

INDEPENDENT STUDY COMPANION

THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES



A LIVING BOOK STUDY - LEARNING BOOKLET

Name: _____

CASE 1: A SCANDAL IN BOHEMIA

READ:

The King of Bohemia needs a compromising photograph recovered - but the clever Irene Adler proves more than a match for Holmes.

NARRATION:

How does Irene Adler manage to outwit Holmes himself?

EXTENSION:

Discuss: why does Holmes ever afterwards call her simply 'the woman'?

Solve it - clues, your guess, and Holmes's solution:

CASE 2: THE RED-HEADED LEAGUE

READ:

A pawnbroker is paid a fine wage for copying out an encyclopaedia - a job so absurd it must be hiding something.

DISCUSS:

Spot the real clues hidden inside a ridiculous job advertisement.

EXTENSION:

Literacy: what makes a detective puzzle feel both clever and fair to the reader?

Solve it - clues, your guess, and Holmes's solution:

CASE 3: A CASE OF IDENTITY

READ:

A young woman's fiance vanishes on the way to their wedding, and only Holmes sees the cruel trick behind it.

DISCUSS:

How does Holmes read tiny details - like the marks of a typewriter - that everyone else misses?

EXTENSION:

Science: try Holmes-style close observation of an everyday object, and list what it tells you.

Solve it - clues, your guess, and Holmes's solution:

CASE 4: THE BOSCOMBE VALLEY MYSTERY

READ:

A young man is accused of murdering his father, and a dying word may hold the key to who is really guilty.

NARRATION:

Retell how Holmes clears the man everyone believes is guilty.

EXTENSION:

PSHE: discuss the danger of jumping to conclusions about someone's guilt.

Solve it - clues, your guess, and Holmes's solution:

CASE 5: THE FIVE ORANGE PIPS

READ:

A deadly warning arrives by post - five orange pips - from a real and terrible secret society reaching out of America's past.

HISTORY:

Research secret societies. The villains here are the real Ku Klux Klan - find out honestly who they were.

EXTENSION:

Discuss: this is a case Holmes does not fully win. Why might Conan Doyle include such a story?

Solve it - clues, your guess, and Holmes's solution:

CASE 6: THE MAN WITH THE TWISTED LIP

READ:

A respectable gentleman vanishes near an opium den, and a twisted-lipped beggar seems to be at the heart of it.

DISCUSS:

Explain the strange double life of the beggar who is also a gentleman.

EXTENSION:

History: research poverty, disguise and the hidden underworld of Victorian London.

Solve it - clues, your guess, and Holmes's solution:

CASE 7: THE ADVENTURE OF THE BLUE CARBUNCLE

READ:

A lost hat and a Christmas goose lead Holmes to a priceless stolen jewel - and a difficult choice about mercy.

NARRATION:

Follow the chain of clues from a battered hat to a jewel inside a goose.

EXTENSION:

PSHE: Holmes chooses to let the thief go free. Was he right to show mercy?

Solve it - clues, your guess, and Holmes's solution:

CASE 8: THE ADVENTURE OF THE SPECKLED BAND

READ:

A terrified young woman fears for her life in a locked room, after her sister's mysterious death and a whispered warning about a 'speckled band'.

DISCUSS:

How does Holmes solve this famous locked-room mystery?

EXTENSION:

Science: work out how the clues - a whistle in the night, a saucer of milk, a fixed bed - fit together.

Solve it - clues, your guess, and Holmes's solution:

CASE 9: THE ADVENTURE OF THE ENGINEER'S THUMB

READ:

A young engineer staggers to Watson having lost his thumb, with a nightmarish tale of a secret machine and a narrow escape.

NARRATION:

Retell the engineer's terrifying night at the lonely house.

EXTENSION:

Discuss: why is this case unusual compared with the other stories?

Solve it - clues, your guess, and Holmes's solution:

CASE 10: THE ADVENTURE OF THE NOBLE BACHELOR

READ:

A bride disappears from her own wedding breakfast, and a face from America explains the mystery.

DISCUSS:

A bride vanishes minutes after her wedding. How does Holmes explain it?

EXTENSION:

History: research marriage, money and class in Victorian society.

Solve it - clues, your guess, and Holmes's solution:

CASE 11: THE ADVENTURE OF THE BERYL CORONET

READ:

A banker is trusted with a priceless royal coronet, and wakes to find part of it gone and his own son the prime suspect.

DISCUSS:

How do appearances deceive here - who is really guilty, and who is wronged?

EXTENSION:

PSHE: discuss trust and suspicion within a family.

Solve it - clues, your guess, and Holmes's solution:

CASE 12: THE ADVENTURE OF THE COPPER BEECHES

READ:

A governess is offered a strange job on odd conditions, and Holmes senses something sinister behind the pleasant country house.

NARRATION:

What is so strange about the governess's new household?

EXTENSION:

Wrap-up: what makes Sherlock Holmes such a lasting and famous character?

Solve it - clues, your guess, and Holmes's solution:

MY CASE JOURNAL

For each story, try to solve the case before Holmes does. Note the clues, your own theory, and how it actually turned out.

Case	Key clues	My theory	The real solution

DESIGN YOUR OWN CASE

Plan a mystery of your own for Holmes to solve. Remember to plant fair clues the reader could spot - and one red herring to fool them.

The crime or puzzle	
The clues	
The red herring	
Who did it	
How Holmes solves it	