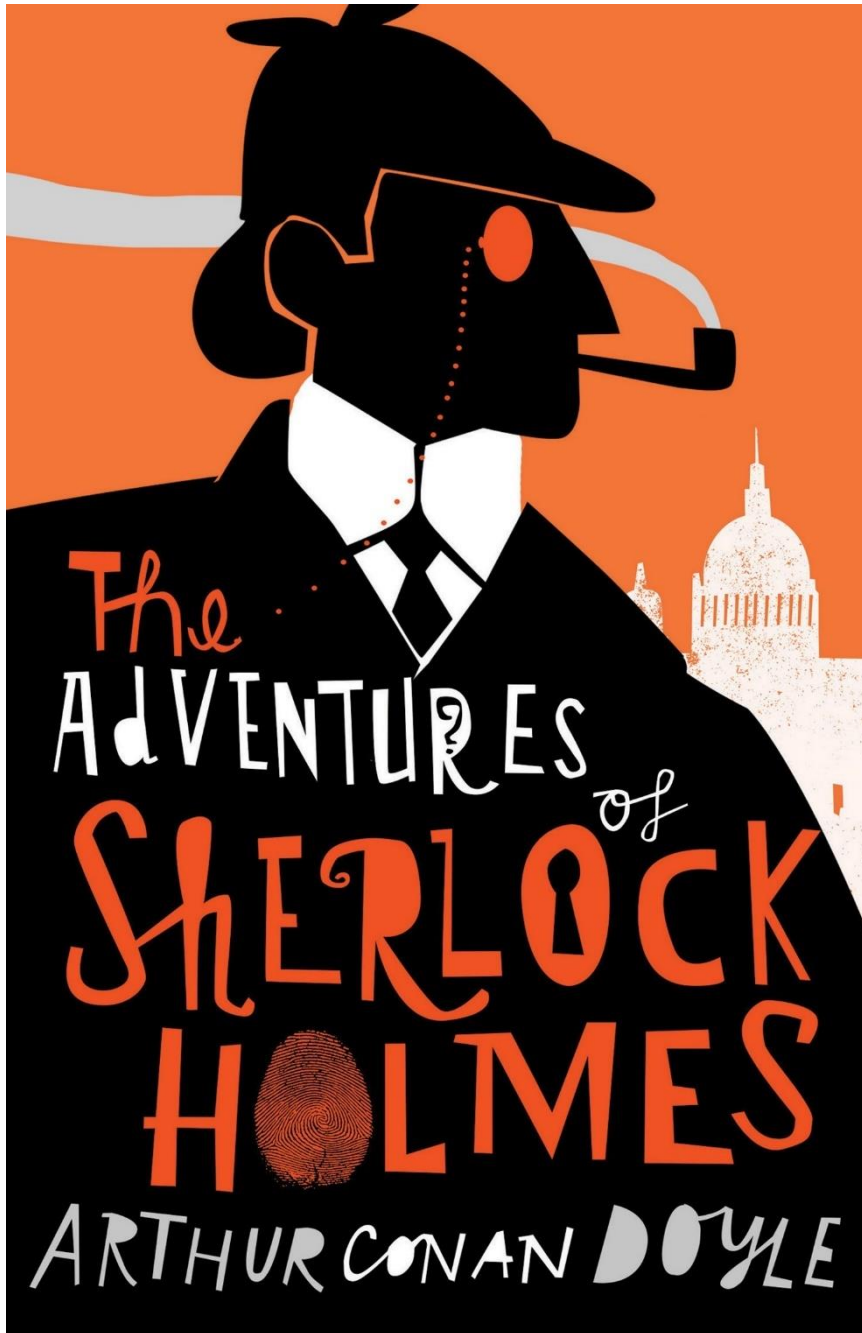


Year 8: Sherlock Holmes



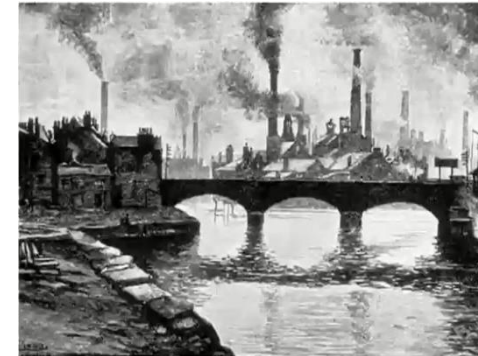
Name: _____

Contents

Victorian London	Page 1
John Snow and the Broad Street Pump	Page 2
The Police in Victorian London	Page 3
Dr Watson in A Study in Scarlet	Page 4
Dr Watson meets Holmes for the first time	Page 5
Irene Adler	Page 7
A Scandal in Bohemia and The Red-Headed League	Page 8
The Red-Headed League, the newspaper advertisement	Page 9
Holmes and Watson investigate the area near Jabez Wilson's pawnbroker's	Page 11
The dual nature of Sherlock Holmes	Page 13
The Heist	Page 14
Holmes explains the case to Dr Watson	Page 18
Sherlock Holmes: the detective	Page 20
A Victorian Christmas	Page 21
Sherlock Holmes tells us how he made his deductions	Page 23
Sherlock Holmes and the man with the hat	Page 25
Sherlock Holmes and Henry Baker	Page 26
Sherlock investigates the goose-seller	Page 28
Sherlock Holmes and James Ryder	Page 30

What can you remember about Victorian London?

Use these headings to help you	
The River Thames and disease	
Factories	
Population	
Crime	



John Snow and the Broad Street Pump

In Victorian London, John Snow's way of working was very different to how people usually looked at cholera deaths. No one would have looked at the deaths in such a scientific way.

John Snow worked in a very thorough way. He wanted to find out everything about the deaths from the Broad Street pump. He also wanted to look at the unusual deaths in the area. 5

For example, there were three deaths in Heddon Court. This is in the south west of the map, to the left of Regent Street.

These deaths were strange. The people living here could have got their water from the pumps on Warwick Street, to the east, or from Vigo Street, to the south. John Snow decided to investigate these deaths. 10

He found that three children had died. These children went to school near Broad Street. The children drank the water from the Broad Street pump at school. That is why they died.

John Snow also saw that there was a death on Marlborough Mews towards the north west of the map, just south of Oxford Street. This death was strange because there was a water pump right next to the house. No one else using the pump had died. John Snow wanted to work out why this person had died. 15

John Snow spoke to the husband of the woman who had died. The man said that he didn't like the taste of the water from the pump outside his house. He preferred the taste of the water from the Broad Street pump. He always walked all the way to the Broad Street pump to get his water. He didn't know he was getting infected water, and his wife died. 20

There were at least 61 cholera deaths in the area. John Snow investigated all of them. Because of his work, the Broad Street pump was quickly shut down. John Snow's scientific way of working helped to inspire the scientists of the Victorian era. Today, people compare his way of working to the detective Sherlock Holmes, who always wanted to find out all of the facts about a case. 25

The Police in Victorian London

Before the police

Before 1829, there was no proper police force in England. If someone wanted to investigate a crime or find a criminal, they would have to do it themselves or pay someone to do it for them. If there was a big problem with crime, then the army could be called up to help.

5

By 1829, this system just wasn't working, particularly in London. London was such a big place and so many crimes were being committed, that people realised there needed to be a better way of investigating and preventing crime.

The Metropolitan Police – the first proper police force

10

In 1829, a politician called Sir Robert Peel came up with the idea of the Metropolitan Police, which would be a police force for London. The Metropolitan Police would be made up of paid police officers who would work together and follow rules about how they could investigate crime.

People were worried that the police would act like the army. To help make people feel better about the new police force, their uniform was deliberately made in blue, rather than red which was then an army colour. Police officers were only armed with a wooden truncheon. They also had a rattle which they used to attract attention and help.

15

London and the Police Force grow and grow

20

Over time, the Metropolitan Police became bigger and more important. They were set up in 1829, not long before 'Oliver Twist' was written. At this time, the Metropolitan Police had just 1,000 officers. By 1885 they had grown to have 13,000 officers. The police were still stretched though, as over the same period of time, the population of London had exploded from around 1.5 million to over 5 million.

25

Crime in Victorian London

Even though London now had a police force, people could still get away with crime. In 1888, people from across London were horrified by the Whitechapel murders, when eleven women were killed gruesomely in east London from 1888 to 1891. The police investigated this crime, but despite all their efforts, the killer – known as Jack the Ripper – was never caught, and the murder cases remain unsolved to this day.

30

Dr Watson in A Study in Scarlet

In 1878 I became a Doctor of Medicine from the University of London. I then joined the army as a doctor. My regiment were sent to India, and soon after we arrived a war began in Afghanistan. We were sent to join the forces there.

The war effort in Afghanistan brought honours and promotion to many, but for me it was a disaster. I was shot in the shoulder which shattered the bone and grazed an artery. I nearly died. 5

Weak, and in constant pain, I was moved to a military hospital. There, I was struck down with typhoid fever. For months, I thought I was going to die. So did the other doctors in the hospital. When I finally began to recover, the military doctors said that I should be sent back to England immediately. 10

I was put on the next ship home and a month later I arrived in Portsmouth, still sick and weak. I thought I would never be truly healthy again. But I had been given some money by the army to live on, so I tried to re-start my life and to improve my health. 15

I didn't know anyone in England so I was free to do whatever I liked – within the limits the money my army pension gave me. I naturally headed to London, the great pit where all the travellers and slackers are drawn to. I stayed at a beautiful, expensive hotel in the Strand for a while, but I was not happy. 20

With nothing to do, I quickly became bored and my money soon began to run low. My finances became so bad that I realised that I either had to leave the city or completely change the way I was living. I chose the second option, and decided to look for a cheaper, less luxurious way of living. 25

1. **What does Dr Watson do once he qualifies as a doctor?**
2. **What happened to Dr Watson when he was in Afghanistan?**
3. **What disease nearly killed Dr Watson?**
4. **What city does Dr Watson arrive in?**
5. **What city does Dr Watson move to?**
6. **Where does he stay?**
7. **What problems does he face?**



Dr Watson meets Holmes for the first time

<p>Stamford and I walked into a large room, filled with bottles with chemicals and medicines. There were wide tables which held test-tubes and Bunsen burners with blue flickering flames. There was only one person in the room, who was bending over a table. He was completely absorbed in his work.</p>	5
<p>My friend Stamford cleared his throat, and the man turned around. "Dr. Watson, Mr. Sherlock Holmes," said Stamford, introducing us.</p>	
<p>"How are you?" Holmes said in a friendly tone. Although he was slim, he shook my hand with the strength of a bear. "You have been in Afghanistan, I see."</p>	10
<p>"How on earth did you know that?" I asked in astonishment.</p>	
<p>"We came here on business," said Stamford as Holmes stood there laughing to himself. "Dr. Watson needs somewhere to live, and I know that you were complaining that you could get no one to go halves with you, Sherlock. I thought that I would bring you together."</p>	15
<p>Sherlock Holmes seemed delighted at the idea of sharing his rooms with me. "I have my eye on a place in Baker Street," he said, "which would be perfect for us. You don't mind the smell of strong tobacco, I hope?"</p>	
<p>"I sometimes smoke a pipe myself," I answered.</p>	
<p>"Good. I usually have chemicals about, and occasionally do experiments. Would that annoy you?"</p>	20
<p>"Not at all."</p>	
<p>"Let me see—what are my other flaws. I get down in the dumps at times, and don't speak for days on end. You must not think I am sulky when I do that. Just leave me alone, and I'll soon be all right. What is your opinion on the violin?" he asked, anxiously.</p>	25
<p>"It depends on the player," I answered. "A well-played violin is a treat—a badly-played one——"</p>	
<p>"Oh, that's all right," he cried, with a laugh. "We'll be fine if you like the rooms."</p>	30
<p>"When can we see them?"</p>	
<p>"Call for me here at noon to-morrow, and we'll go together and settle everything," he answered.</p>	
<p>"All right—noon exactly," said I, shaking his hand.</p>	
<p>Stamford and I went to leave Holmes working with his chemicals when I thought of something Holmes had just said.</p>	35
<p>"By the way," I asked suddenly, stopping and turning around, "how on earth did you know that I had come from Afghanistan? Surely Stamford must have told you?"</p>	
<p>"Nothing of the sort. The thoughts ran so quickly through my mind that I made the conclusion without even realising it. But as you asked, I will tell</p>	40

<p>how I made the deduction. I thought, 'Here is a medical man, but with the stance of someone who has trained in the military. He must be an army doctor, then. He has just come from somewhere hot and sunny because his face is suntanned, but his wrists are pale. His thin face clearly tells me he has been ill. His left arm has been injured because he holds it in a stiff and awkward way. Where could an English army doctor have seen such trouble and got his arm wounded? Clearly in Afghanistan.' The whole thought process took less than a second. I then said that you came from Afghanistan, and you were astonished."</p>	45
<p>"Incredible!" I exclaimed. Everything this stranger had said was completely true. I was sure he knew more of my recent troubles than my closest friends.</p>	50
<p>"I have a skill for observation and for deduction. In fact, I rely on this type of observation as a career."</p>	55
<p>"And how?" I asked.</p>	
<p>"Well, I have a trade of my own. I think I am the only one in the world. I'm a consulting detective. Here in London we have lots of Government detectives and lots of private ones. When these detectives are beaten they come to me, and I manage to help them out. They give me all the evidence they have, and I am generally able, with my knowledge of crime, to set them straight."</p>	60
<p>I couldn't believe what I was hearing. I had never heard of a consulting detective before. "Are you trying to tell me," I said, "that without leaving your room you can solve a case which other people can make nothing of, even though they have seen every detail for themselves?"</p>	65
<p>"Exactly. It's a special ability that I have. Sometimes there is a case which is a little more complicated. Then I have to go out and see things with my own eyes. I have a lot of special knowledge which I apply to the problem, and which helps me to solve things easily. Observation is as easy as breathing for me."</p>	70

Irene Adler

The first paragraph of A Scandal in Bohemia

To Sherlock Holmes she is always *the* woman. I have seldom heard him mention her under any other name. **In his eyes she eclipses and predominates the whole of her sex.** It was not that he felt any emotion akin to love for Irene Adler. All emotions, and that one particularly, were abhorrent to his cold, precise but admirably balanced mind. A crack in one of his own high-power lenses would not be more disturbing than a strong emotion in a nature such as his. **And yet there was but one woman to him,** and that woman was the late Irene Adler, of dubious and questionable memory.

seldom – rarely

eclipses – blocks out; **predominates** – is better than; **sex** – gender;

akin – like

abhorrent – disgusting

lenses – a microscope or magnifying glass

a strong emotion – love; **nature** – personality

dubious – uncertain, strange

A Scandal in Bohemia and The Red-Headed League

Look at the introduction to A Scandal in Bohemia (pages 1 – 8) and The Red-Headed League.

Put a tick in the box to say if the story contains each part.

Some parts are in both stories.

Some parts are only in one story.

	A Scandal in Bohemia	The Red-Headed League
Dr Watson decides to visit Sherlock Holmes.		
Sherlock Holmes is working on a case.		
Sherlock Holmes works out lots of information about Dr Watson.		
Sherlock Holmes receives a letter.		
The client visits 221B Baker Street.		
Dr. Watson tries to work out information about the client.		
Sherlock Holmes works out lots of information about the client from their appearance.		
Sherlock Holmes explains how he worked out the information.		

The Red-Headed League, the newspaper advertisement

“Yes, sir. He and a girl of fourteen, who does a bit of simple cooking and keeps the place clean—that’s all I have in the house, for I am a widower and never had any family. We live very quietly, sir, the three of us; and we keep a roof over our heads and pay our debts, if we do nothing more. 5

“The first thing that put us out was that advertisement. Spaulding, he came down into the office just this day eight weeks, with this very paper in his hand, and he says:

“I wish to the Lord, Mr. Wilson, that I was a red-headed man.’ 10

“Why that?’ I asked.

“Why,’ says he, ‘here’s another vacancy on the League of the Red-headed Men. It’s worth quite a little fortune to any man who gets it, and I understand that there are more vacancies than there are men, so that the trustees are at their wits’ end what to do with the money. If my hair would only change colour, here’s a nice little crib all ready for me to step into.’ 15

“Why, what is it, then?’ I asked. You see, Mr. Holmes, I am a very stay-at-home man, and as my business came to me instead of my having to go to it, I was often weeks on end without putting my foot over the door-mat. In that way I didn’t know much of what was going on outside, and I was always glad of a bit of news. 20

“Have you never heard of the League of the Red-headed Men?’ he asked with his eyes open. 25

“Never.’

“Why, I wonder at that, for you are eligible yourself for one of the vacancies.’

“And what are they worth?’ I asked. 30

“Oh, merely a couple of hundred a year, but the work is slight, and it need not interfere very much with one’s other occupations.’ 35

“Well, you can easily think that that made me prick up my ears, for the business has not been over good for some years, and an extra couple of hundred would have been very handy. 40

“Tell me all about it,’ said I.

“Well,’ said he, showing me the advertisement, ‘you can see for yourself that the League has a vacancy, and there is the address where you should apply for particulars. As far as I can make out, the League was founded by an American millionaire, Ezekiah Hopkins, who was very peculiar in his ways. 40

trustees – people who make sure a will is carried out
crib – easy job

slight – easy

particulars – more details

He was himself red-headed, and he had a great sympathy for all red-headed men; so, when he died, it was found that he had left his enormous fortune in the hands of trustees, with instructions to apply the interest to the providing of easy berths to men whose hair is of that colour. From all I hear it is splendid pay and very little to do.'

45 **easy berth** – an easy path

"But,' said I, 'there would be millions of red-headed men who would apply.'

50

"Not so many as you might think,' he answered. 'You see it is really confined to Londoners, and to grown men. This American had started from London when he was young, and he wanted to do the old town a good turn. Then, again, I have heard it is no use your applying if your hair is light red, or dark red, or anything but real bright, blazing, fiery red. Now, if you cared to apply, Mr. Wilson, you would just walk in; but perhaps it would hardly be worth your while to put yourself out of the way for the sake of a few hundred pounds.'

55

"Now, it is a fact, gentlemen, as you may see for yourselves, that my hair is of a very full and rich tint, so that it seemed to me that if there was to be any competition in the matter I stood as good a chance as any man that I had ever met. Vincent Spaulding seemed to know so much about it that I thought he might prove useful, so I just ordered him to put up the shutters for the day and to come right away with me. He was very willing to have a holiday, so we shut the business up and started off for the address that was given us in the advertisement.

60

put up the shutters – i.e. close the chop

65

Holmes and Watson investigate the area near Jabez Wilson's pawnbroker's

Here's what happens in this passage:

- A. Sherlock Holmes visits the area where Jabez Wilson's pawnbroker's is
- B. He walks around the area
- C. He knocks on the door of the pawnbroker's and speaks to the assistant
- D. He visits the main road near the pawnbroker's
- E. He makes a note of the different buildings and businesses on the main road.

"Then put on your hat and come. I am going through the City first, and we can have some lunch on the way. I observe that there is a good deal of German music on the programme, which is rather more to my taste than Italian or French. It is introspective, and I want to introspect. Come along!"

We travelled by the Underground as far as Aldersgate; and a short walk took us to Saxe-Coburg Square, the scene of the singular story which we had listened to in the morning. It was a poky, little, shabby-genteel place, where four lines of dingy two-storied brick houses looked out into a small railed-in enclosure, where a lawn of weedy grass and a few clumps of faded laurel-bushes made a hard fight against a smoke-laden and uncongenial atmosphere. Three gilt balls and a brown board with "JABEZ WILSON" in white letters, upon a corner house, announced the place where our red-headed client carried on his business. Sherlock Holmes stopped in front of it with his head on one side and looked it all over, with his eyes shining brightly between puckered lids. Then he walked slowly up the street, and then down again to the corner, still looking keenly at the houses. Finally he returned to the pawnbroker's, and, having thumped vigorously upon the pavement with his stick two or three times, he went up to the door and knocked. It was instantly opened by a bright-looking, clean-shaven young fellow, who asked him to step in.

"Thank you," said Holmes, "I only wished to ask you how you would go from here to the Strand."

"Third right, fourth left," answered the assistant promptly, closing the door.

"Smart fellow, that," observed Holmes as we walked away. "He is, in my judgment, the fourth

programme – the music being played at the concert

Aldersgate – a part of east London

singular – unique, strange

dingy – dark and dirty

smoke-laden – smoky from factories

gilt – golden

announced – showed

puckered lids – narrowed eyes

keenly – actively

vigorously – with lots of energy

1. **How would you describe the area Jabez Wilson's pawnbroker's is set?**

the Strand – an area of central London

promptly – quickly

smartest man in London, and for daring I am not sure that he has not a claim to be third. I have known something of him before."

"Evidently," said I, "Mr. Wilson's assistant counts for a good deal in this mystery of the Red-headed League. I am sure that you inquired your way merely in order that you might see him."

"Not him."

"What then?"

"The knees of his trousers."

"And what did you see?"

"What I expected to see."

"Why did you beat the pavement?"

"My dear doctor, this is a time for observation, not for talk. We are spies in an enemy's country. We know something of Saxe-Coburg Square. Let us now explore the parts which lie behind it."

The road in which we found ourselves as we turned round the corner from the retired Saxe-Coburg Square presented as great a contrast to it as the front of a picture does to the back. It was one of the main arteries which conveyed the traffic of the City to the north and west. The roadway was blocked with the immense stream of commerce flowing in a double tide inward and outward, while the footpaths were black with the hurrying swarm of pedestrians. It was difficult to realise as we looked at the line of fine shops and stately business premises that they really abutted on the other side upon the faded and stagnant square which we had just quitted.

"Let me see," said Holmes, standing at the corner and glancing along the line, "I should like just to remember the order of the houses here. It is a hobby of mine to have an exact knowledge of London. There is Mortimer's, the tobacconist, the little newspaper shop, the Coburg branch of the City and Suburban Bank, the Vegetarian Restaurant, and McFarlane's carriage-building depot. That carries us right on to the other block. And now, Doctor, we've done our work, so it's time we had some play. A sandwich and a cup of coffee, and then off to violin-land, where all is sweetness and delicacy and harmony, and there are no red-headed clients to vex us with their conundrums."

40 **he has not a claim** – i.e. he might be

Evidently – Clearly

45 **inquired** – asked; **merely** – only

50

2. How does Holmes describe Jabez Wilson's assistant?

55

retired – set back from the main road

contrast – difference
arteries – roads

60 **conveyed** – brought

commerce – business

stately – posh, smart

65 **premises** – buildings

abutted – backed on to
stagnant – dirty

3. How is the main road different to Saxe-Coburg Square, where the pawnbroker's is?

70

75

delicacy – lightness

vex – confuse, frustrate

conundrums – problems

The dual nature of Sherlock Holmes

In this passage, Holmes describes the two sides of Sherlock Holmes



My friend was an enthusiastic musician, being himself not only a very capable performer but a composer of no ordinary merit.

All the afternoon he sat in the stalls wrapped in the most perfect happiness, gently waving his long, thin fingers in time to the music, while his gently smiling face and his dreamy eyes were as unlike those of Holmes the sleuth-hound, Holmes the relentless, ready-handed criminal agent, as it was possible to imagine. In his unique character the dual nature alternately drove him. His extreme exactness and scientific mind was balanced against the poetic and introspective mood which occasionally predominated in him.

The swing of his nature took him from extreme inactivity to fierce energy; and, as I knew well, he was never so truly formidable as when, for days on end, he had been lounging in his armchair with his improvisations. Then it was that the thrill of the chase would suddenly strike him, and his brilliant reasoning power would rise to the level of instinct. Those who did not know his methods would look disbelievingly at him as they would look on a man whose knowledge was not that of other mortals.

When I saw him that afternoon so enwrapped in the music at St. James's Hall I felt that an evil time might be coming upon those whom he had set himself to hunt down.



no ordinary merit – i.e. very good

sleuth – detective; **hound** – a dog used for investigations

relentless – never ending

alternately – took it in turns

predominated – led

formidable – impressive, intimidating

instinct – being able to do something without thinking about it

The Heist

We had reached the same crowded thoroughfare in which we had found ourselves in the morning. Our cabs were dismissed, and, following the guidance of Mr. Merryweather, we passed down a narrow passage and through a side door, which he opened for us. Within there was a small corridor, which ended in a very massive iron gate. This also was opened, and led down a flight of winding stone steps, which terminated at another formidable gate. Mr. Merryweather stopped to light a lantern, and then conducted us down a dark, earth-smelling passage, and so, after opening a third door, into a huge vault or cellar, which was piled all round with crates and massive boxes.

thoroughfare – road

5

terminated – ended

10

“You are not very vulnerable from above,” Holmes remarked as he held up the lantern and gazed about him.

vulnerable – easy to attack

“Nor from below,” said Mr. Merryweather, striking his stick upon the flags which lined the floor. “Why, dear me, it sounds quite hollow!” he remarked, looking up in surprise.

15

“I must really ask you to be a little more quiet!” said Holmes severely. “You have already imperilled the whole success of our expedition. Might I beg that you would have the goodness to sit down upon one of those boxes, and not to interfere?”

20

imperilled – put at risk

The solemn Mr. Merryweather perched himself upon a crate, with a very injured expression upon his face, while Holmes fell upon his knees upon the floor and, with the lantern and a magnifying lens, began to examine minutely the cracks between the stones. A few seconds sufficed to satisfy him, for he sprang to his feet again and put his glass in his pocket.

25

“We have at least an hour before us,” he remarked, “for they can hardly take any steps until the good pawnbroker is safely in bed. Then they will not lose a minute, for the sooner they do their work the longer time they will have for their escape. We are at present, Doctor—as no doubt you have divined—in the cellar of the City branch of one of the principal London banks. Mr. Merryweather is the chairman of directors, and he will explain to you that there are reasons why the more daring criminals of London should take a considerable interest in this cellar at present.”

35

“It is our French gold,” whispered the director. “We have had several warnings that an attempt might be made upon it.”

40

“Your French gold?”

"Yes. We had occasion some months ago to strengthen our resources and borrowed for that purpose 30,000 napoleons from the Bank of France. It has become known that we have never had occasion to unpack the money, and that it is still lying in our cellar. The crate upon which I sit contains 2,000 napoleons packed between layers of lead foil. Our reserve of bullion is much larger at present than is usually kept in a single branch office, and the directors have had misgivings upon the subject."

45 **strengthen our resources** – get more gold in the bank
napoleons – French currency
50 **bullion** – cash reserves
misgivings – concerns

"Which were very well justified," observed Holmes. "And now it is time that we arranged our little plans. I expect that within an hour matters will come to a head. In the meantime Mr. Merryweather, we must put the screen over that dark lantern."

55

"And sit in the dark?"

"I am afraid so. I had brought a pack of cards in my pocket, and I thought that, as we were a *partie carrée*, you might have your rubber after all. But I see that the enemy's preparations have gone so far that we cannot risk the presence of a light. And, first of all, we must choose our positions. These are daring men, and though we shall take them at a disadvantage, they may do us some harm unless we are careful. I shall stand behind this crate, and do you conceal yourselves behind those. Then, when I flash a light upon them, close in swiftly. If they fire, Watson, have no compunction about shooting them down."

60 **partie carrée** – group of four people, ideal for a game of cards

65 **at a disadvantage** – they will not expect us
compunction –

I placed my revolver, cocked, upon the top of the wooden case behind which I crouched. Holmes shot the slide across the front of his lantern and left us in pitch darkness—such an absolute darkness as I have never before experienced. The smell of hot metal remained to assure us that the light was still there, ready to flash out at a moment's notice. To me, with my nerves worked up to a pitch of expectancy, there was something depressing and subduing in the sudden gloom, and in the cold dank air of the vault.

70 reservation, concern

75

"They have but one retreat," whispered Holmes. "That is back through the house into Saxe-Coburg Square. I hope that you have done what I asked you, Jones?"

80 **retreat** – way out

"I have an inspector and two officers waiting at the front door."

"Then we have stopped all the holes. And now we must be silent and wait."

85

What a time it seemed! From comparing notes afterwards it was but an hour and a quarter, yet it appeared to me that the night must have almost gone, and the dawn be breaking above us. My limbs were weary and stiff, for I feared

<p>to change my position; yet my nerves were worked up to the highest pitch of tension, and my hearing was so acute that I could not only hear the gentle breathing of my companions, but I could distinguish the deeper, heavier in-breath of the bulky Jones from the thin, sighing note of the bank director. From my position I could look over the case in the direction of the floor. Suddenly my eyes caught the glint of a light.</p>	90	
<p>At first it was but a lurid spark upon the stone pavement. Then it lengthened out until it became a yellow line, and then, without any warning or sound, a gash seemed to open and a hand appeared, a white, almost womanly hand, which felt about in the centre of the little area of light. For a minute or more the hand, with its writhing fingers, protruded out of the floor. Then it was withdrawn as suddenly as it appeared, and all was dark again save the single lurid spark which marked a chink between the stones.</p>	95	<p>acute – sensitive</p> <p>lurid – bright</p>
<p>Its disappearance, however, was but momentary. With a rending, tearing sound, one of the broad, white stones turned over upon its side and left a square, gaping hole, through which streamed the light of a lantern. Over the edge there peeped a clean-cut, boyish face, which looked keenly about it, and then, with a hand on either side of the aperture, drew itself shoulder-high and waist-high, until one knee rested upon the edge. In another instant he stood at the side of the hole and was hauling after him a companion, lithe and small like himself, with a pale face and a shock of very red hair.</p>	100	<p>protruded – stuck out</p> <p>save – except for</p> <p>rending – ripping</p>
<p>“It’s all clear,” he whispered. “Have you the chisel and the bags? Great Scott! Jump, Archie, jump, and I’ll swing for it!”</p>	105	<p>aperture – hole</p>
<p>Sherlock Holmes had sprung out and seized the intruder by the collar. The other dived down the hole, and I heard the sound of rending cloth as Jones clutched at his skirts. The light flashed upon the barrel of a revolver, but Holmes’ hunting crop came down on the man’s wrist, and the pistol clinked upon the stone floor.</p>	110	<p>lithe – flexible</p>
<p>“It’s no use, John Clay,” said Holmes blandly. “You have no chance at all.”</p>	115	<p>I’ll swing for it! – i.e. be hanged</p>
<p>“So I see,” the other answered with the utmost coolness. “I fancy that my pal is all right, though I see you have got his coat-tails.”</p>	120	<p>rending – tearing</p>
<p>“There are three men waiting for him at the door,” said Holmes.</p>	125	<p>blandly – without emotion</p>
<p>“Oh, indeed! You seem to have done the thing very completely. I must compliment you.”</p>	130	
<p>“And I you,” Holmes answered. “Your red-headed idea was very new and effective.”</p>	135	

"You'll see your pal again presently," said Jones. "He's quicker at climbing down holes than I am. Just hold out while I fix the derbies."

derbies -
handcuffs

"I beg that you will not touch me with your filthy hands," remarked our prisoner as the handcuffs clattered upon his wrists. "You may not be aware that I have royal blood in my veins. Have the goodness, also, when you address me always to say 'sir' and 'please.' "

140

address – talk to

"All right," said Jones with a stare and a snigger. "Well, would you please, sir, march upstairs, where we can get a cab to carry your Highness to the police-station?"

145

serenely –
calmly

"That is better," said John Clay serenely. He made a sweeping bow to the three of us and walked quietly off in the custody of the detective.

"Really, Mr. Holmes," said Mr. Merryweather as we followed them from the cellar, "I do not know how the bank can thank you or repay you. There is no doubt that you have detected and defeated in the most complete manner one of the most determined attempts at bank robbery that have ever come within my experience."

150

155

"I have had one or two little scores of my own to settle with Mr. John Clay," said Holmes. "I have been at some small expense over this matter, which I shall expect the bank to refund, but beyond that I am amply repaid by having had an experience which is in many ways unique, and by hearing the very remarkable narrative of the Red-Headed League."

160

Holmes explains the case to Dr. Watson

"You see, Watson," he explained in the early hours of the morning as we sat over a glass of whisky and soda in Baker Street, "it was perfectly obvious from the first that the only possible object of this rather fantastic business of the advertisement of the League, and the copying of the 'Encyclopaedia,' must be to get this not over-bright pawnbroker out of the way for a number of hours every day. It was a curious way of managing it, but, really, it would be difficult to suggest a better. The method was no doubt suggested to Clay's ingenious mind by the colour of his accomplice's hair. The £4 a week was a lure which must draw him, and what was it to them, who were playing for thousands? They put in the advertisement, one rogue has the temporary office, the other rogue incites the man to apply for it, and together they manage to secure his absence every morning in the week. From the time that I heard of the assistant having come for half wages, it was obvious to me that he had some strong motive for securing the situation."

"But how could you guess what the motive was?"

"The man's business was a small one, and there was nothing in his house which could account for such elaborate preparations, and such an expenditure as they were at. It must, then, be something out of the house. What could it be? I thought of the assistant's fondness for photography, and his trick of vanishing into the cellar. The cellar! There was the end of this tangled clue. Then I made inquiries as to this mysterious assistant and found that I had to deal with one of the coolest and most daring criminals in London. He was doing something in the cellar—something which took many hours a day for months on end. What could it be, once more? I could think of nothing save that he was running a tunnel to some other building.

"So far I had got when we went to visit the scene of action. I surprised you by beating upon the pavement with my stick. I was ascertaining whether the cellar stretched out in front or behind. It was not in front. Then I rang the bell, and, as I hoped, the assistant answered it. We have had some skirmishes, but we had never set eyes upon each other before. I hardly looked at his face. His knees were what I wished to see.

object – reason

5

not over-bright – stupid

curious – strange, interesting

10

ingenious – clever

accomplice – friend

lure – wage, trap

playing for – hoping to get

rouge – naughty person

15

incites – encourages

motive – reason

situation – job

1. Why did John Clay put the advertisement for Red-Headed people in the newspaper?

20

elaborate – clever, complicated

25

expenditure – cost

fondness – like

inquires – asked questions

30

save – except for

2. Why did John Clay say he spent lots of time in the cellar with photography?

35

ascertaining – working out

40

skirmishes – encounters, meetings

You must yourself have remarked how worn, wrinkled, and stained they were. They spoke of those hours of burrowing. The only remaining point was what they were burrowing for. I walked round the corner, saw the City and Suburban Bank abutted on our friend's premises, and felt that I had solved my problem. When you drove home after the concert I called upon Scotland Yard and upon the chairman of the bank directors, with the result that you have seen."

"And how could you tell that they would make their attempt to-night?" I asked.

"Well, when they closed their League offices that was a sign that they cared no longer about Mr. Jabez Wilson's presence—in other words, that they had completed their tunnel. But it was essential that they should use it soon, as it might be discovered, or the bullion might be removed. Saturday would suit them better than any other day, as it would give them two days for their escape. For all these reasons I expected them to come to-night."

"You reasoned it out beautifully," I exclaimed in unfeigned admiration. "It is so long a chain, and yet every link rings true."

"It saved me from ennui," he answered, yawning. "Alas! I already feel it closing in upon me. My life is spent in one long effort to escape from the commonplaces of existence. These little problems help me to do so."

"And you are a benefactor of the race," said I.

He shrugged his shoulders. "Well, perhaps, after all, it is of some little use," he remarked. "'*L'homme c'est rien—l'oeuvre c'est tout*,' as Gustave Flaubert wrote to George Sand."

remarked – seen

45 **burrowing** – digging

abutted – joined onto
premises – shop

50 **3. What did Holmes work out when he visited the pawnbroker's?**

55

bullion – gold

60

4. How did Holmes know the theft would take place today?

65 **unfeigned** – undisguised, open

ennui – intense boredom

70 **commonplaces** – boring details

benefactor – kind donator to

75 ***L'homme c'est rien—l'oeuvre c'est tout*** – the man is not important, the work is everything

Sherlock Holmes: the detective

Here are some extracts that show the different parts of Holmes.

Each quotation shows a part that makes Holmes such a good detective.

You need to use these quotations to answer this question:

What makes Sherlock Holmes such a good detective?

Holmes is good at collecting information

From 'A Scandal in Bohemia':

"I have no data yet. It is a capital mistake to theorise before one has data. Insensibly one begins to twist facts to suit theories, instead of theories to suit facts.

Holmes is a master of disguise:

From 'A Scandal in Bohemia':

It was close upon four before the door opened, and a drunken-looking groom, ill-kempt and side-whiskered, with an inflamed face and disreputable clothes, walked into the room. Accustomed as I was to my friend's amazing powers in the use of disguises, I had to look three times before I was certain that it was indeed he.

Holmes takes time to think carefully about the cases he works on:

From 'The Red-Headed League'

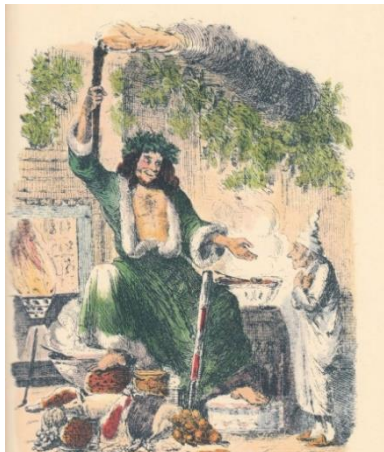
"Then put on your hat and come. I am going through the City first, and we can have some lunch on the way. I observe that there is a good deal of German music on the programme, which is rather more to my taste than Italian or French. It is introspective, and I want to introspect. Come along!"

A Victorian Christmas

People around the world have enjoyed midwinter festivals for thousands of years. One of the oldest traditions involves decorating houses and churches with evergreen plants like mistletoe, holly and ivy. In the past, people believed these plants had a magical ability to protect us from evil spirits. People also thought these plants encouraged the return of spring.

5

But it is the Victorians who had the biggest influence on the way we celebrate Christmas. The Victorians introduced Christmas presents, dinner, and even crackers.



The Spirit of Christmas Present from Dickens's 'A Christmas Carol'

Charles Dickens was a famous Victorian writer. He wrote a famous novel called 'A Christmas Carol'. This book had an enormous effect on people. The book showed how important charity, kindness and goodwill can be around Christmas time. After reading the story, many businesspeople treated their employees better at Christmas. Many bosses started giving their staff Christmas day off, and even paid for their turkeys at Christmas.

10

15

It was the Victorians who began many of the other traditions we enjoy today.

20

The gifts

At the start of Victoria's reign, children's toys were handmade and expensive. Not many people could afford them. But the new factories of the Victorian era meant that toys could be made by mass production. Games, dolls, books and clockwork toys could all be made much cheaper by the factories. This meant more people could afford them. But these toys were still too expensive for poorer families. A poor child would find an apple, an orange and a few nuts in their Christmas stocking.

25

Christmas dinner

People had enjoyed roast turkey for hundreds of years before the Victorian era. However, when Victoria first came to the throne, turkey was too expensive for most people to enjoy. In northern England, roast beef was the traditional Christmas dinner.



30

35

A bakery staying open on Christmas Day to cook dinner for local families

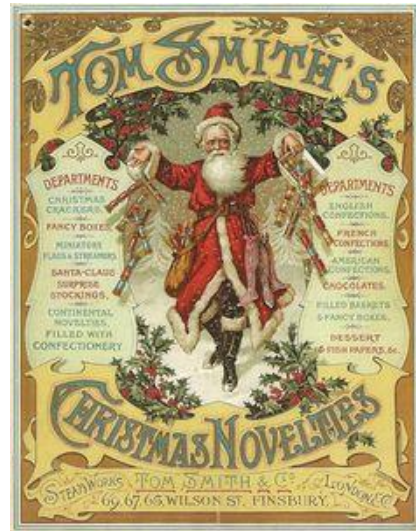
In London and the south, goose was most people's favourite Christmas meal. Even poorer families managed to afford a goose. Many pubs ran a Goose Club where people paid a small amount of money week by week until they had paid enough for their Christmas goose. Poor people often didn't have their own oven to cook their goose in. But local bakers would stay open to allow poor families to use their ovens on Christmas Day.

40

The Crackers

Tom Smith was a London sweet maker. At Christmas, he sold lots of sweets as they were cheap presents that many people could afford. He began wrapping the sweets in a little twist of coloured paper to make them prettier for Christmas. When other sweet makers copied his idea, he tried to make his sweets more interesting. He added love notes, paper hats and small toys. After hearing the crackle of a log fire one winter, he also came up with the idea of adding a crackling sound to the cracker. Tom Smith went on to invent the cracker device we know today. Last year, over 300 million crackers were pulled at Christmas tables all over the world!

45



50

55

An advertisement for Tom Smith's Christmas crackers and novelties

Once you have read this information, answer these questions:

1. Which Victorian writer helped to spread Christmas traditions with his stories?
2. How did factories change Christmas?
3. What was Christmas like for poor people?
4. How did poor people afford Christmas dinner?
5. How did Tom Smith make his sweets more interesting?

Sherlock Holmes tells us how he made his deductions

Sherlock Holmes has worked out a number of things about the man who lost the hat. Here are the things he worked out:

- The man was rich three years ago
- The man has become poorer in the last three years
- He used to be careful
- He is not very careful any more
- He might be a gambler
- His wife does not love him
- The man is careful about the way he looks
- He doesn't go out much
- He is not healthy
- He has grey hair which has been cut recently
- He puts a cream in his hair
- He lights his house with candles.

In this extract, he tells us how he worked these things out.

You need to work out what information from the hat allowed Holmes to make these deductions.

"You are certainly joking, Holmes."

"Not in the least. Is it possible that even now, when I give you these results, you are unable to see how they are attained?"

"I have no doubt that I am very stupid, but I must confess that I am unable to follow you. For example, how did you deduce that this man has suffered a decline in his fortunes?"

"This hat is three years old. These flat brims curled at the edge came in then. It is a hat of the very best quality. Look at the band of silk and the excellent lining. If this man could afford to buy so expensive a hat three years ago, and has had no hat since, then he has assuredly gone down in the world."

"Well, that is clear enough, certainly. But how about the foresight and the moral retrogression?"

Sherlock Holmes laughed. "Here is the foresight," said he putting his finger upon the little disc and loop of the hat-securer. "They are never sold upon hats. If this man ordered one, it is a sign of a certain amount of foresight, since he went out of his way to take this precaution against the wind. But since we see that he has broken the elastic and has not troubled to replace it, it is obvious that he has less foresight now than formerly, which is a distinct proof of a weakening

attained – reached

5

confess – admit

deduce – work out

fortunes – luck, status

10

assuredly – certainly

15

foresight – being careful

moral retrogression

– i.e. the man is not careful any more

20

formerly – previously

25

distinct – definite

nature. On the other hand, he has endeavoured to conceal some of these stains upon the felt by daubing them with ink, which is a sign that he has not entirely lost his self-respect."

"Your reasoning is certainly plausible."

"The further points, that he is middle-aged, that his hair is grizzled, that it has been recently cut, and that he uses lime-cream, are all to be gathered from a close examination of the lower part of the lining. The lens discloses a large number of hair-ends, clean cut by the scissors of the barber. They all appear to be adhesive, and there is a distinct odour of lime-cream. This dust, you will observe, is not the gritty, grey dust of the street but the fluffy brown dust of the house, showing that it has been hung up indoors most of the time, while the marks of moisture upon the inside are proof that the wearer perspired very freely, and could therefore, hardly be in the best of training."

"But his wife—you said that she had ceased to love him."

"This hat has not been brushed for weeks. When I see you, my dear Watson, with a week's accumulation of dust upon your hat, and when your wife allows you to go out in such a state, I shall fear that you also have been unfortunate enough to lose your wife's affection."

"But he might be a bachelor."

"Nay, he was bringing home the goose as a peace-offering to his wife. Remember the card upon the bird's leg."

endeavoured to conceal – tried to hide

daubing – covering

30 **plausible** – believable

grizzled – grey
lime-cream – a type of hair gel

35 **lens** – magnifying glass

adhesive – sticky
odour – smell

40

perspired – sweated

hardly be in the best of training – i.e.

45 the man is unfit

ceased – stopped

accumulation – build up

50

affection – love

bachelor – single man

55

Sherlock Holmes and the man with the hat

Here are the facts that Sherlock Holmes works out about the person who lost his hat. You need to explain how Sherlock Holmes worked out each fact only from looking at the hat.

The first two have been done for you.

The man was rich three years ago

The style of the hat was only introduced three years ago. It was expensive. The man would have been rich to be able to afford the hat.

The man has become poorer in the last three years

The hat has become battered and worn out. The man has not replaced the hat. He does not have as much money as he did three years ago.

He used to be careful

He is not very careful any more

His wife does not love him

The man is careful about the way he looks

He is not healthy

He has grey hair which has been cut recently

He puts a cream in his hair

Sherlock Holmes and Henry Baker

Sherlock Holmes has worked out a number of things about the man who lost the hat. Here are the things he worked out:

Deduction number:

1. Henry Baker is intelligent
2. He was well-off about three years ago
3. His fortunes have declined in the last three years
4. He is an alcoholic
5. His wife does not love him
6. He is unhealthy
7. He has a styled hair
8. He doesn't have gas at home

In this extract, we meet Henry Baker.

Write the number of Holmes's deductions next to the paragraph where Henry Baker confirms that Holmes was correct.

Henry Baker does not confirm the deductions in the same order as the list. You need to be careful when you find where Henry Baker confirms the deductions.

Two have been done for you.

	"Mr. Henry Baker, I believe," said he, rising from his armchair and greeting his visitor with an easy air of geniality. "Pray take this chair by the fire, Mr. Baker. It is a cold night, and I observe that you would certainly be more comfortable in summer than the winter. Ah, Watson, you have just come at the right time. Is that your hat, Mr. Baker?"	geniality – friendliness; pray – please
	"Yes, sir, that is undoubtedly my hat."	
4 1	He was a large man with rounded shoulders, a massive head, and a broad, intelligent face, sloping down to a pointed beard of grizzled brown. A touch of red in nose and cheeks, with a slight tremor of his extended hand, recalled Holmes' surmise as to his habits. His rusty black frock-coat was buttoned right up in front, with the collar turned up, and his lank wrists protruded from his sleeves without a sign of cuff or shirt. He spoke in a slow staccato fashion, choosing his words with care, and gave the impression generally of a man of learning and letters who had had ill-usage at the hands of fortune.	grizzled – messy, dirty red in nose and cheeks – a sign of alcoholism surmise – guess lank – thin, weak protruded – stuck out staccato – stopping and starting man of learning – an intelligent person
	"We have retained these things for some days," said Holmes, "because we expected to see an advertisement from you giving your address. I am at a loss to know now why you did not advertise."	retained – kept I am at a loss – I don't know why
	Our visitor gave a rather shamefaced laugh. "Shillings have not been so plentiful with me as they	shamefaced – embarrassed

	<p>once were," he remarked. "I had no doubt that the gang of rougns who assaulted me had carried off both my hat and the bird. I did not care to spend more money in a hopeless attempt at recovering them."</p>	<p>assaulted – attacked</p>
	<p>"Very naturally. By the way, about the bird, we were compelled to eat it."</p>	<p>we were compelled – we had to</p>
	<p>"To eat it!" Our visitor half rose from his chair in his excitement.</p>	
	<p>"Yes, it would have been of no use to anyone had we not done so. But I presume that this other goose upon the sideboard, which is about the same weight and perfectly fresh, will answer your purpose equally well?"</p>	<p>presume – hope answer your purpose – will suit you</p>
	<p>"Oh, certainly, certainly," answered Mr. Baker with a sigh of relief.</p>	
	<p>"Of course, we still have the feathers, legs, crop, and so on of your own bird, so if you wish—"</p>	<p>crop – the unused parts of a cooked bird</p>
	<p>The man burst into a hearty laugh. "They might be useful to me as relics of my adventure," said he, "but beyond that I can hardly see what use the <i>disjecta membra</i> of my late acquaintance are going to be to me. No, sir, I think that, with your permission, I will confine my attentions to the excellent bird which I perceive upon the sideboard."</p>	<p>relics – souvenirs disjecta membra – the parts of the goose that can't be eaten confine my attentions – focus on; perceive – see</p>
	<p>Sherlock Holmes glanced sharply across at me with a slight shrug of his shoulders.</p>	
	<p>"There is your hat, then, and there your bird," said he. "By the way, would it bore you to tell me where you got the other one from? I am somewhat of a fowl fancier, and I have seldom seen a better grown goose."</p>	<p>fowl fancier – someone interested in good birds to eat; seldom – rarely</p>
	<p>"Certainly, sir," said Baker, who had risen and tucked his newly gained property under his arm. "There are a few of us who frequent the Alpha Inn, near the Museum—we are to be found in the Museum itself during the day, you understand. This year our good host, Windigate by name, instituted a goose club, by which, on consideration of some few pence every week, we were each to receive a bird at Christmas. My pence were duly paid, and the rest is familiar to you. I am much indebted to you, sir, for a Scotch bonnet is fitted neither to my years nor my gravity." With a comical pomposity of manner he bowed solemnly to both of us and strode off upon his way.</p>	<p>newly gained property – the hat and goose frequent – visit instituted – started on consideration – by paying Scotch bonnet – a cheap hat pomposity – poshness</p>

Holmes investigates the goose-seller

Here is what happens in this extract;

1. Holmes meets the goose-seller in Covent Garden market
2. Holmes asks the man where he bought the geese from
3. The man gets annoyed because lots of people have been asking him about the geese
4. Holmes tricks the man into telling him where the geese came from
5. Holmes explains how he knew how to trick the man
6. Holmes wonders whether to visit the goose farm tonight or tomorrow

"Good-evening. It's a cold night," said Holmes.

The salesman nodded and shot a questioning look at my friend.

"Sold out of geese, I see," continued Holmes, pointing at the empty slabs of marble. 5

"Let you have five hundred to-morrow morning."

"That's no good."

"Well, there are some on the stall with the gas-flare."

"Ah, but I was recommended to you."

"Who by?" 10

"The landlord of the Alpha."

"Oh, yes; I sent him a couple of dozen."

"Fine birds they were, too. Now where did you get them from?"

To my surprise the question provoked a burst of anger from the salesman. 15 **provoked** – started

"Now, then, mister," said he, with his head cocked and his arms akimbo, "what are you driving at? Let's have it straight, now." **driving at** – getting at

"It is straight enough. I should like to know who sold you the geese which you supplied to the Alpha." 20

"Well then, I shan't tell you. So now!"

"Oh, it is a matter of no importance; but I don't know why you should be so angry over such a small matter." 25

"Angry! You'd be as angry, maybe, if you were as pestered as I am. When I pay good money for a good article there should be an end of the business; but it's 'Where are the geese?' and 'Who did you sell the geese to?' and 'What will you take for the geese?' One would think they were the only geese in the world, to hear the fuss that is made over them." 30

"Well, I have no connection with any other people who have been making inquiries," said Holmes carelessly. "If you won't tell us the bet is off, that is all. But I'm always ready to back my opinion on a matter of birds, and I have a fiver on it that the bird I ate is country bred." 35 **country bred** –

"Well, then, you've lost your fiver, for it's town bred," snapped the salesman. **raised in the countryside**

<p>"I don't believe it."</p> <p>"D'you think you know more about birds than I, who have handled them ever since I was a nipper? I tell you, all those birds that went to the Alpha were town bred."</p> <p>"You'll never persuade me to believe that."</p> <p>"Will you bet, then?"</p> <p>"It's merely taking your money, for I know that I am right. But I'll have a sovereign on with you, just to teach you not to be obstinate."</p> <p>The salesman chuckled grimly. "Bring me the books, Bill," said he.</p> <p>The small boy brought round a small thin volume, laying it out beneath the hanging lamp.</p> <p>"Now then, Mr. Cocksure," said the salesman, "You see this little book?"</p> <p>"Well?"</p> <p>"That's the list of the people from whom I buy. D'you see? Well, then, here on this page is a list of my town suppliers. Now, look at that third name. Just read it out to me."</p> <p>"Mrs. Oakshott, 117, Brixton Road—249," read Holmes.</p> <p>"Quite so. Now turn that up in the ledger."</p> <p>Holmes turned to the page indicated. "Here you are, 'Mrs. Oakshott, 117, Brixton Road, egg and poultry supplier.'" "Now, then, what's the last entry?"</p> <p>"'December 22nd. Twenty-four geese at 7s. 6d. Sold to Mr. Windigate of the Alpha, at 12s'"</p> <p>"What have you to say now?"</p> <p>Sherlock Holmes looked deeply annoyed. He drew a sovereign from his pocket and threw it down upon the slab, turning away with the air of a man whose disgust is too deep for words. A few yards off he stopped under a lamp-post and laughed in the hearty, noiseless fashion which was peculiar to him.</p> <p>"When you see a man with whiskers of that cut and the 'Pink 'un' sticking out of his pocket, you can always draw him by a bet," said he. "If I had put £100 down in front of him, that man would not have given me as much information as was taken from him by the idea that he was beating me on a bet. Well, Watson, we are, I think, nearing the end of our quest. The only point which remains to be decided is whether we should go on to this Mrs. Oakshott to-night, or whether we should wait until to-morrow. It is clear from what that fellow said that there are others who are anxious about the matter."</p>	<p>40</p> <p>45</p> <p>50</p> <p>55</p> <p>60</p> <p>65</p> <p>70</p> <p>75</p> <p>80</p>	<p>nipper – child</p> <p>merely – only</p> <p>obstinate – rude, stubborn</p> <p>volume – book</p> <p>Cocksure – over-confident</p> <p>117, Brixton Road – the address of the farm</p> <p>sovereign – worth £100 today!</p> <p>'Pink 'un' – a magazine that printed all the horse races</p>
--	---	--

Sherlock Holmes and James Ryder

Sherlock Holmes let James Ryder go free in The Blue Carbuncle.

Write down the reasons why Holmes was right to let him go and why he should have handed James Ryder to the police.

Reasons Holmes should let James Ryder go	Reasons Holmes should hand James Ryder over to the police