telephone the bridge if they saw icebergs
- to go full speed ahead, even though there were icebergs
- to put the men in the lifeboats at 12.00 a.m.
- to stay on the *Titanic* when it was sinking



Titanic, painted by George Washington Sandell.

A CASE OF IDENTITY



Before you read

1 The characters of the first part of the story present themselves below. Match their presentations with the picture of each one.

- a. My name is Miss Sutherland. I am a typist. I wear glasses because I have bad eyesight. I was in such a hurry to get to Mr Holmes that I put on boots that weren't matching and I didn't even button them up. I receive interest from the money which I inherited from my uncle. I am engaged to Mr Hosmer Angel.
- b. My name is Mr Windibank. I am a businessman and I work in the City. I don't want Miss Sutherland to go out with men. I don't like Miss Sutherland's father's friends. I often go to France on business because I buy wine there. I don't have a moustache or sideboards, and I don't wear glasses.
- c. My name is Sherlock Holmes. I think normal, everyday life is very interesting and strange. If you observe people carefully, you will see that I am right. I told my good friend Watson that if we could fly over the houses of London, take off their roofs and look inside, we could see how interesting people's normal, everyday lives are.
- d. My name is Mrs Sutherland. I am Miss Sutherland's mother. After my husband died I married a younger man called Mr Windibank.
- e. My name is Mr Hosmer Angel. I am very shy. I always whisper. I wear dark glasses. I have side whiskers and a moustache. I always type my letters to Miss Sutherland.
- f. My name is Mr Sutherland. I died a couple of years ago. Miss Sutherland is my daughter. My wife married soon after I died. Her new husband sold my plumbing business. I had a good business though. I was a plumber.



1



3



2



4



5



6

Physical characteristics

2 This story talks about what is distinctive about a person. Answer the following questions.

- a. What is distinctive and special about you?
- Your physical appearance: hair colour, eye colour, the structure of your body, etc.;
 -
 -
 - The way you talk;
 -
 -
 - The way you write, i.e. your handwriting;
 -
 -
 - The way you dress?
 -
 -

Describe what is distinctive about your partner.

.....

.....

.....

b. What could you change about yourself to hide your true identity?

T: GRADE 6

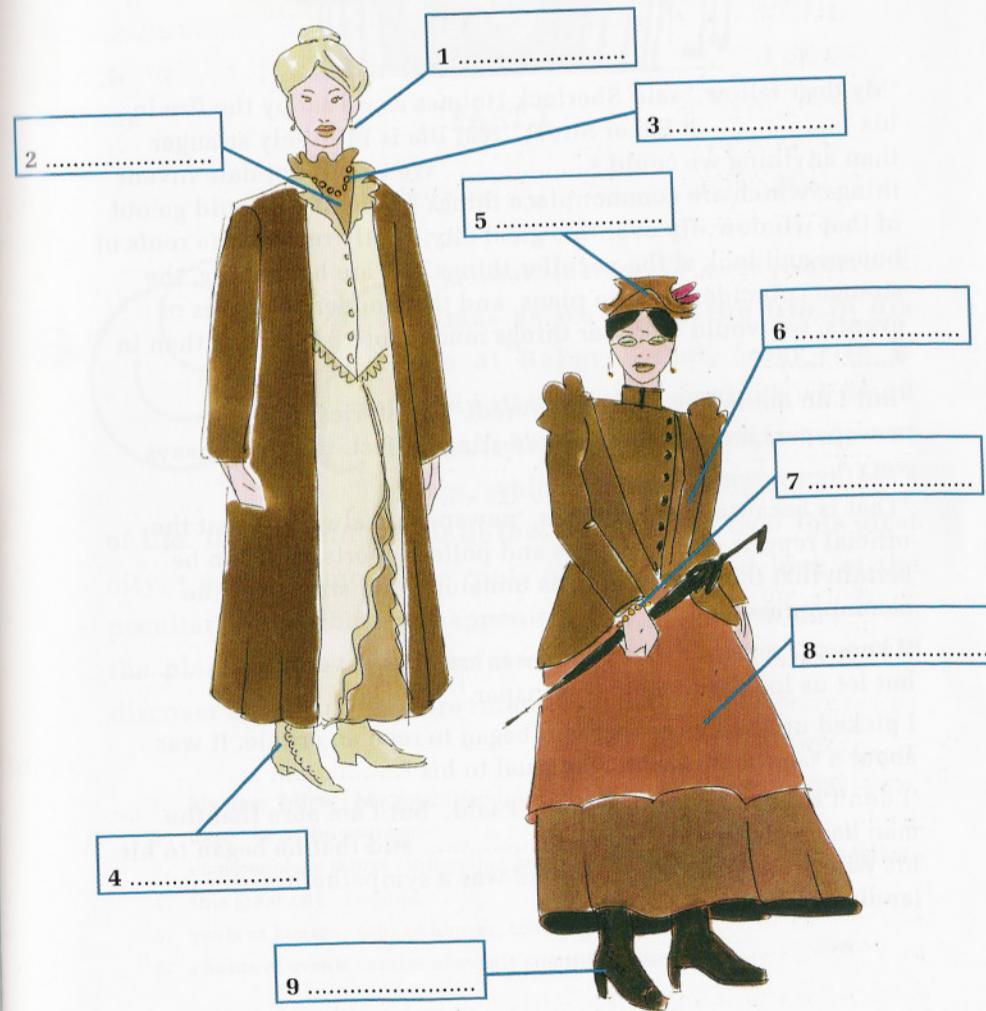
3 Topic - Clothes
Find a picture of someone wearing either old-fashioned or modern clothes which interest you. Tell the class about the clothes using these questions to help you:

- a. What period are the clothes from?
- b. Why do you like these clothes?
- c. How do you think people will dress in the future?

What women wear

4 Match the names of the clothing and jewellery with the pictures.

dress blouse boots jacket earrings
necklace bracelet hat high-heeled shoes



Listen to this

- 4 5 Try to fill in the blanks in the text with the words given below. Then listen to the tape and check your answers.

interesting invent wife boring
books house husband drank

'My dear fellow,' said Sherlock Holmes as we sat by the fire in his 1..... at Baker Street, 'real life is infinitely stranger than anything we could 2..... . We would not dare invent things, which are commonplace things of life. If we could go out of that window, fly over this great city, gently remove the roofs of houses and look at the peculiar things that are happening, the strange coincidences, the plans, and the wonderful chains of events, we would discover things much more interesting than in 3..... .'

'But I do not believe it,' I answered. 'The stories in the newspapers are never very interesting. In fact, they are always very 4.....'

'That is because,' said Holmes, 'newspapers always repeat the official reports of magistrates and police reports. You can be certain that there is nothing as unnatural and strange as the commonplace.'

'I know,' I replied, 'that your cases are always very 5....., but let us look at today's newspaper.'

I picked up the newspaper and began to read an article. It was about a 6..... who was cruel to his 7..... .

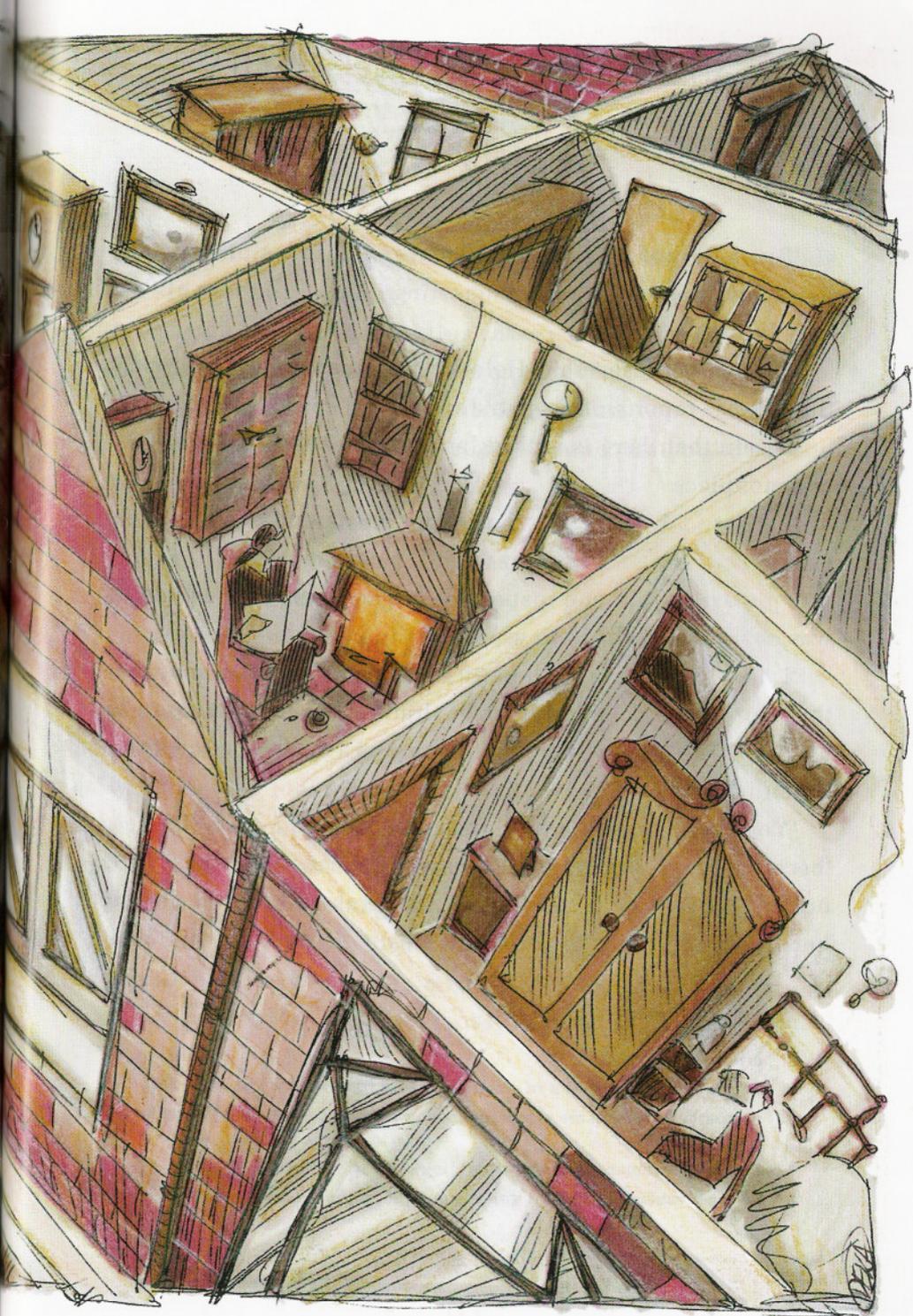
'I don't have to read the article,' I said, 'but I am sure that the man had a girlfriend, that he 8..... and that he began to hit his wife. I am also sure that there was a sympathetic sister or landlady.'



PART I

4 My dear fellow,' 1 said Sherlock Holmes as we sat by the fire in his house at Baker Street, 'real life is infinitely stranger than anything we could invent. We would not dare 2 invent things, which are commonplace things 3 of life. If we could go out of that window, fly over this great city, 4 gently remove the roofs of houses 5 and look at the peculiar things that are happening, the strange coincidences, the plans, and the wonderful chains of events, 6 we would discover things much more interesting than in books.'

1. **My dear fellow** : My good friend.
2. **dare** : have the courage.
3. **commonplace things** : things that happen commonly, often; everyday things.
4. **this great city** : London.
5. **roofs of houses** : tops of houses, coverings of houses.
6. **chains of events** : series of events connected together.



SHERLOCK HOLMES INVESTIGATES



'But I do not believe it,' I answered. 'The stories in the newspapers are never very interesting. In fact, they are always very boring.'¹

'That is because,' said Holmes, 'newspapers always repeat the official reports of magistrates and police reports. You can be certain that there is nothing as unnatural and strange as the commonplace.'

'I know,' I replied, 'that your cases are always very interesting, but let us look at today's newspaper.'

I picked up the newspaper and began to read an article. It was about a husband who was cruel² to his wife.

'I don't have to read the article,' I said, 'but I am sure that the man had a girlfriend, that he drank³ and that he began to hit his wife. I am also sure that there was a sympathetic⁴ sister or landlady.'⁵

'You have chosen a bad example, Watson,' said Holmes, 'because I have worked on this case. The man, Mr Dundas, did not have a girlfriend and he did not drink and he did not hit her. Instead, at the end of every meal⁶ he took out his false

1. **boring** : not interesting.

2. **cruel** : brutal, unkind.

3. **he drank** : he drank a lot of alcoholic drinks like whisky, gin, beer, etc.

4. **sympathetic** : If you are sympathetic, you feel sad or sorry about somebody else's problems.

5. **landlady** : woman who rents a building or flat.

6. **meal** : breakfast, lunch and dinner are meals.

A CASE OF IDENTITY



teeth and threw them at his wife. You must admit that nobody could invent such a story!

'Do you have any interesting cases now?' I asked.

'Well, I am working on ten or twelve cases, but none of them are interesting. They are important, you understand, without being interesting. I have found that unimportant matters are usually more interesting. If there is a big crime, the motive is generally obvious. So, they are generally not very interesting. But I think I will have an interesting case in a few minutes.'

Holmes was standing at the window and looking down at the dull,¹ grey London streets. There was a woman standing in the street. She was moving her hands nervously. It was obvious that she could not make up her mind.² Then suddenly³ she ran across the road and rang Holmes' doorbell.



1. **dull** : (here) not bright, dark.

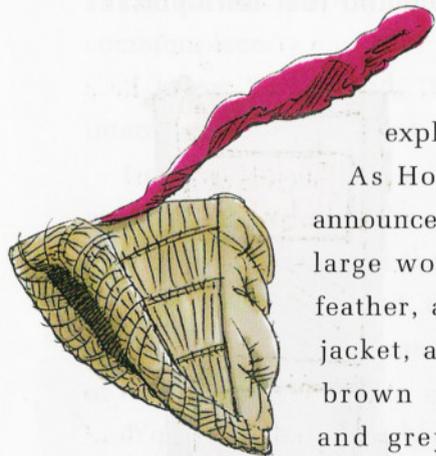
2. **make up her mind** : decide what she wanted to do.

3. **suddenly** : quickly and without warning.

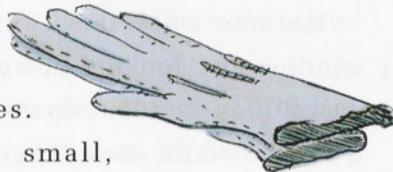
SHERLOCK HOLMES INVESTIGATES



'I know those symptoms,' said Holmes. 'When a woman hesitates like that on the pavement, it means that she has a love problem. She wants help, but she thinks that her problem is too delicate to communicate. But when a woman does not hesitate and rings the doorbell hard, it means she was seriously wronged.¹ In this case, this woman is confused and perplexed, and wants an explanation.'



As Holmes was speaking, the servant announced Miss Mary Sutherland. She was a large woman. She wore a hat with a red feather, a black jacket, a dark brown dress and grey gloves. She also wore small,



round gold earrings.

When Holmes saw her he said, 'Isn't it difficult for you to type² with such bad eyesight.'³

'I thought so at first,' Miss Sutherland replied, 'but now I

1. **wronged** : treated badly.
2. **type** : write using a typewriter.
3. **bad eyesight** : If you have bad eyesight, you cannot see very well.

A CASE OF IDENTITY



can type without looking at the keys.'¹ Then she looked surprised and frightened when she understood that Holmes already knew so much about her.

'How do you know that?' asked Miss Sutherland.

'It is my business to know things,' said Holmes laughing. 'If I could not see these things, why would people come to me? In any case, I can see the marks of the glasses on your nose.'

'I have come here,' she said, 'because I want to know where Mr Hosmer Angel has gone.'

'Why did you come here in such a hurry?' asked Holmes.

Once again Miss Sutherland looked very surprised. Holmes then explained that her boots were not the same and that they were not completely buttoned.

'Yes, I did hurry out of the house because I was angry at Mr Windibank, that is, my father. He did not want to ask the police about Mr Angel. He said that nothing bad had happened. This made me angry so I came here to see you.'

'Your father?' said Holmes. 'He must be your stepfather² because his surname is different from yours.'

'Yes, my stepfather. I call him father, even though that



1. **keys** :
2. **stepfather** : If your mother has a husband after your real father, her new husband is your stepfather.



seems strange to me. You see, he is only five years older than me.'

'And is your mother alive?' asked Holmes.

'Oh, yes, mother is alive and well,' answered Miss Sutherland, 'but I was not happy when she married Mr Windibank so soon¹ after father died. Also, Mr Windibank is fifteen years younger than mother. Father was a plumber² and had a good business, and when he died mother continued the business. But when she married Mr Windibank, he made her sell it.'

'Do you live on the money from the business?' asked Holmes.

'Oh no,' replied Miss Sutherland, 'I inherited some money from my uncle. I cannot touch it, but with the interest I receive one hundred pounds a year.'



'That should be enough for you to live quite comfortably,' said Holmes.

'I give that money to mother, and I live on the money I make typing,' she replied.

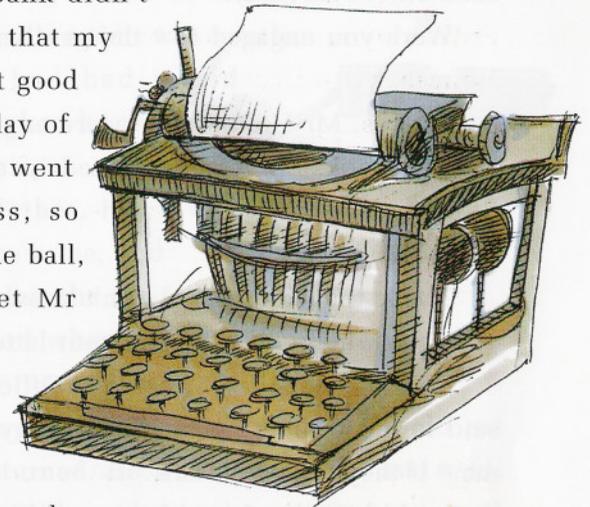
'Now, can you tell us about Mr Hosmer Angel?' asked Holmes.

1. **so soon** : after a very short period of time.

2. **plumber** : someone who repairs water pipes, sinks, toilets, etc.



Miss Sutherland blushed¹ deeply² and said, 'I met him at the plumbers' ball.³ They used to send tickets to my father when he was alive, and after he died they sent them to my mother. But Mr Windibank didn't want us to go. He said that my father's friends were not good enough for us. But the day of the ball, Mr Windibank went to France on business, so mother and I went to the ball, and it was there I met Mr Angel.'



'I suppose,' said Holmes, 'that Mr Windibank was very angry with you when he discovered that you had gone to the ball.'

'No, not very,' replied Miss Sutherland, 'he said that it was impossible to stop a woman when she really wanted something.'

'And did you see Mr Hosmer after the ball?' asked Holmes.

'Yes, but he couldn't come to the house when father was

1. **blushed** : her face became red because she was embarrassed.

2. **deeply** : (here) very much.

3. **ball** : party where you dance.

SHERLOCK HOLMES INVESTIGATES



there. Father didn't want anybody to come to the house. So Mr Hosmer said, "We should wait until your father goes to France before we see each other. In the meantime,¹ we can write to each other every day."

'Were you engaged to² the gentleman at this time?' asked Holmes.

'Oh yes, Mr Holmes. We were engaged after the first walk that we took. Mr Angel worked in an office in Leadenhall Street.'

'Which office?'

'That's the worst part. I don't know.'

'Then where did you send your letters?'

'To the Leadenhall Street Post Office where he got them. He said to me, "The other workers in my office will make fun of me,³ if they see my letters."'

'I told him that I could type my letters, like he did his. But he said, "A typed letter comes from an impersonal machine and not from you." This shows how fond⁴ he was of me, Mr Holmes, and the nice little things he thought of.'

'It was most suggestive,'⁵ said Holmes. 'I have always said

1. **In the meantime** : During that period before Father goes to France.
2. **engaged to** : If you are engaged to someone, you have promised to marry him/her.
3. **make fun of me** : laugh at me; say that I am ridiculous.
4. **fond** : to be fond of = to like.
5. **It was most suggestive** : It suggests many things. It shows many things.

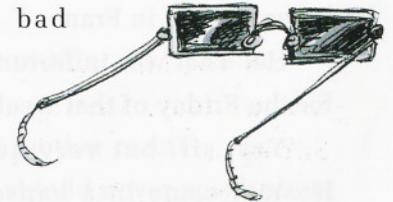
A CASE OF IDENTITY



that the little things are infinitely the most important. Can you remember any other little things about Mr Hosmer Angel?'

'He was a very shy¹ man, Mr Holmes. He always wanted to walk with me in the evening instead of during the day. He was very gentlemanly. Even his voice was gentle.'

He told me that he had had a bad infection of the tonsils when he was a child, so he had to whisper.² He always wore elegant clothes. His eyes were weak, just like mine, and he wore dark glasses against the sun.'



'Well, what happened when Mr Windibank returned to France?' asked Holmes.

'Mr Angel came to my house and said that we should get married before father returned. He was very serious and said, "Put your hand on the Bible and promise me that you will always love me." Mother agreed with him. Mother liked him from the beginning, and liked him even more than I did. When they started talking about our getting married within the week,³ I asked them if I should ask father first. They said no.

1. **shy** : timid.
2. **whisper** : talk very quietly.
3. **within the week** : before the present week ended.

SHERLOCK HOLMES INVESTIGATES



I, however, did not want to do anything in secret, so I wrote to father at his office in France. But the letter came back to me on the very ¹ day of the wedding.'

'It missed ² him then?'

'Yes, sir, he had started back to England just before the letter arrived in France.'

'Ha! That was unfortunate. Your wedding was planned then for the Friday of that week. Was it to be in church?'

'Yes, sir, but very quietly. On the day of the wedding Hosmer came in a hansom ³ to take mother and me to the church. But since there were two of us, mother and I went in the hansom, and Hosmer took a cab. ⁴ We got to the church first, and when the cab arrived, we waited for him to come out, but he never did. The cabman said that he could not understand what had happened to him.'

'I think that you have been very badly treated,' said Holmes.

'Oh no, sir! Hosmer was too good and kind to leave so. Why, all morning before the wedding he said to me, "If anything happens to me, you must always love me. You must

1. **very** : exactly same.

2. **missed** : it arrived after he had already left.

3. **hansom** :



4. **cab** : another type of carriage.

A CASE OF IDENTITY



wait for me. I will return to you." I thought this very strange to say on the day of our wedding, but his disappearance explains everything.'

'It certainly does,' said Holmes. 'In your opinion, did he know that he was in danger?'

'Yes, I think so.'

'But do you know what the danger was?'

'No, I don't.'

'One more question. How did your mother react?'

'She was angry and told me that I should never speak about him again.'

'And your father? Did you tell him?'

'Yes, he said, "Something terrible has happened to Hosmer, but he will return." I agree with my father. Why would Hosmer leave me? After all, there was no money involved. ¹ Hosmer did not borrow money from me, and I never put the money which I had inherited in his name. So he did not take my money and leave.'

Then she pulled out a handkerchief, ² and began to cry.

'I will try to solve your problem,' said Holmes, 'but don't think about it anymore. Forget about Mr Angel.'

'Do you think that I will ever see him again?'

1. **involved** : concerned.

2. **handkerchief** : a small square of cotton or linen used for cleaning your nose or face.

SHERLOCK HOLMES INVESTIGATES



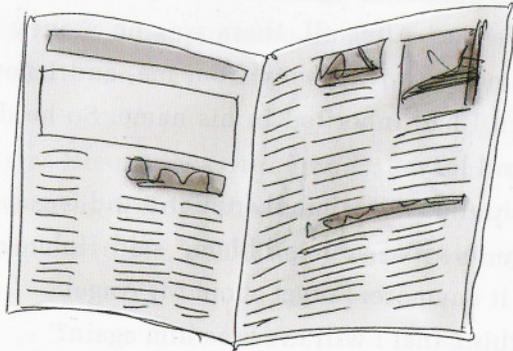
'No, I'm afraid not.'

'Then what has happened to him?'

'You will leave the question with me. Now, I need some of Mr Angel's letters, a good description of him, and also your father's address.'

'I never had Mr Angel's address,' said Miss Sutherland, 'but here is Mr Windibank's address. He works for a wine importer. Here is the advertisement with a description of Hosmer that I put in the newspaper the *Chronicle*.'

Miss Sutherland then left, but before leaving she said, 'I will always wait for Hosmer Angel to return.'



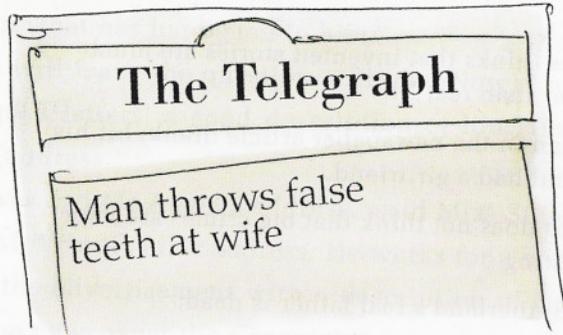
Go back to the text

PET 1 Decide if each sentence is correct or incorrect. If it is correct, tick (✓) A; if it is incorrect, tick (✓) B.

- | | A | B |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 Holmes thinks that invented stories are much stranger than real life. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2 The man in the newspaper article drank, hit his wife and had a girlfriend. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3 Holmes does not think that big crimes are very interesting. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4 Miss Sutherland's real father is dead. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5 Mr Windibank is Miss Sutherland's stepfather. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6 Miss Sutherland receives a hundred pounds a year as interest. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7 Miss Sutherland is a typist. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8 Mr Windibank always went to the plumbers' ball. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 9 Mr Windibank told Miss Sutherland to go to the plumbers' ball. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 10 Mr Windibank was in France when Miss Sutherland went to the plumbers' ball. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 11 Hosmer Angel wrote his letters to Miss Sutherland by hand because he did not like machines. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 12 Miss Sutherland did not want to tell her stepfather that she was going to marry. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 13 Miss Sutherland will always wait for Hosmer to return. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Man throws false teeth at wife

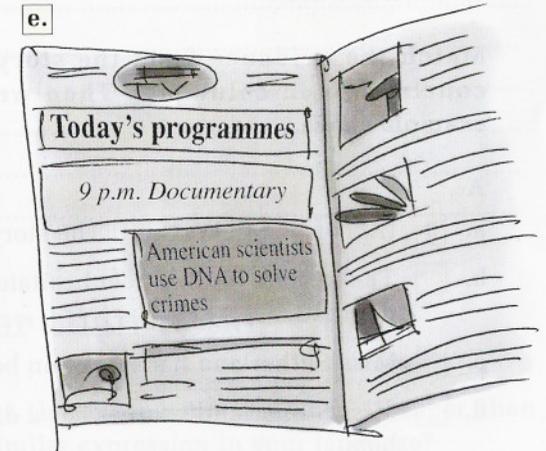
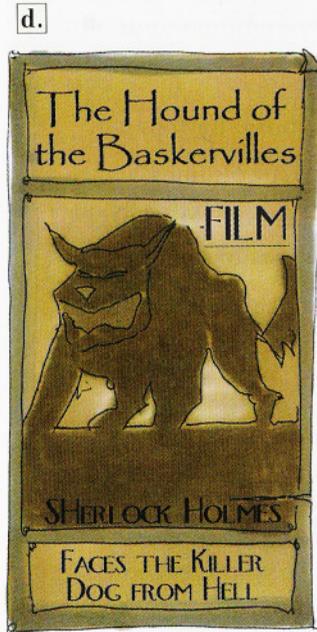
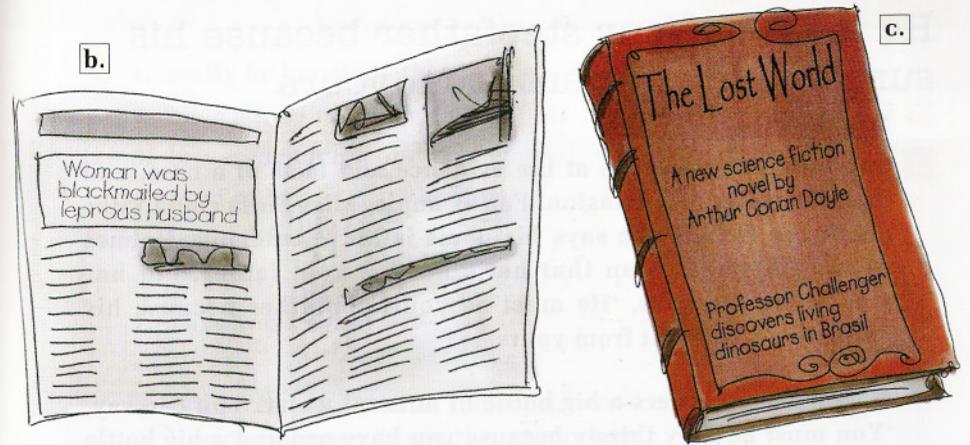
2 Look at the headline of the newspaper, and then look at the little dialogue.



What's that newspaper article about?
It's about a man who throws his false teeth at his wife.

film short story novel magazine article
newspaper article TV show

Use the following words to help you write the dialogues.



He must be your stepfather because his surname is different from yours

3 Sherlock Holmes looks at the evidence and facts of a case, and then he draws a conclusion. For example, Miss Sutherland talks about her father. She says his name is Mr Windibank. Holmes draws the conclusion that he is not her real father, but her stepfather. He says, 'He must be your stepfather because his surname is different from yours.'

If your friend orders a big bottle of mineral water. You can say, 'You must be very thirsty because you have ordered a big bottle of mineral water.'

Match the evidence from the story in column A with the conclusions in column B. Then write sentences as in the example above.

A

- a. (According to Watson!) The story is in the newspaper.
- b. The woman in the street hesitates to ring Holmes' doorbell.
- c. Miss Sutherland has marks on both sides of her nose.
- d. Miss Sutherland's father has a different surname from hers.
- e. Mr Angel wears glasses.
- f. (According to Miss Sutherland!) Mr Angel did not want typed letters from Miss Sutherland.
- g. Miss Sutherland says that she will always wait for Hosmer Angel to return.

B

- 1. really be her stepfather
 - 2. have a love problem
 - 3. be very common and boring
 - 4. fond of her
 - 5. wear glasses
 - 6. be in love with him
 - 7. have weak eyes
-
- a. According to Watson, the story must be very common and boring because it is in the newspaper.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.
 - e.
 - f.
 - g.

Truth is stranger than fiction

- 4** a. In English there is the expression: Truth is stranger than fiction. Is there a similar expression in your language? Do you agree with this?
- b. In Part One Sherlock Holmes says, 'We would not dare invent things, which are commonplace things of life.' This is similar in meaning to 'Truth is stranger than fiction' but it means that strange, peculiar things are normal and commonplace. Do you agree? Do strange things happen to you?

True or false?

5 Below are three stories. Which ones do you think were invented, and which ones do you think are real?

Discuss with your partner.

a. THE REPENTANT THIEF

A year ago, a man from Portsmouth lost his wallet. He had left it in a phone booth. Last week, a man sent this letter and the wallet to the office of a local newspaper: 'I thought about it for a long time. I am sorry that I took the wallet.'

Inside the wallet, along with the original contents, the thief had added 45 pounds!

b. THE YOUNG ADVENTURER

After school a 12-year-old boy went to the airport and got on an aeroplane. Nobody stopped him. Nobody asked him for a ticket. He sat down in the first-class section. The boy was discovered during the flight to Jamaica. The boy's mother said, 'I don't think my son understands what he did. He thinks that it was fun!'

c. THE BAD HUSBAND WAS A BAD MURDERER

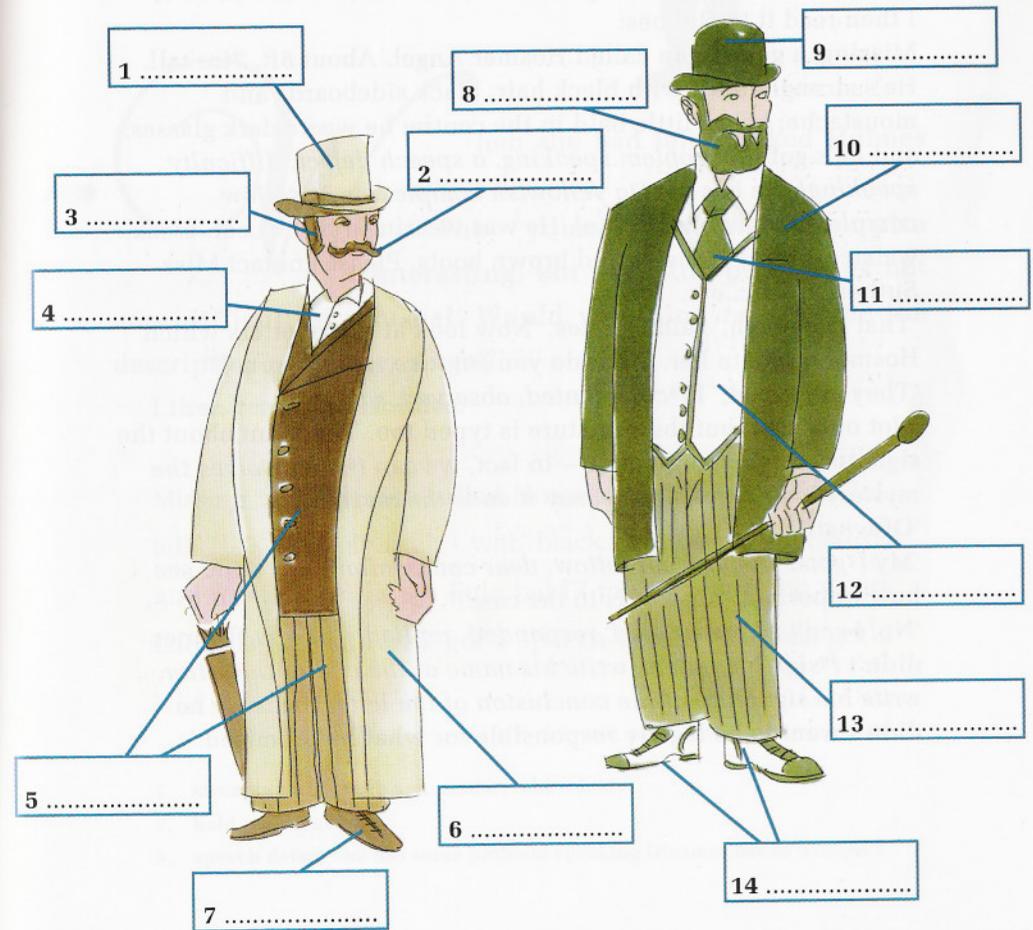
In Buenos Aires, Argentina, a man wanted to kill his wife. They lived on the eighth floor of a building. The man threw his wife out of the window, but she did not fall to the ground because she got tangled in some electric wires. The man saw that his wife was stuck in the wires so he decided to jump on her to kill her. Unfortunately for him, he missed his wife and fell to the ground and was killed. His wife was able to climb onto the balcony of a neighbour's flat.

Before you read

1 What men wear

Match the names of the clothing and facial hair with the pictures.

- trousers beard shirt moustache
- waistcoat (American English: vest)
- shoes sideboards boots tie suit
- overcoat jacket top hat hat



Listen to this

- 2 Read the text below. The words or expressions in brackets have the same meaning. Then listen to the first three paragraphs on the tape and circle the ones used in the text.

When she had (*1gone away, left, departed*), I asked Holmes about the case.

'The young woman is quite interesting, but her little problem is not very difficult or unusual. Would you mind reading me the description of Hosmer Angel?'

I then read it to Holmes:

Missing, a gentleman called Hosmer Angel. About 5ft. 7in. tall. He's strongly built with black hair, black sideboards and moustache; he's a little bald in the centre; he wears dark glasses; and he's got (*2a problem speaking, a speech defect, difficulty speaking*). He has got (*3a yellowish complexion, a sallow complexion, yellowish skin*). He was wearing a black coat, black waistcoat, grey trousers and brown boots. Please contact Miss Sutherland etc. etc.

'That is enough,' said Holmes. 'Now look at these letters which Hosmer wrote to her. What do you (*4notice, see, observe*)?'

'They are typed,' I (*5commented, observed, said*).

'Not only that, but the signature is typed too. The point about the signature is very suggestive – in fact, we can (*6say it solves the mystery, call it conclusive, say it ends the mystery*).'

'Of what?'

'My (*7good friend, dear fellow, dear companion*), can't you see how important this fact is to the case?'

'No, I can't,' I (*8answered, responded, replied*), 'unless Hosmer didn't (*9sign his letters, write his name at the end of the letter, write his signature at the conclusion of the letter*) because he didn't want to be legally responsible for what he promised.'



PART II



When she had left, I asked Holmes about the case.

'The young woman is quite interesting, but her little problem is not very difficult or unusual. Would you mind reading me the description of Hosmer Angel?'

I then read it to Holmes:

Missing, a gentleman called Hosmer Angel. About 5ft. 7in. tall. He's strongly built ¹ with black hair, black sideboards and moustache; he's a little bald ² in the centre; he wears dark glasses; and he's got a speech defect. ³ He has got a

1. **strongly built** : with a muscular, robust body.
2. **bald** : without hair.
3. **speech defect** : he has some problem speaking (Hosmer has to whisper).

SHERLOCK HOLMES INVESTIGATES



sallow ¹ complexion. ² He was wearing a black coat, black waistcoat, grey trousers and brown boots. Please contact Miss Sutherland etc. etc.

'That is enough,' said Holmes. 'Now look at these letters which Hosmer wrote to her. What do you see?'

'They are typed,' I said.

'Not only that, but the signature is typed too. The point about the signature is very suggestive ³ – in fact, we can call it conclusive.'

'Of what?'

'My dear fellow, can't you see how important this fact is to the case?'

'No, I can't,' I replied, 'unless Hosmer didn't sign his letters because he didn't want to be legally responsible for what he promised.'

'No, that was not the point,' said Holmes, 'but now I will write two letters which will solve this mystery. One of the letters is to Mr Windibank's firm ⁴ in the City, ⁵ and the other

1. **sallow** : yellow colour generally because a person is not well.
2. **complexion** : the colour of the skin.
3. **The point ... suggestive** : The fact that there is no signature tells us (suggests to us) many things.
4. **firm** : company, business.
5. **the City** : the part of London where many important financial institutions have their offices.

A CASE OF IDENTITY



one will be to Mr Windibank himself to ask him to come here to meet us tomorrow evening at six o'clock.'

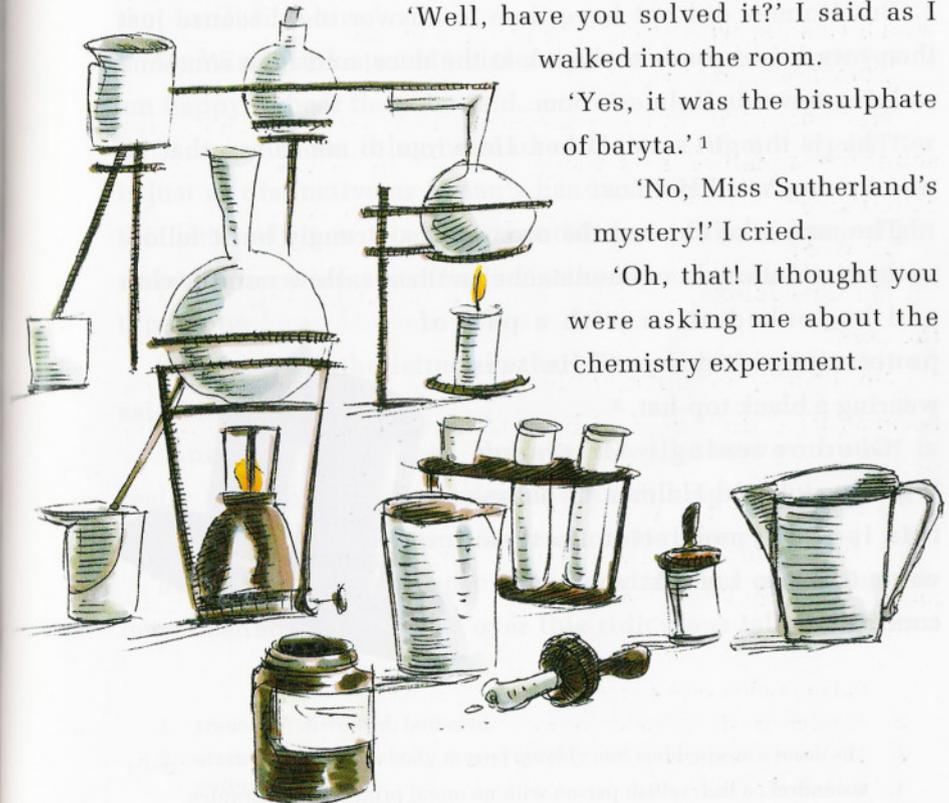
A few minutes before six the next day I returned to Baker Street. When I walked in, Holmes was doing chemistry experiments.

'Well, have you solved it?' I said as I walked into the room.

'Yes, it was the bisulphate of baryta.' ¹

'No, Miss Sutherland's mystery!' I cried.

'Oh, that! I thought you were asking me about the chemistry experiment.'



1. **bisulphate of baryta** : a chemical used to kill rats and mice.

SHERLOCK HOLMES INVESTIGATES



There was never any mystery in the matter. The only problem is that the scoundrel ¹ did not do anything illegal, so he can't be punished.'

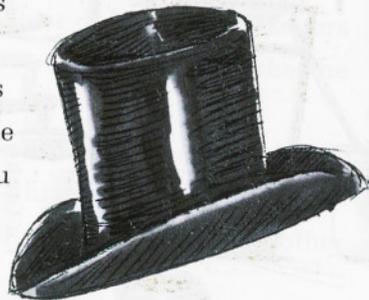
'Who was Hosmer Angel, and why did he abandon Miss Sutherland?'

But Holmes did not have time to answer me, because just then ² we heard someone knock at the door, and then someone walking towards Holmes' room.

'This is the girl's stepfather. He wrote to me to say that he was coming,' said Holmes.

The man who entered the room was a strongly built fellow without sideboards or moustache, with a sallow complexion and he looked at us with a pair of penetrating grey eyes. He was wearing a black top-hat. ³

'Good evening, Mr James Windibank,' said Holmes. 'I believe this is the typed letter that you wrote to me to say that you were coming here!'



1. **scoundrel** : a bad, selfish person with no moral principles or scruples.
2. **just then** : exactly at that moment.

3. **top-hat** : 

A CASE OF IDENTITY



'Yes, sir. I am sorry that Miss Sutherland has troubled ¹ you about this little problem. Also I don't like other people knowing about our family misfortune. Anyway, I don't think that you will ever find this Hosmer Angel.'

'On the contrary,' said Holmes quietly, 'I am almost certain that I will find him.'

Mr Windibank started ² violently, and dropped his gloves. 'I am happy to hear that,' he said.

'It is a curious thing,' remarked Holmes, 'that a typewriter is just as distinctive as a man's handwriting. ³ For example, in this letter of yours, I can see that this part of the 'r' has a slight defect. There are also fourteen other characteristics of your typewriter.'

'We write all the letters in the office with this typewriter,' said Mr Windibank.

'And now,' continued Holmes, 'I will show you what is really very interesting. In fact, I am thinking about writing a book on the typewriter and its relation to crime.'

Mr Windibank jumped out of his chair and picked up his hat. 'I cannot waste ⁴ time over this ridiculous talk. If you can

1. **troubled** : disturbed, bothered.
2. **started** : (here), his body moved quickly and suddenly as a result of surprise or fear.
3. **handwriting** : the way you write with a pencil or pen, not with a typewriter or computer.
4. **waste** : not use well, use for stupid things.

SHERLOCK HOLMES INVESTIGATES



catch the man, catch him, and let me know when you have caught him.'

'Certainly,' said Holmes, walking over to the door and locking it. 'I let you know that I have caught him.'

'What! Where?' shouted Mr Windibank becoming white, and looking around like a rat in a trap.

'You can't get away, Mr Windibank,' said Holmes. 'This case was really very easy. Now sit down and we can talk about it.'

Mr Windibank fell back into the chair. 'I did not do anything illegal,' he stammered. ¹

'I am afraid that you are right. But, Mr Windibank, it was a cruel, selfish ² and heartless ³ trick. Now, let us look at what happened,' said Holmes.

Then Holmes sat down and began to talk.

'The man ⁴ marries a woman older than himself for her money. He can also use the money of the daughter as long as ⁵ the daughter lives with him and the mother. The daughter has a lot of money so it is important not to lose it.

1. **stammered** : said with difficulty.
2. **selfish** : a selfish person only thinks about himself and never thinks about other people.
3. **heartless**: without heart, i.e. without concern or love for others; cruel.
4. **The man** : Holmes is talking about Mr Windibank himself.
5. **as long as** : for the amount of time that.

A CASE OF IDENTITY



But the daughter is friendly and affectionate, so it is clear that she will soon find a husband. At first this man tells the daughter that she cannot go out, but this will not solve the problem forever. Then one day the daughter says that she wants to go to a ball. What does the clever ¹ stepfather do then? With the help of the wife, he disguises himself. ² He wears dark glasses, and puts on a fake ³ moustache. Then he changes his voice and speaks very softly. He is even more certain that his plan will work because the girl is short-sighted. ⁴ Then at the ball this man keeps away other lovers by becoming the girl's lover himself.'

'It was just a joke at first,' groaned ⁵ Mr Windibank. 'We didn't think that the girl would fall in love.'

'Yes, that is probably true,' continued Holmes. 'But the girl really fell in love, and you decided to take the situation to the extreme. You began to see her often, and the mother said that she liked him very much. Then you decided to ask Miss Sutherland to marry you so that she would never again think

1. **clever** : a clever person is someone who can think quickly.
2. **disguises himself** : changes his appearance by wearing glasses, different clothes, false moustache, etc. so that other people will not recognise him.
3. **fake** : false.
4. **is short-sighted** : has difficulty seeing things that are not near to her.
5. **groaned** : said in a way that showed that he was suffering.

SHERLOCK HOLMES INVESTIGATES



about other men. But it was difficult for you to pretend ¹ to go to France every time Miss Sutherland had to see Mr Angel. You had to end the situation dramatically. In some way, you had to keep Miss Sutherland from thinking about other men in the future. Therefore, you made her promise on the Bible, and you told her that something could happen on the very morning of the wedding. You took her to the church, but obviously you could not marry her. You disappeared by using the old trick ² of entering one door of a cab and walking out the other. I think this is the chain of events, Mr Windibank!

'Yes, maybe that is true,' replied Mr Windibank, 'but I did not do anything illegal, and now you are breaking the law because you will not let me leave this room.'

'You are right. You did not do anything illegal,' said Holmes as he unlocked and opened the door, 'but you really deserve to be punished, and I would like to do it.'

Then Holmes picked up a riding-crop, ³ but Mr Windibank ran out the door and out of the house.

1. **to pretend** : make people believe something which is not true.

2. **trick** : technique, deception.

3. **riding-crop** : 

A CASE OF IDENTITY



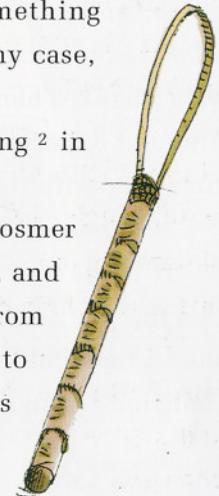
'Now, he certainly is a cold-blooded scoundrel!' said Holmes laughing. 'That fellow will continue doing worse and worse crimes until he does something really bad and finishes on the gallows. ¹ In any case, this case had some interesting points.'

'I cannot completely follow your reasoning ² in this case,' I said.

'Well, it was clear from the first, that Mr Hosmer Angel had a very good reason for his actions, and that the only man who could really profit from the situation was the stepfather: he wanted to keep the hundred pounds a year. Then it was very suggestive that Mr Windibank and Mr Hosmer Angel were never together, and so were the dark glasses, the soft voice and the moustache; they all suggested a disguise. The final point was the typed signature. This made me think that the handwriting of the man must be very familiar to Miss Sutherland, and that if she saw even a small portion of it, she would recognise it.'

'And how did you verify these ideas?' I asked.

'First I wrote to Mr Windibank's firm. In the letter I



1. **gallows** : wooden frame used to execute criminals by hanging.

2. **your reasoning** : how you reasoned, how you thought.

SHERLOCK HOLMES INVESTIGATES

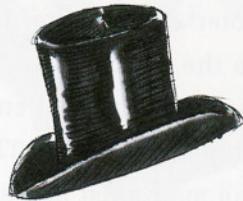


described Mr Angel after I had eliminated everything that could be a disguise, like the glasses, the moustache and the voice, and I asked them if they had an employee like that. They wrote back to me and said that I had described Mr James Windibank. Then I wrote to Mr Windibank to invite him here, and as I expected he typed his reply to me. Then I compared his letter with the letters of Mr Angel. Voilà tout!¹

‘And Miss Sutherland?’ I asked.

‘If I tell her, she will not believe me,’ replied Holmes. ‘Maybe you remember this Persian saying, “It is dangerous to take a tiger cub² from its mother, and it is dangerous to take a delusion³ from a woman.”’

THE END



1. **Voilà tout!** : (French) That's it! And that's all there was to it! That is the entire story!
2. **cub** : the young of lions, bears, wolves, tigers, leopards, etc.
3. **delusion** : something you believe in which is not true.



Go back to the text

1 Answer the following questions.

- a. In Watson's opinion, why did Hosmer type his signature?
- b. In Holmes' opinion, why did Hosmer type his signature?
- c. Why didn't Mr Windibank want Miss Sutherland to marry?
- d. In reality, who was Mr Hosmer Angel?
- e. How did Mr Windibank disguise himself?
- f. Why did Mr Hosmer Angel disappear?
- g. How did Mr Hosmer Angel disappear?
- h. How did Holmes know that the love letters and Mr Windibank's letter were written with the same typewriter?
- i. What defects are mentioned in the story?
How did they help Holmes solve the mystery?

Missing: a gentleman called Hosmer Angel

2 Look at the picture of Hosmer Angel, and the notes about him.



Missing, a gentleman called Hosmer Angel. He is of average height. He's strongly built. He's got black hair, black sideboards and a moustache. He's a little bald in the centre; he wears dark glasses; and he's got a speech defect. He has got a sallow complexion. He was wearing a black coat, black waistcoat, grey trousers and brown boots. Please contact Miss Sutherland.

Now look at the following three pictures and write similar descriptions using the additional information.



a. **Irene Adler**

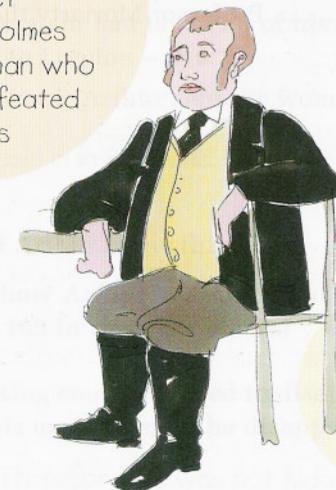
American accent
about 5ft. 5in.
contact
Sherlock Holmes
the only woman who
has ever defeated
Holmes



b.

Professor Moriarty

criminal
arostocratic
English accent
the Napoleon of crime
contact
Sherlock Holmes



c.

Mycroft Holmes

Sherlock Holmes' brother
aristocratic accent
contact Sherlock Holmes

PET 3 Here are some sentences about the characters on the previous page. For each question, complete the second sentence so that it means the same as the first using no more than three words.

Example: *Professor Moriarty doesn't speak with a foreign accent.*
*Professor Moriarty **hasn't got** a foreign accent.*

- Irene Adler is the only woman who has ever defeated Holmes.
No defeated Holmes apart from Irene Adler.
- If no one contacts Sherlock Holmes, he won't be able to find these missing people.
Sherlock Holmes won't be able to find these missing people unless him.
- Mycroft Holmes has got more hair than Professor Moriarty.
Professor Moriarty has got Mycroft Holmes.
- Irene Adler hasn't worn pink for a long time.
It's a long time since Irene Adler pink.
- Professor Moriarty is known as the Napoleon of crime.
People Professor Moriarty the Napoleon of crime.

Conan Doyle and the case of the missing cousin

- 4** Because Conan Doyle was very famous as the creator of Sherlock Holmes, people often wrote to him for help. In 1907, a Scottish woman wrote and asked him to find her missing cousin.

Dear Mr Doyle,

I need your help. My cousin disappeared a week ago. I think something terrible has happened to him. Maybe he was kidnapped!

He went to London, and he stayed in a big hotel. The evening he disappeared, he went to a music-hall show. He returned to the hotel about ten o'clock. But nobody saw him after that. The man who was staying in the next room said, 'I heard noises in his room during the night'.

Please help me!

Arthur said, 'I tried to see the problem through the eyes of Mr Holmes.' Arthur telephoned the bank of the missing cousin. The missing cousin had taken all of his money from the bank before he came to London – £40.

After an hour, Arthur sent the woman a message:

Your cousin is in Scotland. Look for him in Glasgow or Edinburgh.

How did Arthur know this? ...

Here is how Arthur reasoned, but you must put his conclusions on page 105 in the right places!

The missing cousin wanted to disappear because he had taken out all his money before he disappeared.

- a. **6** Therefore, he was not kidnapped.

The man in the next room was wrong. There are many noises in a big hotel.

b. Therefore,

The missing cousin left during the night. But there is a night porter in all hotels. It is impossible to leave a hotel without the night porter seeing you after the door is shut. The door is shut at twelve midnight.

c. Therefore,

The missing cousin left with his bag. No one noticed him leaving.

d. Therefore,

The missing cousin wanted to hide, but he did not want to hide in London. If he had wanted to hide in London, he would not have left the hotel.

e. Therefore,

If the missing cousin took a train to a small town, people would notice him.

f. Therefore,

I looked at the train timetables and discovered that the only trains going to big cities were the trains going to Edinburgh and Glasgow.

g. Therefore,

The conclusions:

1. It is probable that he left when many of the hotel guests were returning after the theatre at around eleven or eleven-thirty. This is when most shows end. After eleven-thirty very few people return to the hotel, and the missing cousin would have been noticed with his bag.
2. He would go to a big city, where most people get off the train and he would not be noticed or observed.
3. I am sure that he went to Edinburgh or Glasgow.
4. The missing cousin left before twelve midnight.
5. He wanted to catch a train to go to some other place.
6. He was not kidnapped.
7. He probably heard noises from another room, and not noises from the missing cousin's room.

T: GRADE 5

5 Topic – Transport

Find a picture of a means of transport. Tell the class about it using the following questions to help you:

- a. Have you ever travelled by this means of transport?
- b. How do you prefer to travel?
- c. How did people travel in the past and how will they travel in the future?

Arthur Defends the Underdog¹

In Arthur Conan Doyle's books, his heroes always defend the underdog. You can see three examples in the stories in this book. Sherlock Holmes was a sort of modern knight,² and the poor and the weak³ knew that he would help them. But Arthur did not only write about defending the underdog, he did it in real life.

One of Conan Doyle's battles was in favour of the Africans of the Congo, present-day Zaire. In 1885 King Leopold II said that all 'vacant' land⁴ in the Congo was his. 'Vacant' meant that no Europeans lived there. Of course, there were many Africans who lived there, but for King Leopold these people did not have any importance. The only thing of importance was rubber,⁵ especially for the new automobile industry. Rubber, at this time,⁶ came from the trees of the African jungle, and it was very important then for industry. The Belgians forced the Africans to collect rubber. Often, if the Africans did not collect enough rubber, the Belgians cut off one of their hands. Sometimes, the Belgians kidnapped all the women

1. **underdog** : someone who always loses because he is in a bad or disadvantageous position.

2. **knight** :



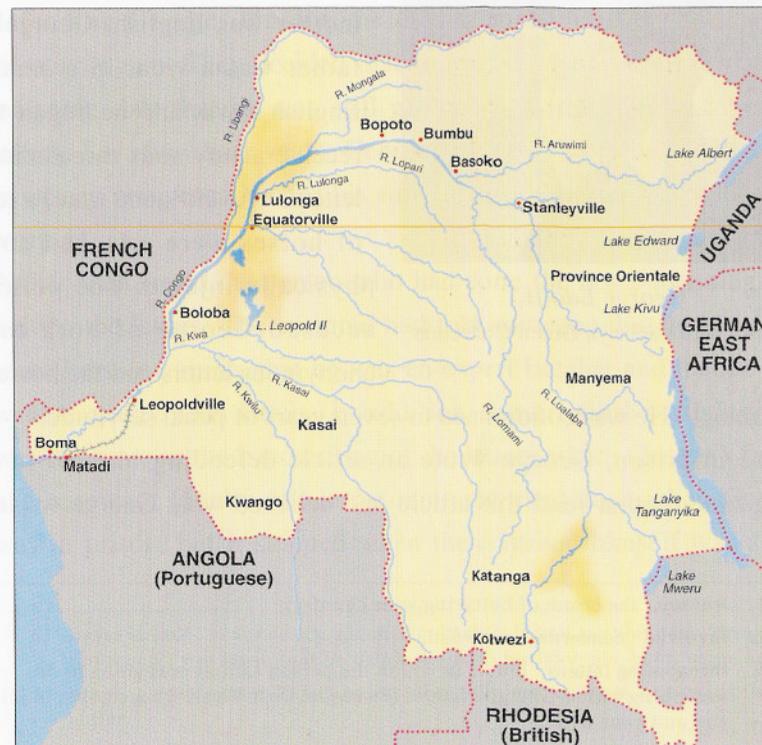
3. **weak** : not strong.

4. **vacant land** : empty land, land where nobody lives.

5. **rubber** : strong, elastic substance used to make tyres, balls, raincoats, etc.

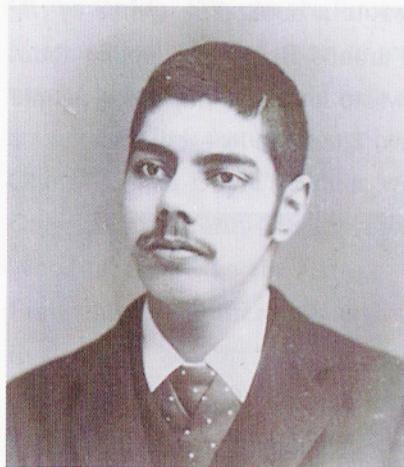
6. **Rubber ... time** : Before World War II, all rubber came from the juice of rubber trees, especially trees cultivated in Malaysia and Indonesia. During the war synthetic rubber was developed, and today most of the rubber used is synthetic.

and children of an African village. The men of the village could not have their families back until they brought the Belgians a certain amount of rubber. A British diplomat, Roger Casement began to protest against the treatment of the Africans. Arthur joined Casement's protest, and in 1909 wrote a book, *The Crime of the Congo*. Conan Doyle also travelled around Britain and spoke about the crimes of the Congo. He also wrote letters to important people like the President of the United States, Theodore Roosevelt.



A map of the Congo Free State in 1890.

Later, after World War One, in 1918, Roger Casement was convicted of treason ¹ because of his fight for Irish Independence. Even though Conan Doyle was not for Irish independence, he fought for Casement not to be hanged. Casement was hanged anyway.



George Edalji.

The Richard Lancelyn Green Collection.

Another of Conan Doyle's famous battles for the underdog involved ² a young solicitor called George Edalji. George's father was Indian and his mother was English. George's father was a vicar in a small English town, and he began to receive anonymous threatening letters. ³ At the same time, a lot of horses were attacked and physically injured. The police accused George of both the anonymous letters and the horse-

maiming. ⁴ He was condemned to seven years of penal servitude. ⁵ Once in prison, George wrote an article defending himself in a magazine. Arthur read this article and believed what George wrote.

1. **treason** : the crime of betraying your country.
2. **involved** : concerned, regarded.
3. **threatening letters** : letters in which the person said he was going to do something bad to George's father. (Example: Dear Vicar, we are going to kill you and your wife!)
4. **horse-maiming** : attacking and physically hurting horses – a terrible crime in a rural community.
5. **penal servitude** : work in prison.

Arthur began to investigate the anonymous letters and the horse-maiming. He discovered that George was a very hard-working, calm young man, who never drank ¹ and who was never cruel. ² He also discovered that George had very bad eyesight. ³ In fact, George could not see anything that was more than six metres away. This was an important fact because the horse-maiming was committed at night, and the criminal had to cross many railway lines and go around many obstacles in the dark. This was almost impossible for George.

After learning these things, Arthur wrote many newspaper articles defending George. Finally, the Government looked at George's situation again. They decided that he was not guilty of ⁴ the horse-maiming, but that he was still guilty of writing the anonymous letters. So, after three years, George left prison, but he received no monetary compensation for his time in prison because of the letter writing.

Arthur then found the person who had done the horse-maiming and written the letters. The criminal had told someone that he had done some horse-maiming, that he was an expert butcher and that he had written anonymous letters. In addition, the criminal's handwriting was the same as the handwriting of the letters which George's father had received. Finally, the horse-maiming continued when George was in prison, but it stopped when the criminal himself was away

1. **never drank** : never drank (alcoholic drinks). If you say someone 'drinks too much', you mean that he drinks too much whisky, gin, beer, wine, etc.
2. **cruel** : a cruel person likes hurting other people or animals, or making them suffer.
3. **eyesight** : the ability to see.
4. **was not guilty of** : did not do (to be guilty of = to be responsible for doing something bad).

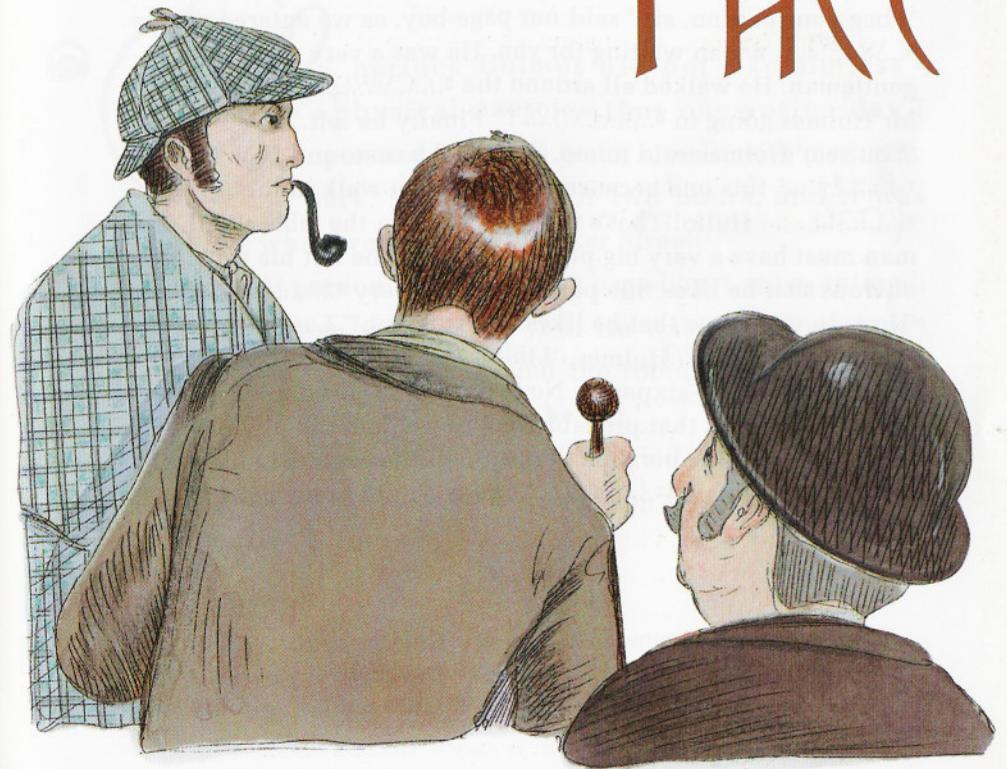
from the area. With this evidence, ¹ Arthur was sure that the Government would say that George was not guilty of writing the anonymous letters. But the Government did nothing, even with the best evidence possible. So, George received no money for his time spent in prison as an innocent man. Sherlock Holmes would not have been very happy in the real world.

1 Answer these questions about the text.

- a. What important substance came from the Congo?
.....
- b. Why was this substance important?
.....
- c. What did the Belgians do to the Africans if they did not collect enough rubber?
.....
- d. Who was Roger Casement?
.....
- e. What was George Edalji accused of?
.....
- f. What kind of person was George?
.....
- g. What evidence did Arthur have that George did not write the anonymous letters?
.....

1. **evidence** : the information which you use to make a decision, to prove something, etc.

THE YELLOW FACE



Before you read

- 1 Try to fill in the blanks with the words given below. Then listen to the tape and check your answers.

was park room lost walk
new explained costs much
physical return hours

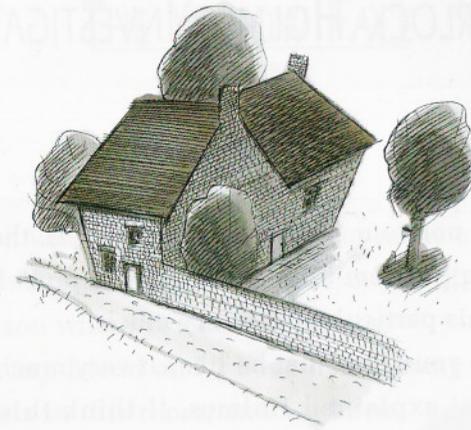
Sherlock Holmes did not like aimless 1..... exercise, but one spring day I persuaded him to go for a 2..... with me in the park. We walked for two 3....., and it was almost five when we returned to Baker Street.

'I beg your pardon, sir,' said our page-boy, as we entered, 'there 4..... a man waiting for you. He was a very restless gentleman. He walked all around the 5..... saying, "Isn't Mr Holmes going to 6.....?"' Finally he left.'

'You see,' Holmes said to me, 'I needed a case, and now I have 7..... this one because we went for a walk in the 8..... . Hullo! That's not your pipe on the table. Well, that man must have a very big problem because he left his pipe. It is obvious that he likes this particular pipe very 9.....'

'How do you know that he likes it very much?' I asked.

'Well,' 10..... Holmes, 'I think this pipe 11..... around seven-and-sixpence. Now, look it has been mended twice with silver bands that probably cost more than the pipe itself. So, this man must like his pipe very much if he prefers to mend it instead of buying a 12..... one with the same money.'



PART I



Sherlock Holmes did not like aimless 1 physical exercise, but one spring day I persuaded him to go for a walk with me in the park. We walked for two hours, and it was almost five when we returned to Baker Street.

'I beg your pardon, 2 sir,' said our page-boy, 3 as we entered, 'there was a man waiting for you. He was a very restless 4 gentleman. He walked all around the room saying, "Isn't Mr Holmes going to return?"' Finally he left.'

'You see,' Holmes said to me, 'I needed a case, and now I have lost this one because we went for a walk in the park.'

1. **aimless** : without an aim or purpose, for no particular purpose, or reason.
2. **I beg your pardon** : (here) excuse me.
3. **page-boy** : boy who works as a servant.
4. **restless** : agitated, nervous.

SHERLOCK HOLMES INVESTIGATES



Hullo! ¹ That's not your pipe on the table. Well, that man must have a very big problem because he left his pipe. It is obvious that he likes this particular pipe very much.'

'How do you know that he likes it very much?' I asked.



'Well,' explained Holmes, 'I think this pipe costs around seven-and-sixpence. Now, look it has been mended ² twice with silver ³ bands that probably cost more than the pipe itself. So, this man must like his pipe very much if he prefers to mend it instead of buying a new one with the same money.'

END

Just then, as Holmes was talking, we heard someone walking up the stairs, and then a man walked into the room without knocking.

'I beg your pardon,' said the man, 'I should have knocked, but I am very upset, ⁴ and I need help.'

The man then took off his hat, and sat down on a chair.

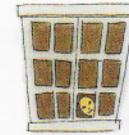
'My dear Mr Grant Munro...' began Holmes.

Our visitor jumped from his chair. 'What!' he cried. 'You know my name?'

'If you want to preserve your incognito,' said Holmes

1. **Hullo!** : (here) Look at this!
2. **mended** : repaired.
3. **silver** : a precious white, shiny metal used to make jewellery, coins, knives, forks, etc.
4. **upset** : agitated, worried, disturbed.

THE YELLOW FACE



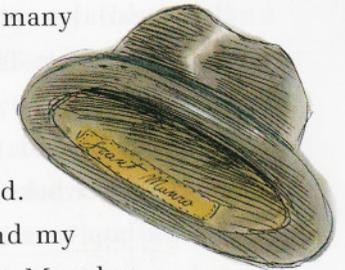
smiling, 'then you should not write your name on the inside of your hat, or else you should turn the inside of your hat away from the person whom you are addressing. ¹

'Anyway, my friend and I have heard many strange secrets in this room, and we have had the fortune to help many people. Please tell us the facts of your case.'

'The facts are these, Mr Holmes,' he said. 'I have been married for three years, and my wife and I were very happy until last Monday. Suddenly a barrier appeared between us, and she has become like a stranger ² to me. I want to know why. But, Mr Holmes, I am sure that my wife loves me.'

'Please let me have the facts, Mr Munro,' said Holmes, with some impatience.

'Effie, my wife was a young widow, ³ only twenty-five years old, when I met her. Her name then was Mrs Hebron. She went to America when she was very young and lived in the town of Atlanta, ⁴ where she married a man called Hebron who was a lawyer. They had one child, but there was a yellow fever ⁵



1. **addressing** : (here) talking to.
2. **stranger** : a person that you don't know is a stranger.
3. **widow** : a woman whose husband is dead is a widow.
4. **Atlanta** : city in the state of Georgia in the southern United States.
5. **yellow fever** : an often fatal disease caused by a virus transmitted by mosquitoes.

SHERLOCK HOLMES INVESTIGATES



epidemic there, and both her husband and child died of it. I have seen his death certificate. After this tragedy, she decided to leave America, and come back to England to live with her aunt.

'I should also mention that her husband left her a large amount of money. This money was invested, and she can live very well with the income¹ from it. She met me after six months in England. We fell in love with each other, and we married a few weeks afterwards.

'I am a hop² merchant, and I, too, have a good income. We rented a nice house in the country near Norbury. There is an inn³ and two houses near our house, and a single cottage across the field in front of our house. Until this recent incident my wife and I lived very happily there.

'There is one more thing I should tell you. When we married, my wife put all her money in my name. I did not think this was a good idea, but she insisted. Well, about six weeks ago she came and asked me for some.

"Jack," she said, "when you took my money you said that if I ever wanted some, I should just ask you."

"Certainly," I said, "it's your money. How much do you want?"

1. **income** : the money you receive regularly for your work, or, as in this case, from an investment.
2. **hop** : a plant whose flowers are used to make beer.
3. **inn** : a small hotel that also serves food.

THE YELLOW FACE



"One hundred pounds,"¹ she said.

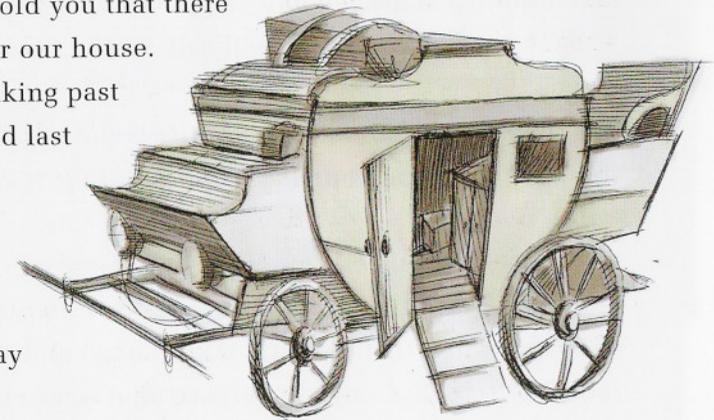
"What for?" I asked, very surprised by the large amount.

"Oh," she said playfully,² "you said that you were only my banker, and bankers never ask questions, you know."

'I was not happy about this because this was the first time that there was a secret between us. I gave her the cheque,³ and forgot about the matter. It may have nothing to do with what happened afterwards, but I thought that I should mention it.

'Anyway, I told you that there is a cottage near our house.

Well, I like walking past that cottage, and last Monday, as I walked past the cottage I saw an empty van⁴ going away



1. **One hundred pounds** : Holmes says in the story *A Case of Identity* (page 74) that Miss Sutherland could live quite comfortably for an entire year with one hundred pounds.
2. **playfully** : in a friendly and jokey manner.
3. **cheque** : an order to a bank to pay a stated sum.
4. **van** : a large covered waggon (at the time of this story) or lorry (now) for transporting things.

SHERLOCK HOLMES INVESTIGATES



from the cottage, and furniture in front of the cottage. Someone was finally going to live there.

'I was looking at the cottage, when suddenly I saw a face watching me from an upper window. There was something strange about the face, Mr Holmes, that frightened me. I was not very near, but there was something unnatural and inhuman about the face. It was yellow and rigid. I walked closer to the house, but the face suddenly disappeared.

'Then I went to the door and knocked. A tall woman answered the door. I told her that I was her neighbour, and asked her if she needed any help.

"If we need any help, we'll call you," she said and shut the door in my face.

'That night I did not tell my wife about the strange face and the rude ¹ woman, but I did tell her that people were now living in the cottage.

'That same night something strange happened. In the middle of the night, when I was not completely asleep, I became aware ² that my wife was dressed and was leaving the room. She looked very frightened and nervous. I waited for about twenty minutes, and then she returned.

"Where have you been, Effie?" I asked as she entered. She moved back quickly with fright.

1. **rude** : impolite, not courteous.

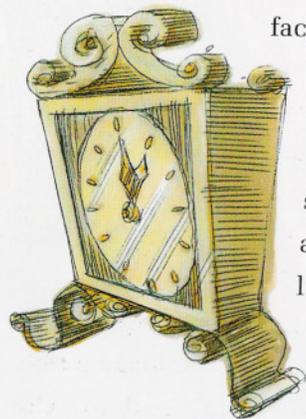
2. **became aware** : realised, perceived.





“Are you awake, Jack?” she cried with a nervous laugh. She told me that she had wanted some fresh air, but I did not believe her. What was my wife hiding from me?

The next day I had to go to the City, but I was so worried about my wife that I returned early to Norbury at about one o'clock. Walking home I went past the cottage. I stopped for a minute in front of it to look for that strange face. As I stood there, imagine my surprise, Mr Holmes, when the door suddenly opened and my wife walked out!



“Oh, Jack!” she said, “I came here to see if our new neighbours needed anything. Why are you looking at me like that? Are you angry with me?”

“So,” I said, “this is where you went during the night?”

“What do you mean?” she cried.

“You came here. I am sure of it. Who are these people?”

“I have not been here before.”

“I know you are not telling me the truth. I am going to enter the cottage and discover the truth!”

“Please, don't go in, Jack,” she cried. “I promise that I will tell you everything some day, but if you enter now, you will



cause great sadness.” Then she held me tightly, ¹ and I tried to push her off.

“Trust me, ² Jack!” she cried. “You will not be sorry. If you come home with me, all will be well. If you force your way into that cottage, our marriage is finished.”

“I will trust you,” I said, “if you promise never to come here again.”

She was greatly relieved. ³ Then as we started to leave, I looked up and there was that yellow face watching us out of the upper window. What link ⁴ could there be between that creature and my wife?



After that everything went well, but one day I returned home early. I discovered that my wife had been to the cottage again, so I went to the cottage. I walked into the house and found no one, but upstairs I found a comfortable room, and on the mantelpiece ⁵ stood a full-length photograph ⁶ of my wife. I am

1. **tightly** : closely, with force.
2. **Trust me** : Believe me.
3. **She was ... relieved** : She felt much better now that she knew I was not going to enter the cottage.
4. **link** : connection.
5. **mantelpiece** : the shelf over a fireplace.
6. **full-length photograph** : a photograph showing the entire person from head to foot.

SHERLOCK HOLMES INVESTIGATES



sure that our maid had warned ¹ them that I was arriving, and they all went away. That is why I didn't find anyone there.

'When I saw my wife again I told her that there could be no peace between us until she told me the truth. That was yesterday, Mr Holmes, and then I decided to come and see you for help.'

After hearing this strange story, Holmes sat silent for a few minutes, thinking. Then he said, 'Are you sure that the yellow face was a man's face?'

'Each time I saw it,' he replied, 'I saw it from a distance, so I am not sure.'

'When did your wife ask you for the money?' asked Holmes.

'Almost two months ago.'

'Have you ever seen a photograph of her first husband?'

'No, there was a great fire in Atlanta after her husband's death, and all her papers were destroyed.'

'And yet ² she had a death certificate.'

Have you ever seen it?'

'Yes, she got a duplicate after the fire.'

1. **warned** : (here) told them in advance.

2. **yet** : (here) but, however.

THE YELLOW FACE



'Have you ever met anyone who knew your wife in America?'

'No.'

'Has she ever talked about visiting America again?'

'No.'

'Has she ever received letters from there?'

'No, I don't think so.'

'Thank you,' concluded Holmes. 'Now, go back to Norbury, and when you see that those people have returned to the cottage, call us. It will be easy to solve this mystery.'



Go back to the text

- 1 a. Complete the questions with the correct question word: *why, how, who, what, where*.
If you can't decide which question word is correct, look at the answers to help you.

THE QUESTIONS

1. ...Why... was Holmes angry with Watson when they returned from their walk in the park?
Because Holmes had lost a client.
2. did Holmes know that the man liked his pipe very much?
.....
3. did Holmes know the man's name, even though the man did not introduce himself?
.....
4. is Effie?
.....
5. did Effie live in America?
.....
6. was her American husband's job?
.....
7. did Effie and Mr Munro meet?
.....
8. is Mr Munro's job?
.....
9. much money did Effie want?
.....
10. did Mr Munro see in the upper window of the cottage?
.....

11. did Mr Munro see walk out of the cottage on the day he returned early from the City?
.....
12. did Mr Munro find on the mantelpiece of the cottage?
.....
13. hasn't Mr Munro ever seen a picture of Effie's first husband?
.....
14., if there was a great fire in Atlanta, has Effie got her husband's death certificate?
.....

- b. Now match the questions with the correct answers given below.

THE ANSWERS

- a. In England.
- b. He was a lawyer.
- c. Grant Munro's wife.
- d. Because she obtained a duplicate after the fire.
- e. Atlanta, Georgia.
- f. He is a hop merchant.
- g. A full-length photograph of his wife.
- h. Because it was destroyed in the great fire in Atlanta.
- i. Because it was a pipe which didn't cost very much, but the man had repaired it twice with expensive silver bands.
- j. Because it was written on the inside of his hat.
- k. A rigid yellow face.
- l. Because Holmes had lost a client.
- m. One hundred pounds.
- n. Effie.

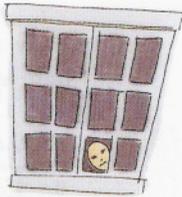
Who said what?

2 Match the captions on page 128 with the right picture, and place the quotes in the speech bubbles. Then put the pictures in chronological order.

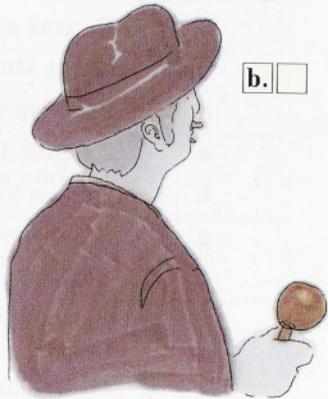


a.

.....
.....
.....



b.



.....
.....
.....

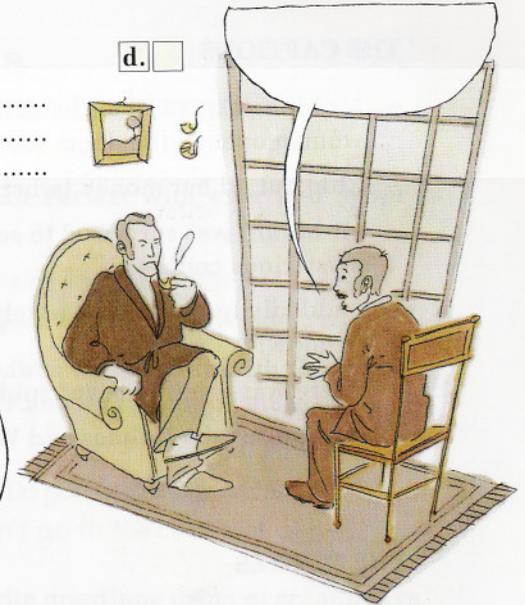


c.

.....
.....
.....

d.

.....
.....
.....



e.



.....
.....
.....



f.

.....
.....
.....

THE CAPTIONS

- Mr Munro knocked at the door of the cottage. A strange woman opened the door.
- Effie put all her money in her husband's name.
- Mr Munro was surprised to see his wife walk out of the mysterious cottage!
- Suddenly he saw a face watching him from the upper window!
- There was a yellow fever epidemic in Atlanta.
- Mr Munro tells Holmes and Watson his story.

THE QUOTES

- What for?
- Do you need any help?
- One hundred pounds.
- If you enter, our marriage is finished.
- She has become like a stranger to me.
- How much do you want?
- I will trust you.
- If we need any help, we'll call you.

Have you ever seen a photograph of her first husband?

3 Notice that we use the Present Perfect with *ever* and *never* in these cases:

I have **never** met him = In *my* entire life I have not met him.
 Have you **ever** seen her? = In *your* entire life have you seen her?

Notice when you talk about habits and routine with the Present Simple you can also use *never* and *ever*, but the meaning is different.

Do you **ever** go to the cinema = Do you sometimes go to the cinema?
 I **never** go to the cinema = I don't go to the cinema at all.

With the cues given below write questions using *ever*, and give true answers. Then, for the questions with negative answers, write sentences using *never*.

Example: Mr Munro/see a photograph of his wife's first husband?
 Has Mr Munro **ever** seen a photograph of his wife's first husband?
 No, he hasn't
 He has **never** seen a photograph of his wife's first husband.

a. Mr Munro/mend his pipe?

.....

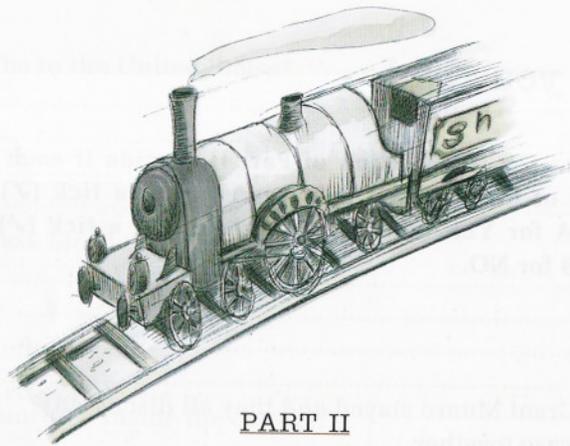
- b. Effie/be to the United States?
.....
.....
.....
.....
- c. Effie/ask Mr Munro for money before?
.....
.....
.....
- d. Mr Munro/be inside the cottage?
.....
.....
.....
- e. Holmes/see the yellow face?
.....
.....
.....
- f. Mr Munro/see the death certificate of Effie's first husband?
.....
.....
.....
- g. Mr Munro/meet anyone who knew his wife in America?
.....
.....
.....
- h. Effie/be inside the cottage?
.....
.....
.....

Before you read

PET 1 Listen to the first section of Part II. Decide if each sentence is correct or incorrect. If it is correct, put a tick (✓) in the box under A for YES. If it is not correct, put a tick (✓) in the box under B for NO.



	A	B
	Yes	No
1 Mr Grant Munro stayed and they all discussed the case together.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2 Holmes thought that it was a case that involved blackmail.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3 Watson thinks that the woman's first husband is in the cottage.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4 Her husband has a horrible yellow face because he got a disease.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5 She runs away and starts a new life in England.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6 Ten years later she starts receiving letters from the blackmailers.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7 Mr Grant Munro meets the blackmailers.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



PART II



When Mr Grant Munro left, and Holmes and I discussed the case.

'I am afraid that this is a case of blackmail,'¹ said Holmes.

'And who is the blackmailer?'² I asked.

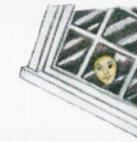
'Well, it must be that creature with the yellow face. Upon my word, Watson, there is something very attractive³ about that yellow face at the window, and I would not miss this case for worlds.'⁴

'Have you got a theory?' I asked.

'Yes,' Holmes replied, 'I think her first husband is in the

1. **blackmail** : an extortion of payment in return for not telling information, secrets, etc.
2. **blackmailer** : somebody who blackmails.
3. **attractive** : (here) Holmes means that the yellow face attracts him (interests him) a lot.
4. **I would not miss ... worlds** : I would not abandon this case for anything.

THE YELLOW FACE



cottage. This is what I think happened: This woman was married in America. Her husband got a terrible disease.¹ That is why he has that horrible yellow face. She ran away from him at last, and came back to England, where she changed her name and started a new life. After three years of marriage, she feels safe again, but her first husband, or some unscrupulous woman attached to him, discovers where she lives. They write to her and tell her to send them a hundred pounds, or they will tell her new husband everything. When her husband tells her that someone is living in the cottage, she knows that they are her blackmailers. In the middle of the night, while her husband is sleeping, she decides to go to the cottage. That night she is not able to convince her blackmailers to leave her alone,² so she returns the next day. That was when her husband saw her coming out of the house. She then promises her husband that she will not return, but she wants to get rid of³ her blackmailers. She decides to go again, and this time she brings a photograph, which they probably asked her for. Fortunately for her, her maid warns her that her husband is coming, and she and her blackmailers leave the house in time.

END

1. **disease** : illness caused by a germ (virus or bacteria) or some environmental conduction, not by accident.
2. **leave her alone** : leave her in peace.
3. **get rid of** : eliminate, send away.

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'Now we can do nothing except wait for Mr Munro to call us, and then we will see if my theory is correct.'

We did not have to wait long. ¹ After tea we received a message from Mr Munro saying, 'There are people in the house.'

That night Holmes and I took a train to Norbury. Mr Munro was waiting for us at the station, and he took us to the cottage.

When we arrived there, Holmes asked Mr Munro if he was sure he wanted to enter the cottage. Mr Munro said he was sure and we went to the door of the cottage. As we approached the door, a woman suddenly appeared. It

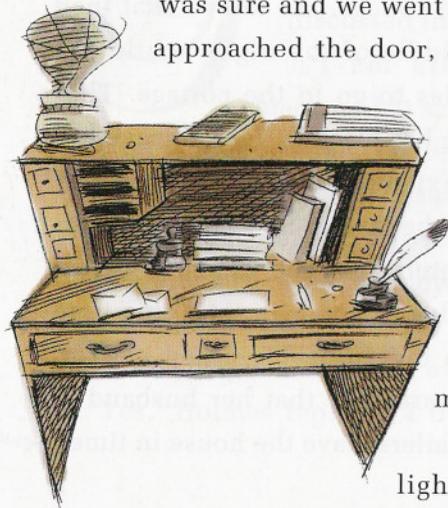
was Effie.

'For God's sake, ² don't Jack!' she cried. 'Trust me!'

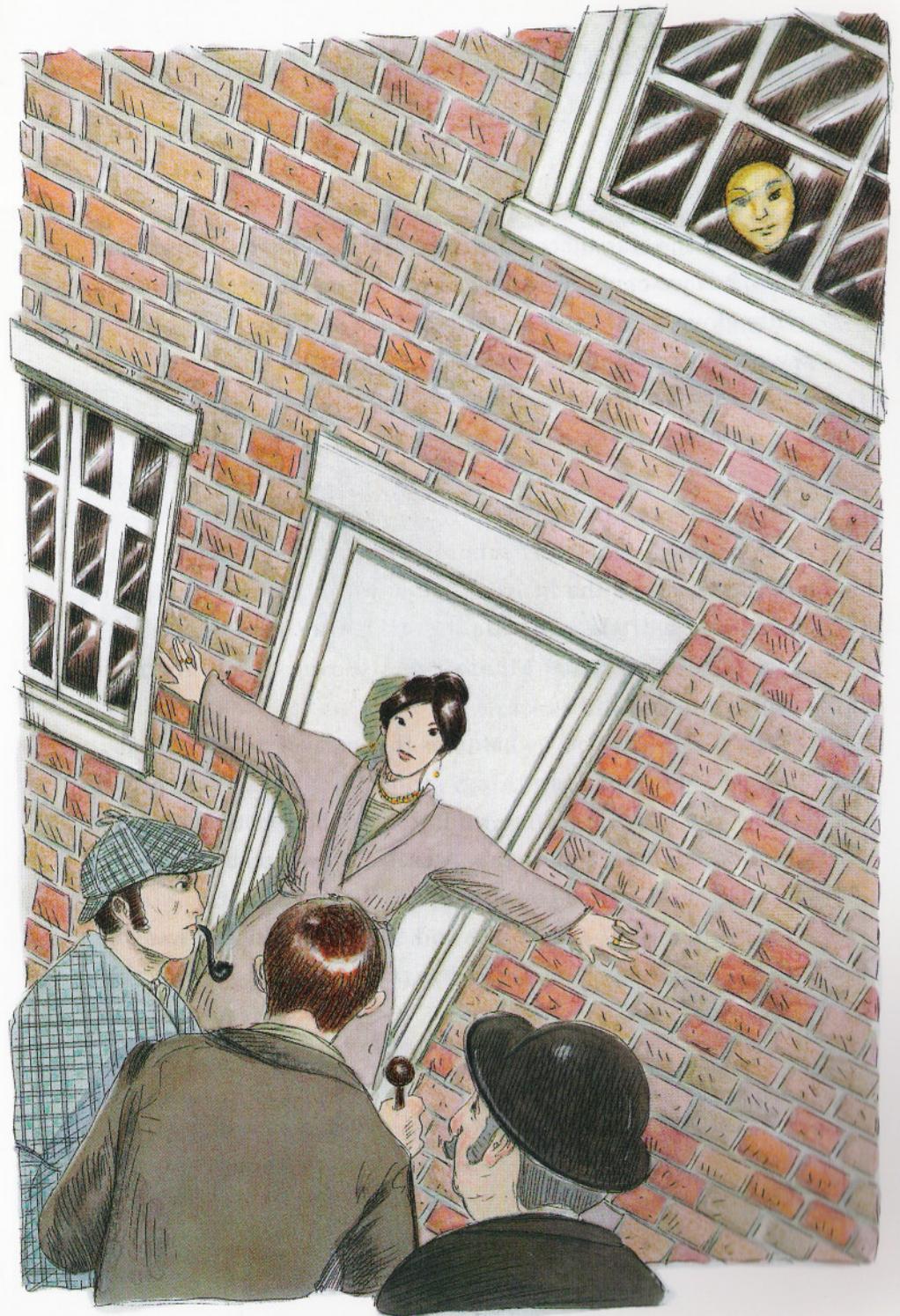
'I have trusted you too long, Effie!' he cried sternly.

'Let go of me! My friends and I are going to solve this mystery.'

We rushed up ³ the stairs to the lighted room. In one corner there was a desk, and at that desk there appeared to be a little



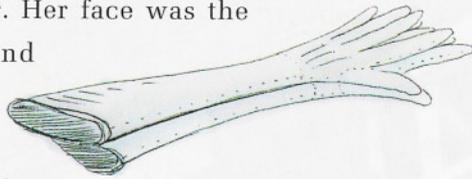
1. **long** : (here) for a long period of time.
2. **For God's sake** : For the love of God.
3. **rushed up** : went quickly up.



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girl. Her face was turned away from us when we entered the room, but we could see she was wearing a red dress and long white gloves. She turned around to us, and I gave a cry of surprise and horror. Her face was the strangest yellow colour and it had absolutely no expression.



A moment later the mystery was explained. Holmes, with a laugh, put his hand behind the ear of the little girl, and pulled off the mask, and there was a little coal-black ¹ girl. She laughed, and I laughed too, but Grant Munro stood staring ² with his hand holding his throat. ³

'My God!' he cried, 'what does this mean?'

'I will tell you everything,' cried his wife with a proud face. ⁴ 'You have forced me, and now we must both accept the situation. My husband died at Atlanta. My child survived.'

'Your child!' cried Grant Munro.

She pulled out a locket, ⁵ and inside the locket was the

1. **coal-black** : very dark.
2. **staring** : looking fixedly in one direction.
3. **throat** : the front part of your neck.
4. **proud face** : the expression on her face shows that she thinks what she did was good.

5. **locket** : 

THE YELLOW FACE



picture of a very handsome and intelligent man, but a man who was obviously of African descent.

'This is John Hebron, of Atlanta,' said Mrs

Munro, 'and he was a very

noble man. I cut myself

off ¹ from my race to

marry him, but I

never regretted it ²

for a moment.

Unfortunately,

our only child took

after ³ his people

rather than mine. She is

very dark, but she is my dear little girl.' When the little girl

heard these words, she ran to her mother.

'I left her in America with a trusted servant,' Mrs Munro

continued, 'because she was not very healthy, but I never

considered abandoning her. When I met you by chance and

learned to love you, I was afraid to tell you about my child. I

was afraid to lose you. I kept her existence a secret from you

for three years, but finally I had to see my little girl. I sent

1. **cut myself off** : separated myself.
2. **never regretted it** : was never sorry about it.
3. **took after** : resembled, looked like.

SHERLOCK HOLMES INVESTIGATES



the servant a hundred pounds, and told her to come to this cottage. I took every possible precaution so that there would not be gossip ¹ about a little black girl. That is why she wore that yellow mask.

‘You told me about her arrival in the cottage, and that night I had to see her, and that was the beginning of my troubles. And now, tonight, you know everything. What are you going to do about me and my child?’



Mr Grant Munro did not say anything for two minutes, and his answer was one of which I love to think. He lifted the little child, kissed her, and, with the little girl in his arms, he gave his other hand to his wife.

‘We can talk it over ² more comfortably at home,’ he said. ‘I am not a very good man, Effie, but I think that I am better than you thought.’

We all left the cottage together, and then Holmes and I returned to London.

1. **gossip** : talk about the private and personal affairs of other people, often not based on fact.
2. **talk it over** : discuss the entire situation.

THE YELLOW FACE



We did not say another word about the case until late that night at Holmes’ house in Baker Street, just before Holmes went to bed.

‘Watson,’ he said, ‘if you should ever think that I am becoming too confident ¹ in my powers, or that I am not working hard enough on a particular case, please whisper ² “Norbury” in my ear, and I will be infinitely obliged ³ to you.’

The End



1. **confident** : sure, certain.
2. **whisper** : say quietly so that no one else can hear.
3. **obliged** : grateful, thankful.

Go back to the text

1 Answer the following questions.

- When did Holmes and Watson go to Norbury?
- Why did Effie have to cut herself off from her race?
- Who did the little girl take after?
- Why did Effie leave her little girl in America?
- Why was Effie afraid to tell her husband about the little girl?
- What was Grant Munro's reaction to the little girl before the explanation? And after the explanation?
- What did Holmes say about his theory after he discovered the truth?

Getting the facts straight

- 2 In this story there are different interpretations of the facts. Holmes himself is wrong. Mr Munro doesn't understand what he sees, and Effie lies to maintain her secret. Below are three different explanations of seven parts of the story.**

Say which one is:

- The real explanation.
 - What Mr Munro has seen or what Effie first told him.
 - Sherlock Holmes' explanation.
- The husband died of yellow fever but the child survived.
..... After Effie's husband and child died, she returned to England to stay with an aunt.
..... Effie fled from her husband because he had a terrible disease.

- After three years of happy marriage, Effie wanted to see her daughter again.
..... After three years of happy marriage, Effie has some secret.
..... After three years of happy marriage Effie receives a blackmail letter from her first husband.
- Mr Hebron's photograph was destroyed in a fire.
..... The photograph was not destroyed in the fire. She does not want his picture because she hated him.
..... She didn't want to show the photograph because Mr Hebron was of African descent.
- The first husband tells her to send a hundred pounds, or they will tell Mr Munro everything.
..... Effie sent the servant a hundred pounds to bring her daughter to England.
..... Effie wanted the one hundred pounds for a dress.
- Effie went out in the middle of the night because she wanted some fresh air.
..... Effie went out in the middle of the night because she wanted to see her daughter.
..... Effie went out in the middle of the night because she wanted to convince her blackmailers to leave her alone.
- Effie's first husband is in the house.
..... Effie had never seen the people in the cottage before.
..... Effie's little girl is in the house.
- Mr Munro is not sure the yellow face is a man's face.
..... Effie's first husband has a horrible yellow face because he got a terrible disease.
..... The little girl wore the mask so gossips would not talk about a little black girl.

PET 1 Below are brief descriptions of three people. Decide which of the three stories in this volume would be the most suitable for each person.

- 1 Jo is interested in America. He wants to visit when he has enough money but for now he likes reading about anything that mentions America, especially its cultural aspects.
- 2 Tom is very romantic and has lots of girlfriends. He lives in a small town and so finds it difficult to stop them from being jealous. He is always looking for new ways to hide from them.
- 3 Veronica is eighteen and lives in a big city. She loves jewels but doesn't have any money to buy them.

- A *The Blue Carbuncle*
- B *The Yellow Face*
- C *A Case of Identity*

2 Write a 'book report' about the story *The Blue Carbuncle*.

Title a.

Author b.

Characters main c.

 minor d.

Setting place(s) e.

 time f.

Short summary

This story is about g.

.....

.....

.....

PET 3 Read the text below and choose the correct word for each space.

A Case of Identity

Miss Mary Sutherland (0) to visit Sherlock Holmes to tell (1) about the disappearance of her (2) Hosmer Angel. She tells him that her father had died and then her mother remarried a very young man, Mr Windibank. Mr Windibank sold her father's (3) and Miss Sutherland gave the interest from her inheritance (4) her mother, while she earned money typing.

Mr Windibank kept tight control of Miss Sutherland but she (5) Hosmer Angel at a ball when her stepfather was away in France for business. The young lovers could only see each other when Mr Windibank went away (6) they wrote love letters (7) Miss Sutherland wrote hers by hand but Mr Angel wrote his with a typewriter.

Mr Hosmer was a little strange (8) wearing dark glasses and whispering but he was gentle and kind. Miss Sutherland's mother liked him too. Soon they decided that Miss Sutherland should marry Mr Angel...

- | | | | |
|-------------|-----------|------------------|-------------|
| 0 A comes | B becomes | C finishes | D begins |
| 1 A them | B me | C him | D you |
| 2 A granny | B fiancé | C brother-in-law | D father |
| 3 A job | B money | C profession | D business |
| 4 A from | B to | C at | D in |
| 5 A met | B meets | C is meeting | D will meet |
| 6 A because | B even | C but | D until |
| 7 A yearly | B weekly | C monthly | D daily |
| 8 A always | B never | C rarely | D hardly |

4 Can you finish the summary for *A Case of Identity*?

5 Answer the following questions about *The Yellow Face*.

- a. What did the man who wanted to see Holmes leave on the table at Holmes' house?
- b. How did Holmes know what the man was called?
- c. Why did the man come to see Holmes?
- d. What happened to his wife before he met her?
- e. What did Munro's wife ask him for one day?
- f. What did Munro see in the window of the cottage?
- g. When Munro wanted to enter the cottage what did his wife say?
- h. Who did Holmes think was blackmailing Munro's wife?
- i. Who was the person with the yellow face?
- j. Why did Munro's wife not tell him the truth about America when they met?
- k. What did Munro decide to do about the new situation?

6 Which of the three stories did you prefer? Explain why.



- 5 a A pipe. b It was written on his hat. c Because he was worried about his wife. d She lived in America, where her husband and child died of yellow fever. e £100. f A yellow face. g If you enter, our marriage is over. h Her first husband or some unscrupulous woman attached to him. i Munro's wife's child. j Because she was worried that she would lose him. k He welcomed the child warmly to his family.
- 6 Student's answer.
- 4 Student's answer.
- 3 1 C, 2 B, 3 D, 4 B, 5 A, 6 C, 7 D, 8 A
- 2 a The Blue Carbuncle b Arthur Conan Doyle c Sherlock Holmes, Dr John Waston, James Ryder d Peterson, Mr and Mrs Henry Baker, Countess of Morcar, John Horner, Mr Breckinridge, Catherine Cusack, Mrs Oakeshott, Mr Windigate, Maudsley. e London f 1800s g The mystery of the blue carbuncle, who it belonged to and why it ended up inside a goose.
- 1 1 B, 2 C, 3 A