

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

A STUDY IN SCARLET

Young Adult Readers



Classic

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Book brief

- 1 *A Study in Scarlet* is an 1886 detective novel written by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.
- 2 This is the first story with Sherlock Holmes and Dr Watson who then became famous all over the world.
- 3 The title of the book comes from a speech that Holmes makes about his work when talking to Watson.
- 4 Set in London in 1881, and Salt Lake Valley in 1847, it tells the story of how Holmes and Watson try to solve the murder case of a rich man called Enoch Drebber.
- 5 This was the first work of detective fiction to include the magnifying glass as something used in an investigation.

For Review Only

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

A Study in Scarlet

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Main Characters



He's a detective. He uses his head and not his heart to find the answer to problems.

Sherlock
HOLMES

John
WATSON



He was a doctor in the army. He and Sherlock Holmes become good friends.



Lestrade

He works with the police but Sherlock doesn't think he's good at his job.

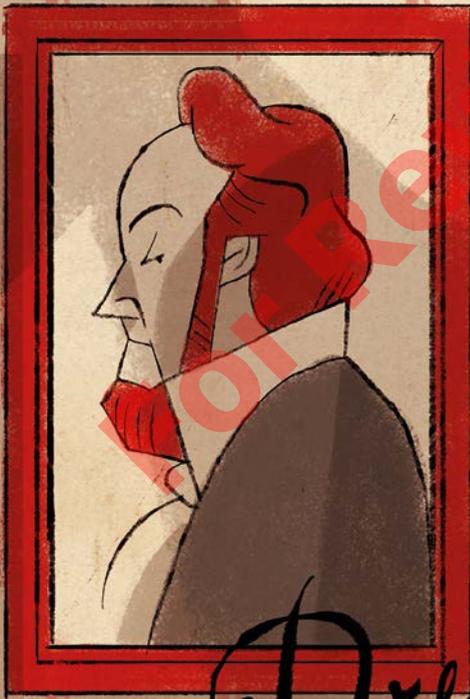
Lucy

She grows up in a Mormon community and falls in love with Jefferson Hope.



FERRIER.

The first person, whose death Holmes and



Watson try to find the answer to, in their



Jefferson
HOPE

'Study in Scarlet.'

Drebbler

He falls in love with Lucy Ferrier and tries to take her away from the community.

Before you Read • Chapter 1

Vocabulary

1 Find the right word from the box.

cheap - doctor - expensive - finish - forget - hospital - remember - start

- 1 This person helps you when you're not well.
- 2 He/She often works in a
- 3 When you pay a lot of money for something, it's
- 4 When you don't pay much for something, it's
- 5 When you think of something again, you it.
- 6 When you don't think of something again, you it.
- 7 When you leave university, you studying.
- 8 When you go to university for the first time, you studying.

Grammar

2 Find the right word from the box.

after - before - so - when

- 1 I came to London, I was in Afghanistan for two years.
- 2 I was well again, I came to London by boat.
- 3 I had no friends in London, I didn't have anyone to talk to.
- 4 walking for five minutes, I heard someone say my name.



Grammar A1 MOVERS

3 Choose the right words (A, B or C) to complete the text about Sherlock Holmes.

Sherlock Holmes is a detective. He thinks he's the *best* man to help the police in London. He goes to live in Baker Street (1) Dr Watson. Sherlock sometimes doesn't speak for many days and he likes (2) the violin. He always goes to bed before ten o'clock and (3) breakfast early. He looks (4) everything and watches everyone and asks many questions about what he sees. He's different from most people because he thinks a lot. People come to Sherlock when they have a problem and pay (5) to find answers to their questions.



- | | | | |
|---|-----------|-------------------|----------|
| | A good | B best | C better |
| 1 | A by | B from | C with |
| 2 | A playing | B plays | C play |
| 3 | A does | B have | C has |
| 4 | A for | B at | C after |
| 5 | A him | B his | C he |

Listening

3 4 Who said this? Listen and find out.

Sherlock Holmes - Stamford - Dr Watson

- 1 Where did you go... Watson?
- 2 Do you know anyone who can help me?
- 3 That's good!
- 4 'I have it! I have it!'
- 5 How did you know that?

Mr Sherlock Holmes

- ▶ 2 My name is Dr John Watson. It's 1881 and I'm living in a hotel in London, but for two years before this, I was in Afghanistan. There were problems between the British and the Afghans then. I'm a doctor and I went there because they needed my help. After some months I felt very bad and I had to stay in hospital in India for a long time. When I was better, I came to London by boat.

In the 19th century, Britain and Russia both wanted Afghanistan and other countries in Central and South Asia.

I don't have a house in England, so when I arrived I went to live in a hotel in a good street in London. Everyone goes to London, it's an exciting city! My hotel is nice and clean but life isn't easy. I'm not very well and, because I don't have any friends or family here, I don't have anyone to talk to. My biggest problem is the hotel, it's too expensive. Yesterday, I started to look for somewhere cheaper to live. ■

- ▶ 3 This morning I needed to think, so I went for a walk. After a few minutes, I heard someone say my name. I looked behind me and saw an old friend called Stamford, who studied with me to be a doctor. We went to have lunch.

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‘Where did you go after you finished university, Watson?’ he asked, when we got to the restaurant. ‘You don’t look well, but your face is brown!’

I told him about Afghanistan and India.

‘Now, I’m looking for somewhere to live. Do you know anyone who can help me?’ I said, when I finished.

‘Yes, Sherlock Holmes,’ Stamford said. ‘He often comes to the hospital where I work. He’s looking for someone to live with him.’

‘That’s good!’ I said, happily.

Stamford looked at me. ‘You don’t know Sherlock Holmes ... He’s not a bad man, but he can be ... difficult.’

We arrived at London Hospital and went into a big room. There was only one student there.

When he saw us, he said excitedly, ‘I have it! I have it!’

‘Dr Watson, this is Sherlock Holmes,’ said Stamford.

‘How are you?’ Sherlock Holmes said to me. He looked friendly.

‘I see that you were in Afghanistan before you came to London.’

‘How did you know that?’ I asked.

▶ 4 ‘It’s not important,’ he said. ‘This morning, I found something that will help the police*!’

‘Help the police?’

Sherlock Holmes didn’t answer my question.

‘Dr Watson is looking for somewhere to live,’ Stamford said.

‘That’s good,’ he said, ‘tomorrow I want to go and see a place in Baker Street. It’s very nice. There’s a woman who will cook and clean for us. I think you’ll like it, but will you like me?’

‘I think so,’ I answered.

police the police help us be safe; they catch bad people

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‘Sometimes I don’t speak for many days,’ he said, ‘and I play the violin*. Will that be a problem?’

‘I don’t talk much,’ I said, ‘and I like the violin when someone plays it well.’

‘Then meet me here tomorrow at twelve o’clock,’ he said. ‘Goodbye!’ and he went back to his work. We left him.

‘How did he know I was in Afghanistan? Did you tell him?’ I asked Stamford.

‘No,’ said Stamford, ‘that’s Sherlock Holmes! He knows everything, and nobody understands how. It’s a mystery*!’

I thought about my new friend that night, and the next day we went together to 221B Baker Street.

The rooms were good and not expensive. There were two bedrooms and a big living room with two windows. That evening I moved my things from the hotel.

Sherlock Holmes isn’t a difficult man to live with. He doesn’t talk much, he goes to bed before ten, has an early breakfast and often goes to the hospital to work.

Sherlock Holmes is very tall and thin and has a long nose like a bird. When he looks at me, I always feel he can hear what I’m thinking! I watch him every day, but I can’t understand much about him or the work he does. He’s a mystery!

violin 

mystery something that is difficult to understand

Stamford takes Watson to meet Sherlock Holmes in the hospital. Sherlock is happy because he has something that will help the police in their work.



1

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

I often got up late, but one morning I woke up early and went into the living room. It was 4th March, I remember the day well, because this was when everything started! Sherlock Holmes was at breakfast. I said good morning, sat down at the table with him and started to read the newspaper. Then I saw something that looked interesting. It was called “The Book of Life” and I started to read.

It is important to look. You can learn a lot from looking hard and thinking about what you see. For example, you can learn everything about a man by looking at his face and watching how he walks or talks. You can understand what he is thinking and you will know what he did yesterday, and what he will do tomorrow. You could think this is not possible, but I know that it is possible. Give me a small cup of water and I can tell you if it is from the Atlantic or the Niagara. If you work hard you will be great. You must start with easy questions. When you meet someone for the first time, you can learn, with only one short look, what his job is. Look at his hands, look at his clothes, his shirt and his boots. Put all of this together, then you will have your answer. If you do this, then you will understand every mystery!

‘Are you studying to be a doctor?’ I asked, after I put butter on my bread.

He looked at me with *those* eyes. ‘No,’ he answered.

Next, I asked him about some famous writers, and what he thought about their books. He didn’t know any of them.

Then, I asked him about the world. ‘Do you know that our world goes around the sun?’ I said.

‘No, I don’t,’ he said. ‘And now, I’ll forget what you said!’

‘Forget that our world goes around the sun?’ I asked.

In 1543, Polish scientist Nicolaus Copernicus first discovered that the earth and other planets move around the sun.

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‘Yes, that’s what I said. You see, it’s not good to remember too much,’ he said, ‘I think that our heads are like a small house. You can’t put hundreds of tables and chairs inside. If you bring a new chair in, then you have to take one out. I only remember things that are important.’

‘But ...’ I said.

‘To know that our world goes around the sun isn’t important for my work,’ he said. ‘I look at everything, I watch everyone and I ask many questions about what I see. I work hard to understand things that other people can’t understand. It’s my business, it’s how I pay for my bread and cheese.’

‘How?’ I asked.

‘Here in London we have a lot of policemen,’ he said, ‘but they’re not very good policemen. They, and other people, come to ask for my help. They pay me to find answers to their questions.’

‘I see,’ I said. I thought for a minute, then I asked, ‘How did you know I was in Afghanistan?’

‘You’re not well and your face and hands are brown, but your arms are white. I think you were in a hot country. The British have problems in Afghanistan, so it’s easy! That’s where you were before you came to London.’

‘Ah!’ I said. ‘Stamford said you always know everything.’

‘I think a lot,’ he said. ‘That’s why I’m different from most people!’

Every week people came to see him. They often looked sad, some of them seemed to have a lot of problems. Once it was a young girl, then an old woman came and talked to him for a long time. Another day it was an old man who looked very poor. One man, Mr Lestrade, visited

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us many times. When these people came, I went to my bedroom. Sherlock said he couldn't talk to me about what they told him. When they left they sometimes looked happy, and sometimes they looked sadder than when they arrived. Mr Lestrade always walked away very quickly when he left us.

This was our life for many months. In that time I started to feel better. I liked living in Baker Street, I liked Sherlock. Then one morning Sherlock wasn't happy. He took his violin and started to play, but stopped after two minutes.

'It's so boring today,' he said. 'There's nothing exciting in this city. I'm the best man in London to help the police, but I can't help them if they don't come to me!'

I looked out of the window and saw a man walking on Baker Street, looking at all the numbers on the doors. He saw our door, 221B, and ran across the road to our house. The woman who lives at the bottom of the house opened the door. The man came up to our rooms.

'For Mr Sherlock Holmes,' he said. He gave my friend a letter, then he left.

'Ah,' said Sherlock Holmes. 'Now, this is more interesting!'

A man comes to the house with a letter for Sherlock Holmes and Sherlock is happy because before he was bored.



Reading Comprehension

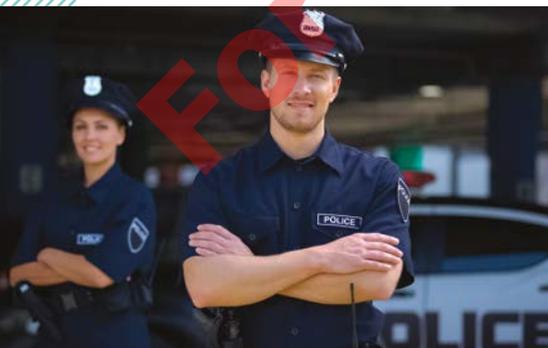
1 Answer the questions.

- 1 Where's Dr Watson living when we first meet him?
.....
- 2 Where do Dr Watson and Stamford go after they meet in the park?
.....
- 3 Which hospital do they find Sherlock Holmes in?
.....
- 4 What things does Sherlock say that he doesn't do?
.....
- 5 Sherlock says to Watson that he has a hobby. What is it?
.....
- 6 Why does Sherlock say he'll forget that the world goes around the sun?
.....
- 7 How does Sherlock know that Watson was in Afghanistan?
.....
- 8 How's Sherlock feeling when the young man brings the letter?
.....

Speaking - Pair Work 21st Century Skills

2 Talk to a partner and answer these questions.

- 1 How many different kinds of police are there in your country?
- 2 Would you like to work for the police? Why? / Why not?
- 3 How do you think science can help the police?
- 4 Do you agree with Sherlock Holmes when he says 'it's not good to remember too much'? Why? / Why not?
- 5 Sherlock is good at understanding what people do just by looking at them. What about you?
- 6 At the end of Chapter 1, Sherlock Holmes plays his violin because he's bored. What do you do when you're bored?



Grammar

- 3 Use 'some + one/thing/where' or 'any + one/thing' to finish these sentences.

I'm looking for *somewhere* cheaper to live.

- 1 I heard say my name.
- 2 Do you know who can help me?
- 3 I found that will help the police.
- 4 I watched him, but I couldn't understand about him.

Pre-Reading Activity • Chapter 2

Writing

- 4 What do you think is in the letter? Write down your ideas.

