

Sherlock Holmes

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

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CONTENTS

Chapter 1	
<i>The Mystery of the Red-Headed League</i>	5
Chapter 2	
<i>The Precious Stone</i>	18
Chapter 3	
<i>The Famous Horse and Its Trainer</i>	32
Chapter 4	
<i>The Case of the Greek Interpreter</i>	40
Activities	50
Glossary	60
Answer Key	79

SHERLOCK HOLMES

Chapter 1

The Mystery of the Red-Headed League

I visited my friend Sherlock Holmes last year. It was autumn. I found him in a serious conversation with an overweight man who had a round face and ginger hair. He was quite old. I apologized kindly for my interruption. Holmes wanted to talk to me in private.

‘I’m so pleased that you are here, my dear Watson,’ he said in a friendly way.

‘You have a guest. I think I should leave,’ I said.

‘No need. The gentleman is a helper. He usually helps me and supports me in many cases.’

I greeted the gentleman and he rose from his chair to shake hands with me.

Holmes showed me the sofa to sit and he placed himself into his armchair and looked at my face meaningfully.

‘Mr Wilson, Dr Watson missed the opening part. The present case may be an example of crime but the strange nature of the story makes me worried. I need to hear the details from you one more time,’ said Sherlock Holmes.



Chapter 4

The Case of the Greek Interpreter

Sherlock Holmes was a very professional detective. I met him long time ago. He was very good at his job and I was glad to be a part of it but I knew nothing about his private life. He never talked about his relations and his childhood before. I thought that he was an orphan without any living relatives. He was a lonely and an insensitive person for the people around him.

On a summer afternoon, we sat and had tea together. We had a conversation about his private life for the first time. I was really surprised because he began to talk to me about his brother.

‘My ancestors were country squires. My grandmother was the sister of Vernet, the French artist. There is art in my blood.’ Holmes said to me in a modest way.

‘You mean art of deduction,’ I said to him in a friendly way. ‘How old is your brother?’ I asked curiously.

‘He is seven years older than me. He is interested in fine arts.’

‘Why is he unknown in England?’



rushed into the woman's arms.

'Is this you, Paul? Oh, my God!' she cried.

The younger man in the room stopped them and pushed the woman out of the room. They dragged the Greek man away to the other room. I was all alone in the room for a while. Surprisingly the older man came into the room and asked me to leave. He gave me some money for my job.

'You can go now, Mr Melas but if you tell a human soul about this, you will die. The cab is waiting for you outside. My friend will see you off,' he said firmly. Mr Latimer took his place opposite to me in the cab. He did not speak a word. We travelled for about two hours.

'I have to leave you here, Mr Melas. I am sorry to leave you so far from your house,' he said to me.

I got out of the cab and looked around me. I did not know where I was. I saw a line of houses far away and the red signal lamps of a railway. I stood there for a while and did not know what to do. Then a man came towards me in the darkness. He was a railway porter.

'Can you tell me where I am?' I asked the porter.

'Wandsworth Common,' he said.

'Can I get a train into town?'

'Clapham Junction is two kilometres away. You have to

SHERLOCK HOLMES

Activities

Chapter 1

Read chapter 1 and circle the correct answer for each question.

- 1. Who had a round face with ginger hair?**
 - a) Mr Wilson
 - b) Dr Watson

- 2. What did Mr Wilson take out of his pocket?**
 - a) A letter.
 - b) A newspaper.

- 3. Who has a small business?**
 - a) Mr Wilson
 - b) Sherlock Holmes

- 4. Is Mr Wilson married or a widower?**
 - a) He is married.
 - b) He is a widower.

- 5. Who interviewed Mr Wilson for the job vacancy?**
 - a) Vincent Spaulding
 - b) Duncan Ross

Characters

A. What do you know about these characters? Fill in the blanks with the words in the box.

Silver Blaze	taxi	red-headed	well-built
assistant	clever	goose	salesman
brother	owner	interpreter	thief

1. Sherlock Holmes is a _____ detective.
2. Dr Watson is the _____ of Sherlock Holmes.
3. Mr Wilson is _____.
4. Vincent Spaulding is a _____ man.
5. John Clay is a _____.
6. Peterson sees a tall man with a white _____.
7. Mr Breckinridge is a _____ in Covent Garden.
8. John Straker is the trainer of _____.
9. Colonel Ross is the _____ of Silver Blaze.
10. Mycroft is Sherlock Holmes' _____.
11. Mr Melas is a Greek _____.
12. Mr Latimer travels in a _____ with the interpreter.

Glossary

accident	a bad event that happens unexpectedly * My uncle had a car <i>accident</i> yesterday.
adventure	an exciting and sometimes dangerous experience * It's a real <i>adventure</i> to go on a safari in Africa.
advertisement	something that you show people to buy a product or for a job vacancy * I saw an <i>advertisement</i> for a new smartphone.
afraid	scared, frightened * My children are <i>afraid</i> of snakes.
apologize	say sorry about something * Terry never <i>apologizes</i> for his mistakes.
appear	become visible * The sun <i>appeared</i> behind the high mountains.
applicant	someone who applies for a job ... etc. * Only two <i>applicants</i> could get the job.

villain	a bad character in a movie, novel or play * I think he is a dreadful <i>villain</i> .
weapon	a gun * The criminal had a <i>weapon</i> .
wealthy	rich * My great grandfather was <i>wealthy</i> .
well-built	having a strong body * My uncle is <i>well-built</i> .
well-dressed	wearing smart clothes * Who is that <i>well-dressed</i> man?
widower	someone whose wife has died * He became a <i>widower</i> long time ago.
wig	artificial hair * He is bold, so he wears a <i>wig</i> .
wrinkled	having lines or folds * Some pupils have <i>wrinkled</i> notebooks.