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Level 5

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's

The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes



"BRING THE CLASSICS TO LIFE"

THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES

LEVEL 5

Series Designer
Philip J. Solimene

Editor
Kathryn L. Brennan

EDCON
Long Island, New York

Story Adapter
Richard D. Ferrie

Author
Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

About the Author

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle was born in 1859 and died in 1930. He went to Edinburgh University in Scotland, studied medicine and became a doctor. While he was a doctor in London, he began writing Sherlock Holmes stories. His first book was *A Study in Scarlet*. His stories became so successful that he left medicine in 1890 to become a full-time writer of mystery and adventure.

Some other well-known stories written by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle are *A Sign of Four*, *The Return of Sherlock Holmes* and *The Hound of the Baskervilles*.

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The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes

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WORDS USED

Story 31

Story 32

Story 33

Story 34

Story 35

KEY WORDS

coil
observe
serpent
suspicious
victim
weapon

charm
confuse
flee
determine
opportunity
scalp

accounting
ceremony
female
independence
miserable
risk

grim
lawyer
official
sincere
undertake
youth

cheat
confess
hygiene
outfit
rotten
various

NECESSARY WORDS

baboon
slither
speckled
temper
viper

assistant
criminal

deserted
exist
expression

guilty
murder

beggar
penniless
suspicion

WORDS USED

Story 36	Story 37	Story 38	Story 39	Story 40
<hr/> KEY WORDS <hr/>				
burglar concentrate humorous perplex subject valuable	discuss loyal remark seldom terrace wedding	advice decision evidence gain innocent kindness	ease nerves pledge sorrow underneath wealth	bewilder describe evil fever horrible limb
<hr/> NECESSARY WORDS <hr/>				
carbuncle	absolutely assumed embarrassment intention mansion noble	beryl coronet definitely situation	accidentally blackmail identity photographs scandal	ceiling counterfeiter crumbling investigate terrified

THE ADVENTURE OF THE SPECKLED BAND

PREPARATION

Key Words

coil	(kɔɪlˈ)	to wrap around something <i>The snake wrapped around the tree branch in a <u>coil</u>.</i>
observe	(əb zərʋˈ)	to watch something very closely <i>Scientists use powerful microscopes to <u>observe</u> small objects they can't see normally.</i>
serpent	(sər pəntˈ)	a snake; a reptile with a long body and no arms or legs <i>The green <u>serpent</u> slithered across the grass, making a hissing sound.</i>
suspicious	(sə spɪʃˈes)	to mistrust something; to feel someone is guilty but not be able to prove it <i>The guilty way the man behaved made the police <u>suspicious</u> when they questioned him.</i>
victim	(vɪkˈtəm)	a person who is killed, injured, fooled or cheated, either on purpose or by accident <i>The <u>victim</u> was hurt in the car crash because she wasn't wearing a seat belt.</i>
weapon	(wepˈən)	something that can be used to fight with, like a gun, a club, a knife or a rock <i>The only <u>weapon</u> he could find to defend himself with was a sharp stick.</i>

THE ADVENTURE OF THE SPECKLED BAND

Necessary Words

baboon	(bă bōon')	a member of the ape family that makes loud screeching sounds and is usually not friendly <i>The <u>baboon</u> was in a large cage.</i>
slither	(slith'ər)	to slip and slide from side to side <i>We watched the snake <u>slither</u> through the grass.</i>
speckled	(spĕk'əld)	covered with small spots or dots <i>Her sweater was <u>speckled</u> with gold thread.</i>
temper	(tĕm'pər)	a state of mind; a habit of becoming easily upset or angry <i>My mother lost her <u>temper</u> and yelled at me for being too noisy while she was on the telephone.</i>
viper	(vī'pər)	a type of snake that is poisonous <i>The <u>viper</u> was on display in a locked cage.</i>

People

Sherlock Holmes	a very famous detective
Dr. Watson	a doctor and good friend of Sherlock Holmes

THE ADVENTURE OF THE SPECKLED BAND



Dr. Watson and Mr. Holmes look around Julia's bedroom in search of a clue.

Preview:

1. Read the name of the story.
2. Look at the picture.
3. Read the sentence under the picture.
4. Read the first three paragraphs of the story.
5. Then answer the following question.

You learned from your preview that Helen Stoner

- ☐ a. is in love with Sherlock Holmes.
- ☐ b. is very ill.
- ☐ c. believes Dr. Watson is in love with her.
- ☐ d. believes her sister has been a victim of a crime.

Turn to the Comprehension Check on page 10 for the right answer.

Now read the story.

Read to find out what really happened to Julia Stoner.

THE ADVENTURE OF THE SPECKLED BAND

My name is Dr. Watson. For many years it has been my pleasure to work as a companion to the world's greatest detective, Sherlock Holmes.

One of Holmes's most famous cases involved a mysterious "speckled band." Holmes and I were having breakfast one morning at his home on Baker Street when a young woman named Helen Stoner arrived.

"Oh please Mr. Holmes, you're the only one who can help me," said Helen. "I believe that my poor sister Julia has been the victim of a terrible crime, but I can't prove it."

Holmes asked the young lady to tell her story. It seemed that her stepfather was a heartless man with a short temper. He didn't want the girls to get married because he would lose the money that their mom had given them when she died. He tried everything he could to keep them at home but, one day, Julia told him she was getting married.

That night, Helen woke up to a terrible scream. She went to her sister's room and saw her lying on the floor. Her sister was gasping for air. She was having trouble breathing.

"It was the speckled band," she whispered to Helen, "the speckled band." A few seconds later she died.

After Helen had told this story, Holmes stood up. He looked very worried. I could tell that he was suspicious.

"Tell me," he said to Helen, "did you see this speckled band?" Helen said she hadn't. "Does your stepfather keep strange animals around the house?" asked Holmes.

"Why yes, he does," said Helen, surprised. "He keeps all kinds of animals around. We even have a baboon on the grounds. Why do you ask?"

"I will explain later," said Holmes. "One more question. Is your stepfather's bedroom next to your sister's?" Helen said it was, and also told us that her stepfather insisted she sleep in Julia's room from now on.

"Hmmm," said Holmes. "That's very odd. I think that Watson and I will come over to your house so I can observe the situation more closely."

As we were leaving, he said to me, "Watson, I believe that you should bring a weapon. I have a feeling this could get dangerous."

Once we arrived at Helen's house, we went right to the bedroom. Holmes observed the bedroom carefully. "Why is this rope here?" he asked, pointing to a rope next to the bed that hung from the ceiling.

"That's the bell rope to call the servants," answered Helen. "But it doesn't work."

Holmes looked at me for a moment, but he didn't say anything. Finally, he spoke.

"Watson and I will sleep here tonight. You must not come into this room for any reason. And whatever you do, don't tell your stepfather that we are here."

Helen looked confused, but she agreed. After she left the room, Holmes said to me, "I guess we'd better get as comfortable as we can. We have a long night ahead. Do you have a weapon?" I showed him my cane. "Good," he said, "give it to me. We have to be completely silent. We can't make the slightest sound."

We sat and waited. I was getting tired. I have to admit that I fell asleep. When I woke up, it was night, and completely dark in the room. I had forgotten that Holmes said to be quiet, and I was about to call his name, when I heard a hiss-

ing sound.

"Watson," Holmes yelled, "Look out!" The lights suddenly went on. Holmes had the cane and was beating something that looked like a coil on the bed. At first, I couldn't tell what it was. Then I realized it was the speckled band. Only it wasn't really a band. It was a snake!

The snake slithered up the bell rope and disappeared. "Quick!" shouted Holmes. "We must hurry!"

We ran out into the hall. Helen had heard the noise and came to see what was going on. Holmes raced past her and opened the door to her stepfather's room. Just then, we heard her stepfather yell, followed by a loud crash.

When we walked in the room, Helen's stepfather was lying on the floor, dead. Helen gave out a cry. "Look," she said, "on his head. It's the speckled band!"

The snake was in a coil around her stepfather's head. "That's no band," said Holmes. "That's a poisonous snake called a viper. Your stepfather trained it to kill your sister, and he was going to use it on you. That's why he put the bell rope in her room, so the speckled serpent could slither down from the ceiling and bite whoever was in the bed. That's also why he wanted you to sleep in her room. He wanted you to be the next victim. Then he could have all the money your mom left you, to himself. But when I attacked it with the cane, the snake got angry and attacked your stepfather instead. After you told me that he kept strange animals, I became suspicious. It was obvious that your sister had been poisoned, and what better way to poison someone than with a deadly serpent!"

And that solved the mystery of the speckled band.

THE ADVENTURE OF THE SPECKLED BAND

COMPREHENSION CHECK

Choose the best answer.

Preview Answer:

d. believes her sister has been a victim of a crime.

1. Helen Stoner told Sherlock that her stepfather didn't want her or her sister, Julia, to get married because
 - ☐ a. he didn't want to live alone.
 - ☐ b. he didn't like the men they dated.
 - ☐ c. he would lose the money that their mother had left them.
 - ☐ d. their mother wouldn't like it.
2. First, Helen heard a terrible scream. Next, she ran into her sister's room. Then,
 - ☐ a. she saw her sister, Julia, lying on the floor.
 - ☐ b. she saw her stepfather lying on the floor.
 - ☐ c. she saw her mother in the hall.
 - ☐ d. she went to see Sherlock Holmes.
3. Before Julia died, she whispered to Helen that
 - ☐ a. she should get married.
 - ☐ b. it was the speckled band.
 - ☐ c. it was an accident.
 - ☐ d. it was her heart.
4. When Holmes asked Helen about her stepfather, he learned that
 - ☐ a. he was a kind man.
 - ☐ b. he was an ill man.
 - ☐ c. he loved his stepdaughters.
 - ☐ d. he kept many kinds of animals around the house.
5. In the Stoner home, Sherlock discovered
 - ☐ a. Julia and her mother.
 - ☐ b. the bell rope in Julia's room didn't work.
 - ☐ c. the stepfather was a good man.
 - ☐ d. there was nothing to worry about.
6. The speckled band was
 - ☐ a. a handkerchief.
 - ☐ b. a tight rubber band.
 - ☐ c. a poisonous snake.
 - ☐ d. a group of singers.
7. The snake killed both Julia and
 - ☐ a. her mother.
 - ☐ b. Sherlock Holmes.
 - ☐ c. Dr. Watson.
 - ☐ d. her stepfather.
8. Helen's stepfather wanted the speckled band to
 - ☐ a. kill Helen too.
 - ☐ b. kill Sherlock.
 - ☐ c. go to the zoo.
 - ☐ d. stay in the cage.
9. Another name for this story could be
 - ☐ a. "Breakfast with Sherlock."
 - ☐ b. "The Evil Stepfather."
 - ☐ c. "The Wedding."
 - ☐ d. "Good Luck."
10. This story is mainly about
 - ☐ a. how to train animals.
 - ☐ b. what Sherlock Holmes eats for breakfast.
 - ☐ c. what good friends Sherlock and Watson are.
 - ☐ d. how and why a young woman died.

Check your answers with the key on page 67.

THE ADVENTURE OF THE SPECKLED BAND

VOCABULARY CHECK

coil	observe	serpent	suspicious	victim	weapon
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I. Sentences to Finish

Fill in the blank in each sentence with the correct key word from the box above.

1. My science homework was to _____ an experiment and write notes.
2. The police were looking for the _____ used in the robbery.
3. The teacher was _____ of the student's behavior.
4. The _____ was rushed to the hospital.
5. It was hard to see the snake because it had wrapped itself up in a _____.
6. Another name for a snake is a _____.

II. Making Sense of Sentences

Are the following statements true or false? Place an X next to the correct answer.

1. If I am suspicious of you, I trust you completely. ___ True ___ False
2. A victim is medicine you take every day. ___ True ___ False
3. A serpent is a snake. ___ True ___ False
4. A coil is something you cook with. ___ True ___ False
5. When you observe something, you can't see it. ___ True ___ False
6. A knife, a club, or a rock can be used as a weapon. ___ True ___ False

Check your answers with the key on page 69.

Bring the Classics to Life

Titles in this Series

Reading Level 1.0 – 2.0

White Fang
Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm
Little Women
Swiss Family Robinson
The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn
Rip Van Winkle
Heidi
Uncle Tom's Cabin
The Jungle Book
A Christmas Carol

Reading Level 2.0 – 3.0

Black Beauty
Tom Sawyer
The Call of the Wild
Treasure Island
The Merry Adventures of Robin Hood
The Prince and the Pauper
The Man Without a Country
The Hunchback of Notre Dame
Silas Marner
Around the World in 80 Days

Reading Level 3.0 – 4.0

Robinson Crusoe
The Red Badge of Courage
Kidnapped
The Invisible Man
The Man in the Iron Mask
The War of the Worlds
Sea Wolf
Oliver Twist

A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court
Frankenstein

Reading Level 4.0 – 5.0

Captains Courageous
Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde
The Time Machine
Gulliver's Travels
20,000 Leagues Under the Sea
The Pathfinder
From the Earth To the Moon
David Copperfield
The Pioneers
The Picture of Dorian Gray

Reading Level 5.0 – 6.0

Metropolis
The Hound of the Baskervilles
Kim
The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes
A Journey to the Center of the Earth
Ivanhoe
Last of the Mohicans
Moby Dick
The Count of Monte Cristo
A Tale of Two Cities

