

illustrated
READERS

SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE

The Speckled Band

retold by Virginia Evans - Jenny Dooley

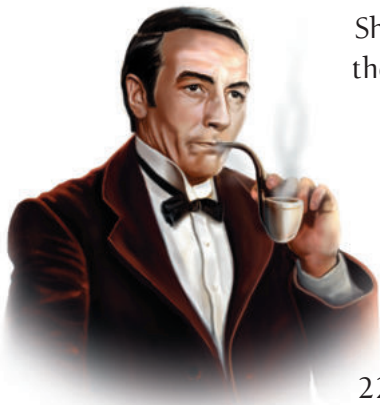


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Sherlock Holmes



Sherlock Holmes is one of the most famous characters in fiction. There have been many film and TV versions of the Holmes stories.

Everything about Sherlock Holmes is famous – his address at 221b, Baker Street in London, the cape and deerstalker he wore, the magnifying glass and his habit of smoking a pipe. His famous comment to his best friend, Dr Watson, claiming that solving a mystery is “Elementary, my dear Watson” is also famous.

Holmes is based on Dr Joseph Bell who Arthur Conan Doyle met at university. He later worked for him as his assistant. Perhaps the partnership of Holmes and Watson is based on the real relationship between Conan Doyle and Bell.

After some time, Conan Doyle got bored with his famous detective so in the story, *The Final Problem*, he decided to kill him. All of Holmes’s fans were very angry, so Doyle had to bring Holmes back to life! In the story *The Empty House*, he wrote that it wasn’t Holmes who had died but his enemy.

In 1927, Arthur Conan Doyle was asked to pick his twelve favourite Holmes stories from the forty four published up to that time. *The Speckled Band*, published in 1892, was one of them: ‘The Speckled Band’ – I am sure that will be on everyone’s list,” he said.



1. THE FRIGHTENED LADY

Dr Watson visits his friend, the famous detective Sherlock Holmes.

What's your new case about, Holmes?

I don't know yet ... a young woman telephoned ... she sounded very frightened. She'll be here soon.

A LITTLE LATER ...

2

Thank you for seeing me, Mr Holmes. My name is Helen Stoner.

I live with my stepfather, Grimesby Roylott, in his family home.

Yes ... they were rich once, long ago. The house is old now, and is falling down.

4

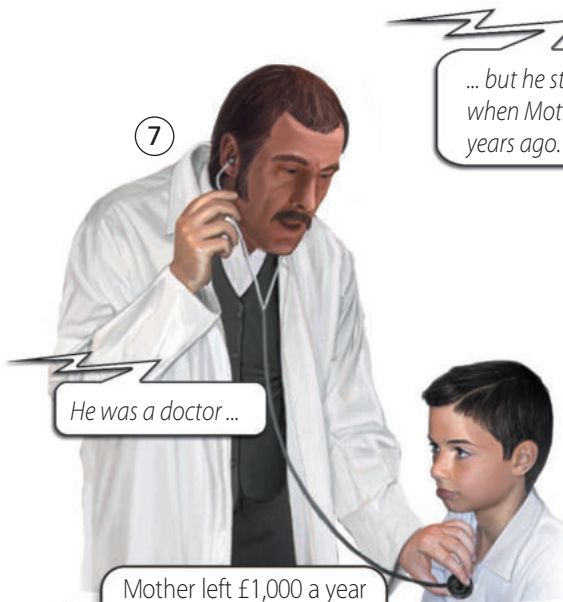
3

I've heard of the Roylott family.

5

6

My twin sister Julia and I were babies when our father died. Then Mother married Grimesby.



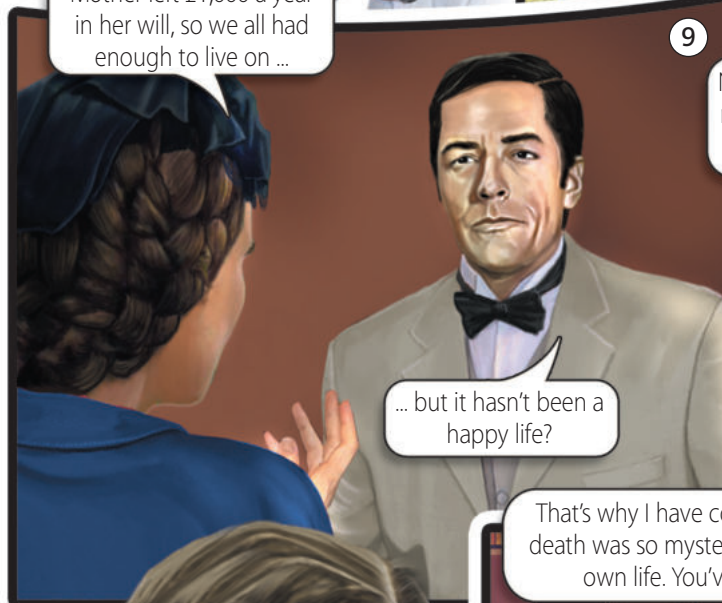
... but he stopped work when Mother died, eight years ago.

He was a doctor ...

Mother left £1,000 a year in her will, so we all had enough to live on ...



8



9

... but it hasn't been a happy life?

No – my stepfather changed so much. Then, two years ago, my sister suddenly died.

10



11

How did she die?



12



7.

THE SIGNAL

activities



Before Reading

- 1 Look at the pictures, identify the characters and then answer the questions.

Who's got: a moustache; short black hair; dark hair?

Who's wearing: a deerstalker; a red jacket; a grey jacket; a blue coat; a black bow; a tie; a white shirt?

- 2 Use the words above to describe each person in the pictures.



While Reading

- 3 Read or listen to the episode and then mark the sentences as *T* (true) or *F* (false).

- 1 Holmes does not know how Julia died.
- 2 When her stepfather gets home, Julia must send a signal.
- 3 After sending the signal, Julia must go to her old room.
- 4 Holmes has already solved the mystery.

- 4 Read the episode, then read the sentences and say who the words in bold refer to:

Watson, Holmes, Helen, Julia or Grimesby.

- | | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| 1 He needs proof. | 5 They stay at an inn. |
| 2 She can send them a signal. | 6 He is back. |
| 3 He can see her room clearly. | 7 He sees Helen's signal. |
| 4 We may be in danger. | |



After Reading

- 5 Read and listen, then take roles and act out the episode.
- 6 In pairs, make a list of the clues and discuss how they might have been used. How do you think the crime was committed?



***Before Reading***

- 1 Look at the pictures and say what you think is happening in the story.
- 2 Look at picture 7. What do you think is happening? How do you think Holmes and Watson are feeling? Who or what do you think is hiding beneath them?

***While Reading***

- 3 Read or listen to the episode then, in pairs, match the sentences below to one of the speech bubbles that mean the same.

e.g. Try and be quiet! = (Picture 3) Take care not to make any noise.

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|---|-------|
| 1 Stop! Did you hear anything? | = | |
| 2 Keep moving, Watson! | = | |
| 3 Me first, you second. | = | |
| 4 Oh no! Be careful! | = | |

- 4 Read the episode again and find words which mean:

- | | |
|------------|-------|
| 1 move up | |
| 2 sound | |
| 3 continue | |

***After Reading***

- 5 Read and listen, then take roles and act out the episode.
- 6 Discuss the following questions:
 - 1 Why do you think Holmes and Watson are going to Julia's room?
 - 2 Who or what do you think was following Holmes and Watson in the garden?
 - 3 What do you think will happen in the next episode?

The Speckled Band

Two years ago her sister, Julia, died in mysterious circumstances. Now Helen is terrified that her life is in danger. Can the brilliant detective, Sherlock Holmes, solve Julia's murder and save Helen?

Components:

- Reader
- Audio CD



Level 1 Level 2 Level 3 Level 4 Level 5

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