

SYNOPSIS

The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes is a collection of twelve stories featuring Holmes's unraveling of various puzzling plots:

1. "A Scandal in Bohemia" involves a threat of blackmail to a masked man named Count Von Kramm, an alias for Wilhelm Gottsreich Sigismund von Ormstein, hereditary King of Bohemia. Holmes, heavily disguised as a loafer, gathers information about the villain, a famous contralto named Irene Adler. His trick works a little too well; the newly-married singer easily spots the work of the famous detective and leaves him a small needling note promising to abstain from future extortion attempts.
2. A rather simple quandary of Jabez Wilson, a red-haired pawnbroker, leads Holmes to uncover the work of a notorious felon, John Clay. Wilson is puzzled by an easy job his apprentice has found for him with the Red-headed League, which serves as the title of this story. His work as a copyist, however, comes to an inexplicable conclusion. Holmes investigates the matter and discovers a connection between the phony philanthropic society and a newly-dug tunnel leading to a cache of French gold. Lying in wait in a damp chamber beneath the pavement, Holmes and Watson assist the police in thwarting the would-be robbers.
3. In "A Case of Identity," Miss Mary Sutherland explains the bizarre disappearance of her fiancé, Mr. Hosmer Angel, on their wedding day. Holmes's investigation reveals that Mr. Angel does not exist; he is the concoction of Miss Sutherland's stepfather who, by means of the embarrassing debacle at the altar, hopes to persuade the girl to remain single so that he might continue using the proceeds from her inheritance. The detective decides against revealing the details of the ruse to the naive girl for fear she will not believe him.
4. "The Bascombe Valley Mystery" proves a real challenge to Holmes's powers of observation as he investigates the brutal clubbing of Charles McCarthy and the obvious connection with an earlier squabble with his son, which has led to the boy's incarceration. Following intense scrutinization of the grounds where the murder occurred, Holmes describes in detail the murderer—Mr. John Turner, a victim of diabetes, who is forced to desperate measures after years of McCarthy's blackmail and a threatened marriage between young McCarthy and Mr. Turner's beloved daughter. The inevitable death of Turner occurs in a matter of months, and the young people find happiness despite the earlier antagonism between their parents.
5. "The Five Orange Pips" details an example of the vengeance of the KKK, a post-Civil War secret society from the United States, which seeks to destroy the uncle of John Openshaw. When Openshaw reports the manner of his uncle's death, the facts of his uncle's residence in the New World, and the subsequent death of his father, Holmes warns the young man to be cautious. However, the pseudo-accidental death of the young man leaves Holmes feeling that he has failed. The intrepid detective sets out to bring the society to justice for the three murders, but he stops short of his goal upon discovering that *The Lone Star*, the ship which conveyed the killers to England, has disappeared, leaving only shattered remains.
6. In the opening segment of "The Man with the Twisted Lip," Watson descends into the seamy world of an opium den to retrieve an addict; there he recognizes Holmes among the denizens, disguised as a fellow sufferer. Holmes is searching for Neville St. Clair, the missing husband of a woman who saw her husband standing at a window of the opium parlor just before his disappearance. Although bloodstains and identifiable clothing cause the police to suspect murder, Holmes journeys to the jail and washes the chief suspect, removing enough makeup to establish his identity as Neville St. Clair. The deceptive husband reveals his double identity as a gentleman and a beggar named Hugh Boone. After confessing his fascination with a life of easy money, St. Clair promises to mend his ways.
7. The humorous incident of the lost goose and hat precedes Sherlock Holmes's "Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle," in which the detective discovers a missing gemstone in the bird's crop. A search for the owner uncovers the thief, James Ryder, whose plot to secrete the stolen jewel in a holiday goose, is muddled when the goose's identity can not be established. The repentant felon finds mercy at the hands of Holmes, who chooses not to inform the police.
8. Dr. Grimesby Roylott's grotesque plot to murder his twin stepdaughters and secure their inheritance presents Holmes with a series of odd clues as he unravels "The Adventure of the Speckled Band." Miss

ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES

Helen Stoner explains the events preceding her twin sister's inexplicable death and expresses fear for her own life. Holmes agrees that the situation appears dire and quickly moves to protect the young girl. He deduces that the alterations to her bedroom allow Dr. Roylott to introduce a deadly snake into a false ventilator shaft and down onto her bed, where Miss Stoner's sister met her fate. Holmes lies in wait for the killer, reverses the snake's direction, and victimizes Roylott by his own fiendish method—deadly venom.

9. Dr. Watson's patient, Victory Hatherley, tells an astounding tale of his lost thumb and prompts the physician to set his companion onto "The Adventure of the Engineer's Thumb." An offer from a mysterious German encourages Hatherley, whose business is failing from lack of clients, to accept a secret mission to repair a hydraulic press. Upon his arrival at the site, Hatherley realizes that the operation is not milling fuller's earth, as the owner indicated. Before he can escape, the engineer loses his thumb on the window sill when the enraged German strikes out with a cleaver. Recovering under the care of Watson, he leads Holmes, Watson, and the police to the area only to find a burned house, twisted metal, and the disappearance of the forgers who had set up operations in the building.
10. The appearance of Lord St. Simon prompts Holmes to solve another wedding riddle in "The Adventure of the Noble Bachelor." When his bride disappears at the wedding breakfast, the British nobleman is compelled to seek assistance in solving the mystery. Although clues lead to the supposition that she has met with violence, Holmes leads the case into another direction and locates the bride on the arm of her first husband, Frank Moulton, whom she met in an American gold field and lost to Apache Indians. The reappearance of Moulton at the wedding prompts Hatty Doran to escape from a bigamous relationship and to find happiness with the man she really loves.
11. Watson and Holmes detect a crazed man approaching the door and enter "The Adventure of the Beryl Coronet" with the mystifying story of Alexander Holder and the mangled tiara. Accepting a priceless coronet as collateral for an unusually large loan, Holder removes the treasure from his office to his home, but he is horrified to see his son Arthur in the act of taking it from its hiding place. Badly damaged, it is missing three stones and a corner of the setting when Holder reports his son to the authorities. His niece, whom he has adopted, leaves her beloved uncle a farewell note and vanishes, blaming herself for his misfortune. Holmes solves the matter by linking Mary, the niece, with Arthur's dissolute friend George Burnwell. Tracking the villain to his home, Holmes makes a deal with Burnwell and returns the stolen beryls to Mr. Holder.
12. The unusual interview of a governess for a well-paid job leads Holmes on "The Adventure of the Copper

Beeches." Settling the innocuous quandary of Violet Hunter about a position in which she is to wear a blue dress, cut her hair, and sit in a certain chair proves more dangerous than Holmes at first supposes. During her performance of duties as governess to a small boy, Violet Hunter discovers a lock of hair identical to her own. Further investigation leads her to a sequestered wing of the house when Runcastle, her employer, catches her in the act of snooping and threatens to set the dog on her. Violet repairs to Holmes for advice. His quick thinking uncovers Runcastle's evil plot to imprison his daughter Alice and to secure her money for his own use. Alice is rescued by her fiancé just before Runcastle runs afoul of his own dog, which seriously mauls its owner. Violet Hunter leaves her post and accepts more suitable employment as head of a private school.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

The creator of Sherlock Holmes, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (1859-1930), was trained in medicine at Edinburgh University, completed two voyages as a ship's doctor, and began a practice in Southsea, England. The year of Doyle's graduation, 1885, was also the beginning of a long and satisfying writing career. His first Holmes tale, "A Study in Scarlet," established the address of the famed logician—221b Baker Street, London—and sold for £25 to Ward Locke for use in *Beaton's Christmas Annual* in London and *Lippincott's Magazine* in the United States. Wearying of his indomitable hero, Doyle abandoned Holmes in 1893 after his tragic drowning in Reichenbach Falls, Switzerland. Holmes proved to be more resilient than the author realized and returned by popular demand in 1902 in the masterpiece thriller *The Hound of the Baskervilles*.

In addition to detective stories Doyle wrote plays, historical romances, and essays in defense of British policy in the Boer War, in which he served as a civilian doctor. Late in his life, a developing interest in the occult after the death of his son in World War I led Doyle to produce a two-volume *History of Spiritualism* in 1926. However, it was the popularity of his brilliant detective which cinched his literary reputation.

CRITIC'S CORNER

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle holds a unique spot in English literature. His development of a realistic character with strengths—encyclopedic knowledge of such minutiae as rare tobacco and Oriental tattooing methods—as well as weaknesses—a penchant for cocaine and an occasional touch of arrogance—produced an unexpected cult following known as the "Baker Street Irregulars," which is still in existence a hundred years after Holmes's creation. The indefatigable efforts of Dr. James Watson, Holmes's faithful companion, admirer, and the narrator of the series, provides the famed detective with an opportunity for clarification of his methods and instruction in logic. The

ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES

adventures of Holmes and Watson have intrigued readers for a century and have led to a successful series of films and spin-off imitations.

GENERAL OBJECTIVES

1. To study the method of deductive logic.
2. To examine the style of a detective story.
3. To recognize the cause-and-effect logic of human motivation.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

1. To scrutinize Holmes's method of assembling facts and reaching a valid conclusion.
2. To assess the purpose of Watson as narrator of the series.
3. To describe the complex nature of Holmes as a character.
4. To determine the significance of the themes of greed and vengeance.
5. To isolate the events which bring characters to untenable circumstances and to evaluate their methods of escaping them.
6. To consider the enduring popularity of Sherlock Holmes as an entertaining figure of literature.
7. To explicate the characteristic British motif in the detail of the stories.

MEANING STUDY

Below are words, phrases, sentences, or thought units that have particular meaning in the story. Explain the meaning each has in this book. Page numbers are given so that you can note the context from which the item is taken.

1. breach of promise, (p. 70)
(a breaking of a promise to marry. Watson reaches the erroneous conclusion that Hosmer Angel does not sign his letters so that he can deny the typewritten signature if there is a lawsuit against him.)
2. dénouement, (p. 71)
(the point in a story in which the solution is revealed. The etymology of the word is "the untying of the knot," which is a figurative description of each of Holmes's cases.)
3. monograph, (p. 73)
(Holmes has written small pamphlets on isolated subjects about which he has become expert. He considers producing another treatise on the subject of peculiarities in individual typewriters.)

4. Assizes, (p. 81)
(court sessions held in each county of England for the trying of civil and criminal cases.)
5. Petrarch, (p. 87)
(Holmes demonstrates his knowledge of literature by mentioning various authors, including George Meredith, George Sand, Thoreau, and Balzac. Petrarch (1304-1373) penned a series of love sonnets during the early Italian Renaissance which contained a pattern of an octave followed by a sestet, rhyming abba, abba, cde, cde.)
6. "... We will take it as a working hypothesis for want of a better." (p. 138)
(an unproved supposition which serves as a basis for further investigation until facts can establish or disprove it.)
7. "Then, pray tell me what it is that you can infer from this hat?" (p. 155)
(Watson is asking Holmes what conclusions he can reach from so mundane an object as a hat. Holmes's reply astounds his companion: "That the man was highly intellectual. . . fairly well-to-do. . . although he has now fallen upon evil days." His concluding remark, ". . . that his wife has ceased to love him" leaves Watson nonplussed and eager for the process of logic that is bound to follow these observations.)
8. "Arms: Azure, three caltrops in chief over a fess sable." (p. 228)
(Holmes is reading a description of the family coat of arms of Lord St. Simon. The combined effect is of a sky-blue insignia with a horizontal black bar covering the middle third of the device. The pattern of three thistle-shaped weapons used to hinder the advance of cavalry dominates the piece.)
9. "They inherit Plantagenet blood by direct descent, and Tudor on the distaff side." (p. 228)
(Additional information about Lord St. Simon's family reveals his royal ancestry on both sides of the family. On his father's side is a direct connection to the ruling family of England from 1154-1399. On his mother's side is a similar lineage to the Tudors, the ruling house from 1485-1603 until the death of Elizabeth I left the country with no direct male heir.)
10. "the little god's arrows," (p. 229)
(an allusion to a state of love induced by Cupid's arrows.)

COMPREHENSION STUDY

Answer the following questions in your own words. There is not always a right answer. Your judgment is important and you should be ready to defend your answers by referring to passages in the book.

ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES

Questions 1-5 Literal Level

1. What clues does Holmes gather from ordinary articles of clothing?

(Holmes learns a great deal from hats, cuffs, boots, and other garments. When Mary Sutherland enters his apartment, Holmes notes the wear on her sleeve and deduces that she has been hard at work. Likewise, an examination of Henry Baker's hat leads the detective to conclude that the owner has fallen on hard times, as indicated by the age and condition of a once-expensive hat. Other details, such as the knees of Vincent Spaulding's trousers and the toes of John Turner's boots, become crucial clues to the solution of crime.)

2. How does Watson make use of his own expertise?

(Dr. James Watson maintains a separate medical practice, but he abandons his professional pursuits whenever Holmes summons him to a case. In one instance, "The Adventure of the Engineer's Thumb," a patient leads the doctor to request the assistance of the detective, a turnabout from the usual arrangement of the stories. Likewise, the physician is assisting a friend who is battling opium addiction when he encounters Holmes already at work on "The Man with the Twisted Lip.")

3. How does Holmes make use of his deductive skills in commonplace matters?

(At the beginning of "A Scandal in Bohemia," Holmes notes that his friend Watson, whom he has not seen since the doctor's marriage, has gained seven and a half pounds, begun practice again, gotten himself wet, and suffered the attentions of a careless servant girl. Watson, denying the last half pound of weight, questions his arrival at these conclusions. Holmes has only to point to cuts on his left shoe, the smell of disinfectant, silver nitrate stains on his right forefinger, and the telltale bulge of his stethoscope to prove himself correct in each instance.)

4. What methods of transportation are used by the characters?

(Doyle mentions rail transport as well as steam ships, but his most frequent reference is to horse-drawn vehicles. The trap is a light two-wheeled cart with springs. A dogcart is a light, open carriage with two seats arranged back to back. The brougham is a more elegant conveyance featuring an enclosed four-wheeled carriage with an external seat for the driver. In contrast, a hansom cab is a two-wheeled covered carriage for two passengers, pulled by a single horse, with a driver's seat above and behind the cab.)

5. What language used by Doyle particularizes his work as nineteenth century British literature?

(The following terms are characteristic of Doyle's country and era:

mews—a back alley

ostler—stable boy

sovereign—an obsolete gold coin worth one pound

shilling—a coin valued at five cents or 1/20 of a pound

row—an argument

ulster—a loose overcoat

Esq.—an abbreviation of esquire, a title of respect

gaiters—leggings

draughts—checkers

vestas—wooden matches

commissionaire—errand-runner

billycock—derby hat

waistcoat—vest

cravat—man's tie

d.—a penny (denarius)

blackguard—scoundrel

constable—a policeman

fortnight—two weeks

pips—seeds

shag—coarsely shredded tobacco

cracked a crib—revealed a theft)

Questions 6-8 Interpretive Level

6. What distinction does Holmes make between seeing and observing?

(Watson queries Holmes's skill in remembering minutiae, chastising himself with his comment ". . . the thing always appears to me to be so ridiculously simple that I could easily do it myself, though at each successive instance of your reasoning I am baffled until you explain your process. And yet I believe that my eyes are as good as yours." Holmes's reply to his defensive remark explains clearly the difference between seeing and observing: "For example, you have frequently seen the steps which lead up from the hall to this room. . . Now, I know that there are seventeen steps, because I have both seen and observed.")

7. What is Holmes's reaction to the death of a client whom he expected to save?

(When Watson reads the newspaper account of John Openshaw's death, Holmes is at first depressed. "That hurts my pride, Watson," he said at last. "It is a petty feeling, no doubt, but it hurts my pride. It becomes a personal matter with me now, and, if God sends me health, I shall set my hand upon this gang." He continues with self-castigation for sending the young man to his death and paces about, clenching his hands and vowing vengeance.)

8. What is Holmes's reason for referring to Irene Adler as the woman?

(Holmes meets his match at the hands of a clever female rascal, who attempts to extort money from the King of Bohemia. When the pursuit of justice

ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES

ends with the opera singer's disappearance with the offensive photograph, Holmes indicates his annoyance at being bested by a female with his brusque departure from his client. Watson notes that "...for the trained reasoner to admit such intrusions into his own delicate and finely adjusted temperament was to introduce a distracting factor which might throw a doubt upon all his mental results.")

Questions 9 and 10 Critical Level

9. What motivation is at work in the majority of cases? (Although jealousy and vengeance figure in some of the tales, the most common theme is greed. In "The Red-Headed League" it is the cause of John Clay's multifarious plot to get the pawnbroker out of the way so that he can rob the adjacent building. In "A Case of Identity," "The Adventure of the Speckled Band," and "The Adventure of the Copper Beeches," greed results in jilting, imprisonment, and even murder of family members. In "The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle," the desire for wealth ends in a debacle for the thief, who never profits from his theft of the stone. Likewise, "The Adventure of the Noble Bachelor" produces no wealth for the conniving Lord St. Simon, who woos an American heiress only to lose her to a longlost husband; nor does the theft of the beryl coronet enrich the thieving Sir George Burnwell by an amount equivalent to the total value. The most unusual example of lust for money—Neville St. Clair's bizarre disguise and his regular pursuit of easy money from begging—comes to a halt when his wife discovers his double life. Overall, the theme of greed undergirds a majority of the thieves' stratagems, in contrast to the freehanded operation of Holmes, who is remarkably devoid of the itch for money.)
10. In which story does Doyle assemble the most impressive display of logic? ("The Adventure of the Speckled Band" is the most tightly constructed of the detective stories, featuring the examination of a small area and the assembly of a rather oblique set of clues. The inclusion of sense impressions—the smell of cigar smoke, the sound of the iron cage clanging shut, and the taste of a dish of milk—heightens the sense of intrigue in a crime that takes detailed planning, only to turn on the perpetrator in a ghastly death which is sheer poetic justice.)

Question 11 Creative Level

11. Keep a detailed personal diary from Holmes's point of view. Cover the investigation of one of the twelve stories in minute detail, explaining where the information was located and how it fit into the total scheme of things. Include personal comments by the

detective about Watson's help and Lestrade's interference.

STUDENT INVOLVEMENT ACTIVITIES

1. Make a glossary of French and Latin terms from the book, including *nee*, *nous verrons*, *bijou*, *locus standi*, *en bloc*, and others. Define these phrases and explain their usage by quoting the sentences in which they appear.
2. Read *The Hound of the Baskervilles* and compare Holmes's methods with those used in his earlier stories. Pay particular attention to the part Dr. Watson plays in the solution of the crime.
3. Make a detailed sketch of Inspector Lestrade, noting his faults as a logician.
4. Mark on a map the location of settings in England and of distant places mentioned by the characters.
5. Read *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* and compare Robert Louis Stevenson's style of mystery writing with Doyle's. What does the addition of science fiction add to Stevenson's tale?
6. Tape record an enactment of one of the stories. Choose distinctive voices to play the parts. Augment the flow of the plot with sound effects and background music which suggest a suspenseful atmosphere.
7. Create a conversation between James Watson and his new wife in which the two discuss Holmes's style of life and his unusual clients.
8. Design book jackets for the various titles and incorporate major clues into the motif. Avoid giving away the plot by revealing too much on the cover.
9. Invite a modern-day detective to explain to the class his methods of apprehending criminals. If possible, visit a crime lab and observe the scientific examination of clues.
10. Make reports on some of the more bizarre criminals of the past—Jesse James, Bonnie Parker and Clyde Barrow, Jack the Ripper, the Boston Strangler, Willie Sutton, the Rosenbergs, and others.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Carr, John Dickson. *The Life of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle*. New York, 1949.
- Nordan, Pierre. *Conan Doyle, A Biography*. New York, 1964.
- Pearson, Hesketh. *Conan Doyle*. London, 1961.
- Rosenberg, Samuel. *Naked Is the Best Disguise*. Indianapolis, 1974.
- Tracy, Jack. *Encyclopedia Sherlockiana*. New York, 1977.

ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES

VOCABULARY TEST

From each set of words below, choose a synonym for the first word in the line. Place the letter of your choice in the blank at left.

- _____ 1. **gladly:** (a) suavely (b) speciously (c) fain (d) inimitably
- _____ 2. **guessed:** (a) oscillated (b) chaffed (c) sidled (d) conjectured
- _____ 3. **empty:** (a) devoid (b) trite (c) filial (d) restive
- _____ 4. **boredom:** (a) wheal (b) lichen (c) ennui (d) ruse
- _____ 5. **claim:** (a) allude (b) purport (c) bandy (d) fathom
- _____ 6. **puzzle:** (a) conundrum (b) compunction (c) swag (d) axiom
- _____ 7. **sparkling:** (a) palpitating (b) scintillating (c) dawdling (d) gesticulating
- _____ 8. **embarrassment:** (a) panoply (b) vizard (c) gibe (d) chagrin
- _____ 9. **bordered:** (a) abutted (b) upbraided (c) inferred (d) erred
- _____ 10. **surface:** (a) breach (b) facet (c) crepitude (d) surmise

From each set of words below, choose an antonym to the first word in the line. Place the letter of your choice in the blank at left.

- _____ 1. **precede:** (a) embellish (b) recommence (c) solder (d) ensue
- _____ 2. **penalty:** (a) discrepancy (b) aperture (c) impunity (d) pretext
- _____ 3. **talkative:** (a) sporadic (b) akimbo (c) patent (d) terse
- _____ 4. **joyous:** (a) morose (b) azure (c) introspective (d) succinct
- _____ 5. **energy:** (a) demeanour (b) languor (c) ado (d) genii
- _____ 6. **smooth:** (a) incisive (b) manifold (c) averse (d) staccato
- _____ 7. **foolish:** (a) furtive (b) tenable (c) astute (d) sardonic
- _____ 8. **advancement:** (a) retrogression (b) remonstrance (c) imprudence (d) consternation
- _____ 9. **certain:** (a) bluff (b) abhorrent (c) dubious (d) bizarre
- _____ 10. **rescue:** (a) converse (b) wrack (c) abode (d) interim

ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES

COMPREHENSION TEST A

Part I: Matching (30 points)

Match each set of details with the title of the story in which they are crucial to the outcome. You will use some answers more than once.

- | | |
|--|--|
| _____ 1. adopted niece, wooden leg, bare footprints | |
| _____ 2. broken hand-mirror, coil of hair | |
| _____ 3. claim-jumper, dropped wedding bouquet | |
| _____ 4. cleaver, German accent | A. "The Adventure of the Beryl Coronet" |
| _____ 5. Cooee, -arat, cigar-holder | B. "The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle" |
| _____ 6. fake blood, stationery, photograph | C. "The Adventure of the Copper Beeches" |
| _____ 7. goose, lost hat, "blue egg" | D. "The Adventure of the Engineer's Thumb" |
| _____ 8. hotel bill, Apache Indians | E. "The Adventure of the Noble Bachelor" |
| _____ 9. KKK, sundial, <i>The Lone Star</i> | F. "The Adventure of the Speckled Band" |
| _____ 10. mastiff, electric-blue dress | G. "The Bascombe Valley Mystery" |
| _____ 11. matches, 421 pennies, signet-ring | H. "A Case of Identity" |
| _____ 12. stamping machine, fuller's earth | I. "The Five Orange Pips" |
| _____ 13. tattoo, Encyclopedia Britannica, dirty knees | J. "The Man with the Twisted Lip" |
| _____ 14. typewritten letters, whispers, missing groom | K. "The Red-Headed League" |
| _____ 15. ventilator, dish of milk, bell-pull | L. "A Scandal in Bohemia" |

Part II: True/False (20 points)

In the space at left mark **T** if the statement is completely true or **F** if any part of the statement is false.

- _____ 1. Sherlock Holmes admits to having been beaten once by a woman.
- _____ 2. Watson's new wife encourages him to help Holmes with his cases.
- _____ 3. Lestrade comes to Sherlock Holmes for assistance in the search for a runaway groom.
- _____ 4. The king of Bohemia rewards Sherlock Holmes handsomely for solving his dilemma.
- _____ 5. Holmes and Watson capture John Openshaw's murderers aboard *The Lone Star*.
- _____ 6. Lord St. Simon blames Flora Millar for abducting his wife from her room.
- _____ 7. Holmes is unable to return Mary to her uncle's house after she leaves with Sir George Burnwell.
- _____ 8. Watson miscalculates and loses the precious goose among the other geese, all of which look alike.
- _____ 9. Watson is shocked to recognize Sherlock Holmes among derelicts in his hiding place at the opium den.
- _____ 10. The office of the red-headed league is a front for a gang of forgers.

ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES

COMPREHENSION TEST B

Part I: Matching (30 points)

Match parts of statements from the book by placing the letter of your answer in the space provided at left. You will have answers left over when you finish.

- _____ 1. Amid the action and reaction of so dense a swarm of humanity, every possible combination of events may be expected to take place,
- _____ 2. And Holmes's fears came to be realized, for from that day to this
- _____ 3. Circumstantial evidence is occasionally very convincing,
- _____ 4. Draw your chair up and hand me my violin,
- _____ 5. Here we may take it that there is a love matter,
- _____ 6. He was, I take it, the most perfect reasoning and observing machine that the world has seen,
- _____ 7. He was still, as ever, deeply attracted by the study of crime,
- _____ 8. I suppose that I am committing a felony, but
- _____ 9. It is an old maxim of mine that when you have excluded the impossible,
- _____ 10. . . . It is one of the curses of a mind with a turn like mine
- _____ 11. Man, or at least criminal man,
- _____ 12. There is danger for him who taketh the tiger cub, and danger also for whoso
- _____ 13. . . . Working as he did rather for the love of his art than for the acquirement of wealth,
- _____ 14. . . . You have erred perhaps in attempting to put colour and life into each of your statements
- _____ 15. You have heard me remark that the strangest and most unique things are very often
- A. connected not with the larger but with the smaller crimes, and occasionally, indeed, where there is room for doubt whether any positive crime has been committed.
- B. rather upon conjecture and surmise than on that absolute logical proof which was so dear to him.
- C. how dangerous it always is to reason from insufficient data.
- D. but as a lover he would have placed himself in a false position.
- E. snatches a delusion from a woman.
- F. and many a little problem will be presented which may be striking and bizarre without being criminal.
- G. it is possible that I am saving a soul.
- H. and I cannot say that it is likely to weigh very heavily upon my conscience.
- I. he refused to associate himself with any investigation which did not tend towards the unusual, and even the fantastic.
- J. no word has ever been heard either of the beautiful woman, the sinister German, or the morose Englishmen.
- K. even if it gave my friend fewer openings for those deductive methods of reasoning by which he achieved such remarkable results.
- L. as when you find a trout in the milk, to quote Thoreau's example.
- M. for the only problem we have still to solve is how to while away these bleak autumnal evenings.
- N. whatever remains, however improbable, must be the truth.

ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES

- O. instead of confining yourself to the task of placing upon record that severe reasoning from cause to effect which is really the only notable feature about the thing.
- P. you found yourself deprived in an instant of wife and of fortune.
- Q. has lost all enterprise and originality.
- R. that I must look at everything with reference to my own special subject.
- S. and occupied his immense faculties and extraordinary powers of observation in following out those clues, and clearing up those mysteries which had been abandoned as hopeless by the official police.
- T. but that the maiden is not so much angry as perplexed, or grieved.

Part II: Identification (20 points)

Name the title of the story in which each of the following details appears and explain the importance of each to the plot.

- | | |
|--|--------------------|
| 1. a wedding dress, shoes, and veil and a new wedding ring | 6. three beryls |
| 2. a coil of hair | 7. fake blood |
| 3. a goose with a tag on its feet | 8. a missing groom |
| 4. a map of Australia | 9. a dish of milk |
| 5. the Encyclopedia Britannica | 10. fuller's earth |

Part III: Matching (20 points)

Match character description with the name of the character. You will have answers left over when you finish.

- | | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| _____ 1. Arthur Holder | | |
| _____ 2. Frank Moulton | | |
| _____ 3. Henry Baker | | |
| _____ 4. Irene Adler | | |
| _____ 5. James Watson | A. beggar | G. opera singer |
| _____ 6. King of Bohemia | B. captain of <i>The Lone Star</i> | H. an opium merchant |
| _____ 7. Lestrade | C. Dr. Watson's patient | I. owner of a goose |
| _____ 8. Neville St. Clair | D. George Burnwell's friend | J. a physician |
| _____ 9. Victor Hatherley | E. a governess | K. police inspector |
| _____ 10. Violet Hunter | F. a masked visitor | L. prisoner of Apache Indians |

Part IV: Essay Questions (30 points)

1. Compare the plight of the King of Bohemia with that of Lord St. Simon.
2. Describe Sherlock Holmes's lifestyle when he is not involved in a case.

ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES

VOCABULARY TEST ANSWER KEY

Synonyms

1. C 6. A
2. D 7. B
3. A 8. D
4. C 9. A
5. B 10. B

Antonyms

1. D 6. D
2. C 7. C
3. D 8. A
4. A 9. C
5. B 10. B

COMPREHENSION TEST A ANSWER KEY

Part I: Matching (30 points)

1. A 6. L 11. J
2. C 7. B 12. D
3. E 8. E 13. K
4. D 9. I 14. H
5. G 10. C 15. F

Part II: True/False (20 points)

1. T 6. F
2. T 7. T
3. F 8. F
4. T 9. T
5. F 10. F

Part III: Multiple Choice (20 points)

1. D 6. C
2. D 7. A
3. C 8. A
4. A 9. C
5. B 10. B

COMPREHENSION TEST B ANSWER KEY

Part I: Matching (30 points)

1. F 6. D 11. Q
2. J 7. S 12. E
3. L 8. G 13. I
4. M 9. N 14. O
5. T 10. R 15. A

Part II: Identification (20 points)

1. In "The Adventure of the Noble Bachelor" the bride's first husband disposes of his wife's wedding clothes. Their appearance in the river suggests that the bride has drowned.
2. In "The Adventure of the Copper Beeches" the governess finds a coil of hair so like her own that she at first thinks it is the hair she was forced to cut when she took the job. The hair was cut from Miss Alice Rucastle when she was taken ill with brain fever.
3. In "The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle" Henry Baker drops the goose when he is attacked by street ruffians. Holmes recovers the bird and finds a precious stone inside.
4. In "The Bascombe Valley Mystery" Holmes isolates a section of the map called Ballarat, which explains the dying man's last words—a rat.
5. In "The Red-Headed League" the victim is assigned the task of copying pages from the Encyclopedia Britannica in order to earn his wages. He never reaches the B's before the office is closed.
6. In "The Adventure of the Beryl Coronet" a piece of the precious tiara containing three beryls is broken off when the thief attempts to escape. Holmes locates the missing section, bargains for the stolen stones, and pays £1000 each for them.
7. In "A Scandal in Bohemia" Holmes arranges an extravagant ruse involving actors and a pretended assault. Later he reveals his use of fake blood to suggest an injury, the purpose of which was to gain admittance into Irene Adler's house.
8. In "A Case of Identity" Mary Sutherland fears that something has happened to her fiancé, who left in a cab for their wedding but disappeared before reaching the church. Holmes uncovers her stepfather's plot to deceive the girl with a disguised identity so that he might discourage future wedding plans and keep control of her money.
9. In "The Adventure of the Speckled Band" the killer keeps a dish of milk for his snake, which he is training to carry out a murder. Holmes deduces that the milk is an enticement for the snake to follow the commands of Dr. Roylott.

ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES

TEACHING NOTES

10. In "The Adventure of the Engineer's Thumb" the forger explains his covert operation as an attempt to mine fuller's earth without letting the neighbors know that there is a valuable resource on the property.

Part III: Matching (20 points)

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. D | 6. F |
| 2. L | 7. K |
| 3. I | 8. A |
| 4. G | 9. C |
| 5. J | 10. E |



PERMA-BOUND • VANDALIA ROAD • JACKSONVILLE, ILLINOIS 62650

**PHONE 800-637-6581
or in Illinois call collect
217/243-5451**