

# The Return of Sherlock Holmes

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle



## About the author

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle was born in Edinburgh in 1859 and died in 1930. He studied medicine at Edinburgh University and started work as a doctor in 1882. His first story about Sherlock Holmes, *A Study in Scarlet*, was printed in a magazine in 1887. In 1890 Conan Doyle became a full-time writer. Many Sherlock Holmes stories followed, the most famous is probably *The Hound of the Baskervilles*. Conan Doyle grew tired of writing Holmes stories and killed him off, but his readers demanded more and he had to bring him back.

## Summary

The fictional detective Sherlock Holmes was created by Arthur Conan Doyle in 1887, and is one of the most famous detectives in English literature. This collection of three short stories featuring Sherlock Holmes and his friend, Dr Watson, is typical of Conan Doyle's writing of detective fiction. In these stories, what solves each mysterious case is precisely the little things which only Holmes notices and the police have dismissed as unimportant.

**A Note from Dr Watson:** In this section, Watson tells the reader how he and Holmes leave England to work on a case and Holmes mysteriously disappears from 1891 to 1894. The detective is thought to be dead. Yet he returns and they start working together once again.

**The Six Napoleons:** In this story, someone apparently madly obsessed with Napoleon is going round breaking busts of the legendary figure. Holmes concentrates on where the busts were made rather than on the person who is breaking them and is able to discover that all were manufactured at the same time, shortly after a famous

jewel robbery. It is a relatively simple matter then, for the great detective to deduce that the jewel was hidden in one of the busts, and, furthermore, to work out where the thief will strike next. As always, the pleasant but intellectually challenged Inspector Lestrade is amazed by Holmes's powers of deduction.

**The Norwood Builder:** Holmes focuses on the motive for the apparent murder of 'wealthy' builder Mr Oldacre by his own lawyer and recently-appointed inheritor. While Lestrade gathers evidence against the lawyer, Holmes delves into the lawyer's past, and finds that the lawyer's mother jilted the builder just before their planned wedding. He also finds out that the builder is not as wealthy as he seems to be and that he has been transferring most of his money to a Mrs Cornelius. Holmes realizes that Oldacre is not dead and that he wants to take revenge on the very woman that broke his heart by means of framing her own son and having him hanged for murder. The detective guesses how the builder has planted evidence against the lawyer. In fact, Holmes literally smokes Oldacre out of his secret hiding place. This proves that the only criminal is Oldacre himself in trying to frame an innocent man.

**The Golden Glasses:** Holmes puts together a profile of a murderer from a pair of glasses a woman leaves behind. He also deduces that, being short-sighted, she could not have fled the scene without leaving signs and could easily have taken a wrong turn in an unfamiliar house where several passages look the same. As in *The Norwood Builder*, she hides in the house and Holmes smokes her out, using the ash from cigarettes, which he drops around her hiding place. The murder turns out to be an accident during a robbery in which the woman was trying to recover letters that would reveal the truth about a plot in pre-revolutionary Russia.

## Background and themes

**The detective story:** Nowadays, the detective story is one of the most popular forms of fiction, appearing as novels, plays and films. Yet the detective story is a relatively recent invention. Early novels told the story of adventures, commonly in the life of one person. Then, in the 1840s, the American writer, Edgar Allen Poe, wrote three stories, including *The Murders in the Rue Morgue*, which are considered to be the predecessors of the detective story. The genre appeared in England with the

## The Return of Sherlock Holmes

detective in the Dickens novel *Bleak House* and more completely in 1868 with the mystery *The Moonstone* by Dickens's friend, Wilkie Collins. But in all these cases the detective was a policeman – a professional. Conan Doyle's detective, created in the 1880s, was an amateur with a stock of knowledge about all manner of arcane subject.

**The witless sidekick:** The Holmes stories also set the pattern of the witless sidekick – an extremely useful literary device – as it always gives someone who, like the reader in most cases, has not a clue what is going on and needs to be led through the process of deduction. Baroness Orczy, created the nameless Old Man in the Corner who solves crimes without ever leaving his favourite tea shop. R Austin Freeman, introduced the first truly scientific detective, Dr John Thorndyke, and Ernest Bramah invented Max Carrados, the first blind detective. Agatha Christie had two famous detective characters, Hercule Poirot and Miss Marple, who found more evil in a country village than in an inner city area. Conan Doyle had, of course, stated this to be true many years earlier. The genre came to be known as *whodunit* (who has done it) because all the efforts of the detective, and the readers, is to discover the perpetrator.

**Recurrent themes:** Although the crimes in this selection of short stories are all different, they are connected through several themes. The theme of **appearances versus reality** is present in the stories in which men present themselves as kind and decent while they are actually mean and evil (*The Norwood Builder*, *The Golden Glasses*). The theme of **excessive ambition** or greed is illustrated in stories in which men commit crimes merely to become richer (*Six Napoleons*, *The Norwood Builder*). Marital issues cut across some stories and **revenge** due to unrequited love (*The Norwood Builder*) is even a motive for murder. Yet all stories illustrate **the loss of moral values and social ethics to self-interest and enrichment** as society comes closer to the turn of the century.

### Discussion activities

#### Before reading

##### 1 Discuss: Famous private detectives

Tell students to write down the names of famous detectives and to think of their characteristics: *Work with another student and write down the names of famous detectives you know from books, TV, series and films. Then discuss what they are like.*

#### Introduction

##### While reading

- 2 Discuss and write:** Divide the class into pairs. Give each pair of students one fact about Arthur Conan Doyle from the Introduction to the book. Students have ten minutes to collect as many facts as they can by asking other students questions. Then they return to their seats and write down as many things as they can remember.
- 3 Predict:** After reading the Introduction, divide the class into three groups. Each one takes one of the three stories in *The Return of Sherlock Holmes* and predicts what will happen in the story using at least five words from the Word List in back of the book.

#### A Note from Dr Watson

##### While reading

- 4 Write:** Tell students to write about the dangerous case Holmes and Watson had to solve in 1891: *Watson finds his secret notes about the dangerous case he and Holmes solved in 1891. Write down what the notes say.*
- 5 Discuss:** Ask students to work in groups and to discuss these questions: *Why did Holmes disappear? Where was he from 1891 to 1894? Why did Holmes return?*

#### After reading

- 6 Guess:** Tell students to look at the picture on page 2 and to imagine who is who: *Look at the picture on page 2. Describe the two men and decide which one is Watson and which one is Holmes.*
- 7 Write:** Ask students to work in pairs and write about Holmes's secret case: *We know that in 1894 Holmes returned to England to work on a case. Work with another student and write down what you imagine the problem was and how he solved it.*

#### The Six Napoleons

##### While reading

- 8 Predict:** Put students into small groups and ask them to discuss the following questions after reading pages 3 to 5: *Why is the thief stealing the busts of Napoleon? What does he want or need? Why does he throw away the broken busts? Is this man mad?*
- 9 Write:** After reading page 8, ask your students to write the newspaper article Mr Harker wrote. Guide them with these instructions: *Imagine you are Mr Harker writing about the madman who hated Napoleon. Write a story that will really surprise people.*
- 10 Role play:** Tell students to work in pairs and dramatize this scene after reading page 12: *You are Lestrade and the thief at Scotland Yard. What does the inspector ask and what does the man answer?*

#### After reading

- 11 Discuss:** Put students into small groups and ask them to discuss the following questions: *What three things helped Holmes solve the case? Which steps did he follow?*

## The Return of Sherlock Holmes

- 12 Write:** Ask students to imagine they are Holmes writing his diary. Guide them with these instructions: *You are Holmes. Write down on different pages of your diary (a) how you felt when you first heard about the case, (b) how you decided to look for information in the newspapers, (c) how you planned to catch Beppo.*
- 13 Group work:** Tell students to work in groups. Guide their work with the following ideas: *In groups, choose to be one of the characters in the story without telling the others. Imagine you are all called by Holmes, who wants to ask you questions. Have a conversation about what you are doing there and try to find out who the other is.*
- 14 Pair work:** Divide students into pairs. Teach them the word *headline*. Guide them with these instructions: *Imagine you are Harker and think of a nice headline for a story about the Six Napoleons. Then write a good story for your newspaper.*

### The Norwood Builder

#### While reading

- 15 Discuss:** Ask your students to read pages 17 to 19 and to discuss the following: *Why does McFarlane need help from Holmes? Why do you think Oldacre called McFarlane? Do you think McFarlane killed Oldacre? Why/why not?*
- 16 Role play:** Guide your students with these instructions after they read page 21: *You are Oldacre and McFarlane having dinner. McFarlane asks lots of questions and Oldacre tries to be mysterious.*
- 17 Discuss:** Put students into small groups and ask them to discuss the following questions after they read page 25: *Holmes and Lestrade discuss some motives for Mr Oldacre's death. How many more can you think of?*
- 18 Pair work:** Ask students to write a dialogue: *Imagine you are Holmes and Oldacre's servant. Holmes believes she knows something. The woman does not want to tell him her secret. Write down what they say.*

#### After reading

- 19 Discuss:** Tell students to discuss the following: *Do you think Oldacre had good reasons to do what he did to Mrs McFarlane's son? Did Oldacre really love Mrs McFarlane?*
- 20 Discuss:** Ask students to work in groups and discuss the following: *What did Oldacre do with his money? Was it a good idea?*
- 21 Write:** Ask students to work in pairs and to write the following: *You are Mr Oldacre's servant. Write down in your diary (a) How you feel when you see Holmes (b) Why you help Oldacre (c) How you feel about what Oldacre is doing to Mrs McFarlane and her son.*
- 22 Write:** Tell students to retell the story changing the point of view: *In the story, Watson tells us how Holmes solved the mystery but we never know how Oldacre planned everything. Retell the story from his point of view.*

### The Golden Glasses

#### While reading

- 23 Guess:** Tell students to read up to page 36: *In pairs, discuss who you think killed John Smith and what their motive was.*
- 24 Pair work and write:** Put students into pairs. Ask them to re-read pages 36 to 39 and to do the following: *Imagine you are Watson listening to what Holmes is saying about the killer. Write down notes about the most important information you hear.*
- 25 Predict:** Ask students to work in pairs, to re-read pages 43 to 45 carefully and to discuss the following: *Why do you think Sherlock Holmes is so interested in smoking cigarettes and in talking to the cook? Write down your ideas.*
- 26 Check:** Tell students to continue to work in pairs. Tell them to read pages 45 and 46 and to compare the information about the killer with what they wrote in activity 25.

#### After reading

- 27 Discuss:** Tell students to work in small groups and to discuss the following: *In what way was the life of Professor Coram and his wife difficult?*
- 28 Pair work:** In pairs, have students retell part of the story changing the point of view: *You are Professor Coram's wife. Retell everything that happened since Holmes arrived at the house until he found you.*
- 29 Pair work and write:** Have students work in pairs and to do the following writing activity: *Work with another student. Each student writes one of the letters that will save Alexis. Read each other's letters.*
- 30 Group work and role play:** Ask students to work in groups and to dramatise the following scene: *Imagine you are Watson and Sherlock at the Russian Embassy with Anna's letters. Act out your conversation.*
- 31 Write:** Tell student to imagine they are Holmes: *Write a letter to Alexis telling him (a) all that has happened (b) what you discussed at the Embassy and (c) what he needs to do now.*

#### Extra activities

- 32 Group work:** Tell students to work in small groups and imagine they are film directors: *Imagine you are a film director. Which actors, places and music would you choose for a film about The Return of Sherlock Holmes?*
- 33 Group work and guess:** Put students into small groups and ask them to choose one scene from the book. Tell them they have to mime the scene. Give them time to practise and then get them to perform it for the class. The rest of the students have to say what is happening.

# The Return of Sherlock Holmes

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## While reading

### A Note from Dr Watson

#### 1 Write the right word in each sentence.

together cases cleverest disappeared  
dead secret detectives

- Sherlock Holmes was one of the ..... men in England so the police always asked him for help.
- Sherlock Holmes is one of the most important ..... in England.
- Sherlock Holmes always works ..... with Dr Watson.
- Sherlock Holmes and Dr Watson solved a great number of .....
- In 1891, Sherlock Holmes ..... and many people thought that he was .....
- Sherlock Holmes returned to England to work on a ..... case.

### The Six Napoleons

#### 2 Match a–g and 1–7 from the first part of the story.

- Have you got a good case for me today? .....
- Please tell me about it. ....
- But I think this will perhaps interest Dr Watson more than you. ....
- Why are you so interested in this? .....
- Now please tell me, were these three busts exactly the same. ....
- I think the thief was only interested in the busts, not in Napoleon. ....
- Can someone hate Napoleon so much? .....
  - Because he's done it again.
  - Oh, nothing important, Mr Holmes.
  - That's possible but can we be sure.
  - Well, Mr Holmes, there is something.
  - What's the matter? Is somebody ill?
  - Yes, it's possible.
  - Yes, they were.

#### 3 Underline the wrong word and put the right one.

- 'Lestrade wants to see us later.' Holmes said.
- He's at a garden in Kensington.
- We had a cup of tea then we went to Kensington.
- The house was in a busy street.

- That morning there was a large crowd of policemen outside.
- I noticed there was a lot of food outside the front door of the house.
- We met Horace Harker, the man who worked in the house.
- He was woken by a loud cry about three o'clock that afternoon.
- He was frightened but he went upstairs.
- There was somebody in the room.
- The window was open and his picture of Napoleon wasn't there.
- He opened the front door to call a taxi.

#### 4 Complete these questions from Holmes and from Lestrade. Use a word from the box.

are	bring	can	did	didn't
	was	who	why	

- 'Why ..... a man kill someone for a cheap bust like this?'
- 'Why ..... he break it at Mr Harker's house?'
- 'Why did he ..... the bust to that house?'
- 'What ..... you going to do next, Mr Lestrade?'
- '..... I keep the photograph that the dead man had with him?'
- 'Who ..... the dead man?'
- '..... was he in Kensington last night?'
- '..... killed him outside Mr Harker's house?'

#### 5 There are many mistakes in this story. Underline the wrong words and put the right ones.

The dead man was called Beppo. He was a German who worked for the Mafia. Lestrade thinks Venucci broke the rules of the Mafia. Beppo followed him, they had a fight and Venucci was killed. Holmes thinks it is important to find out why Venucci was killed. He thinks he can find Beppo in Reading that night but Lestrade refuses to go there with Holmes and Watson. They all went to Chiswick and caught Josiah Brown after he stole and broke Venucci's bust.

# The Return of Sherlock Holmes

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## The Norwood Builder

6 Put these events from Mr McFarlane's story in order. Number them 1–14.

- a McFarlane sent a message to his parents to say he had some important business after work.
- b McFarlane had a meal.
- c McFarlane saw that Oldacre wanted to give all his money to him.
- d McFarlane left Oldacre's house at half past eleven.
- e Oldacre asked McFarlane to go to his house in the evening to see some more important papers.
- f Oldacre came to McFarlane's office.
- g McFarlane arrived at Oldacre's house at half past nine.
- h An old woman opened the door of McFarlane's house.
- i Oldacre asked McFarlane to make a copy of his will.
- j McFarlane worked on Oldacre's papers.
- k McFarlane couldn't find his stick.
- l Oldacre explained that he had no children and he wanted McFarlane to have the money because he knew his father.
- m McFarlane stayed at a hotel in Norwood.
- n McFarlane read about the fire in the morning newspaper.

7 Complete these questions using a word from the box.

are can does was what why

- a Why ..... some good lines of the will written well and some written badly?
- b Why ..... Holmes think the will was not important?
- c ..... does Lestrade think McFarlane's motive was for the murder?
- d ..... does Holmes think that Lestrade's explanation is wrong?
- e What motive ..... Holmes think of for the murder?
- f What ..... the strange thing that Holmes wanted to find out about?

8 In pairs, answer the questions from activity 7.

9 Answer these questions.

- a What new fact does Lestrade discover?  
.....
- b What did Holmes think about the new fact?  
.....
- c What did Holmes ask Lestrade for?  
.....

10 Work in pairs. Explain to each other.

- a Where Oldacre was hiding: .....
- b The way Holmes made Oldacre appear: .....
- c The way Oldacre made the thumbprint: .....
- d Oldacre's motives: .....

## The Golden Glasses

11 How does Holmes discover that .....

- a the glasses belong to a woman?  
.....
- b the woman has money and likes good things?  
.....
- c the woman has a thick nose?  
.....
- d the woman has eyes that are close together?  
.....
- e the woman looks closely at things?  
.....
- f she has visited the optician recently?  
.....

12 Are these sentences right (✓) or wrong (✗)?

- a The two passages in Professor Coram's house go to the same place.
- b Professor Coram told Sherlock that his secretary killed himself.
- c Inside the cupboard in the room in which the secretary died there was money.
- d Professor Coram's cook said that he always ate too little.
- e Sherlock Holmes said that the answer to the Coram case was in the garden.
- f The death of Coram's secretary was planned.

# The Return of Sherlock Holmes

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## The Six Napoleons

1 **Underline** the wrong word and put the right one.

- a Lestrade thought that the man who was stealing the busts was dangerous.  
.....
- b Horace Harker worked for Scotland Yard.  
.....
- c The man in the photograph from the dead man's pocket was Venucci.  
.....
- d The busts were cheaply made by German workers.  
.....
- e Beppo was in prison because he robbed a man.  
.....

2 **Are these sentences true (T) or false (F)?**

- a Beppo was a thief.
- b Beppo was very good at making busts.
- c Holmes bought Sandeford's bust for £100.
- d Holmes found a pearl inside the bust.
- e The pearl was stolen from a hotel room near Gelder and Company.

## The Norwood Builder

3 **Match the questions and the answers.**

- a How did Holmes know McFarlane was an unmarried lawyer? .....
  - b Why is McFarlane unhappy? .....
  - c What do the police think has happened to Mr Oldacre? .....
  - d Why do the police think McFarlane killed Mr Oldacre? .....
  - e What do you know about Mr Oldacre? .....
  - f Why haven't the police found McFarlane yet? .....
  - g Why didn't Lestrade take McFarlane immediately? .....
- 1) He is a rich builder.
  - 2) Because the police think that he killed a man.
  - 3) They think he was killed and then burned with some old wood.
  - 4) They think he did it for his money and they found his stick on the floor.
  - 5) Because he wore untidy clothes and had a lot of papers.
  - 6) Because he wasn't at home last night and he stayed in a hotel.
  - 7) Because Holmes asked him to wait.

4 **Are these sentences right (✓) or wrong (X)?**

- a At the beginning, Holmes believed that the case was difficult and that Lestrade could be right.
- b In Blackheath, Holmes discovered that Oldacre was a good man.
- c Oldacre's bankbook showed that the old man had little money.
- d Holmes believed that the thumbprint was really McFarlane's.
- e When Sherlock and the policemen shouted fire a little man came out of a passage.

5 **Circle the right words.**

- a Oldacre wanted the law to *hang / send to prison* Mrs MacFarlane's son.
- b Sherlock Holmes knew that McFarlane was a *doctor / lawyer* since the first time he saw him.
- c Lestrade thought that McFarlane was the killer when he saw the *thumbprint / paint* on the wall.
- d Holmes knew that there was a secret *passage / door* in Oldacre's house.
- e When the men shouted 'fire', Oldacre ran out of the house like a *dog / rabbit*.

## The Golden Glasses

6 **Finish the sentences.**

- a Stanley Hopkins was a young detective from .....
- b The woman hiding behind Professor Coram's bookshelves was .....
- c Professor Coram's wife was sent to prison .....
- d Professor Coram's wife had to finish talking quickly because .....

7 **Choose the right word from the box.**

ash embassy poison revolutionary footprints

- a Inspector Hopkins thought that someone very clever went to the house because there were no ..... in the garden.
- b Professor Coram was a ..... when he was young.
- c Holmes goes to the Russian ..... to give them the papers that Coram's wife gave him.
- d Professor Coram's wife took ..... and died.
- e Sherlock discovered that there was someone in Professor Coram's room looking at his cigarette .....

## The Return of Sherlock Holmes

### Book key

- 1 a Open answers  
b Napoleon Bonaparte, 1769–1821, was born in France (in Corsica).
- 2 a Open answers  
b The writer, Conan Doyle, was tired of writing these stories. He wanted to give more time to more serious writings.
- 3 a Open answers  
b lawyer, optician, professor, servant
- 4 Open answers
- 5 a unusual b three c more d photograph  
e year f Lestrade
- 6 a Mr Morse Hudson b Mr Harding  
c Dr Barnicott d Mr Harker e Beppo
- 7 a Lestrade. He thinks it is the work of a madman. That is more interesting to a doctor than a detective.  
b Holmes. He is already interested in the reasons for breaking the busts.  
c Holmes. He is more interested in the busts. Lestrade is more interested in the murder. Both are important, but Holmes explains the murder because of the busts.  
d Morse Hudson. Beppo worked in his shop for a short time. He wanted to find out where the six busts were. Then he disappeared.  
e Lestrade. He is only interested in the murder, not the busts. He doesn't realize that the busts are the reason for the murder.
- 8 Open answers
- 9 a Beppo b Josiah Brown c Mr Sandeford  
d Holmes e the Princess of Colonna f Beppo  
g Venucci h Lestrade
- 10 a 3 b 5 c 1 d 4 e 6 f 2
- 11–12 Open answers
- 13 He wants Holmes to go to Scotland Yard and talk to the officers there about the case. Lestrade thinks this is a very good example of Holmes's detective work. He knows that Holmes is cleverer and a better detective than he is.
- 14 Open answers
- 15 a ✓ b ✓ c ✗ d ✗ e ✓ f ✗ g ✗
- 16–18 Open answers
- 19 a marry b mark/thumbprint c fire d joke  
e shorter f builder g Cornelius
- 20 a Part of it was in good handwriting, and part of it in bad. This shows it was written on a train. It was written quickly and was not important to Mr Oldacre. It was only a way to make trouble for McFarlane.  
b The fire burnt some of Oldacre's clothes and another thing – an animal or a person. Oldacre wanted the police to think that McFarlane burnt his body in the fire.  
c The thumbprint was put on the wall by Oldacre. He used MacFarlane's thumbprints on the wax to make it. But Holmes knew that this mark was not on the wall the day before. Also, McFarlane was with the police that day. Someone wanted McFarlane to seem to be the murderer.
- 21–23 Open answers
- 24 a Stanley Hopkins b Coram c Mortimer  
d Mrs Marker e Susan Tarleton f Mr Smith  
g Mr Smith
- 25 a the professor's study b in bed  
c a rich woman with weak eyes d the murderer  
e smoking f large
- 26–28 Open answers
- 29 a ✗ b ✗ c ✓ d ✗ e ✓ f ✓
- 30 a The passages look the same; the walls and the floor are the same colours. The woman went along the wrong passage because she didn't have her glasses. She went into the professor's bedroom, not into the garden.  
b The professor was a weak old man. He smoked a lot. Usually he didn't eat big meals. But that day he had a big breakfast and lunch. Holmes thought that perhaps another person was hiding in the professor's room.  
c Holmes thought there was perhaps a secret door behind the books in one wall of the room. He put ash on the floor and the next day there were footprints in the ash. They showed where the door was.
- 31–42 Open answers

### Discussion activities key

- 1 Suggested answers: Hercule Poirot, Miss Maple, the detectives from *Law & Order*, Columbo, etc. Detectives are intelligent, patient, cold, etc.
- 2–4 Open answers
- 5 Suggested answers: He disappeared because he was working on a secret case in Europe. He returned because he had an important case back home.

## The Return of Sherlock Holmes

- 6 Suggested answers: Holmes is the tall, slim man in black and Dr Watson is the medium size man with a moustache.
- 7 Open answers
- 8 Suggested answers: he is stealing the busts and breaking them because he wants what is inside.
- 9–10 Open answers
- 11 Suggested answers: Reading the newspapers to find information; finding out about the Italian artists; finding out about the busts.
- 12–14 Open answers
- 15 Suggested answers: McFarlane needs help because he will be hanged for murder. Oldacre wanted people to believe that McFarlane had a motive to kill him.
- 16 Open answers
- 17 Suggested answers: An old enemy; Oldacre stole money from someone.
- 18 Open answers
- 19 Suggested answers: There are never 'good reasons' to kill a person. If he wants to hurt her he never loved her.
- 20 Suggested answers: He transferred it to a woman. It was not a good idea because he left evidence of what he did.
- 21–22 Open answers
- 23 Suggested answers: An old enemy; someone, a woman, who hated Professor Coram.
- 24 Open answers
- 25 Suggested answers: Cigarettes may be important for him to discover something.
- 26–33 Open answers
- Activity worksheets key**
- 1 a cleverest  
b detectives  
c together  
d cases  
e disappeared, dead  
f secret
- 2 a 2 b 4 c 5 d 1 e 7 f 3 g 6
- 3 a later > immediately  
b garden > house  
c tea > coffee  
d busy > quiet  
e policemen > people  
f food > blood
- g worked > lived  
h afternoon > morning  
i upstairs > downstairs  
j somebody > nobody  
k picture > bust  
l taxi > policeman
- 4 a did  
b didn't  
c bring  
d are  
e Can  
f was  
g Why  
h Who
- 5 The dead man was called **Venucci**. He was **an Italian** who worked for the Mafia. Lestrade thinks **Beppo** broke the rules of the Mafia. **Venucci** followed him, they had a fight and Venucci was killed. Holmes thinks it is important to find out why **the busts were broken**. He thinks he can find Beppo in **Chiswick** that night **and Lestrade agrees** to go there with Holmes and Watson. They all went to Chiswick and caught **Beppo** after he stole and broke **Josiah Brown's** bust.
- 6 a 6 b 9 c 3 d 12 e 5 f 1 g 7 h 8  
i 2 j 10 k 11 l 4 m 13 n 14
- 7 a are b does c What d Why e can f was
- 8 Possible answers:  
a Because he wrote them on a train – the good parts at stations, the bad parts when the train was moving.  
b Because most people don't write their wills on trains.  
c He thinks he killed him because he knew about the will.  
d Because McFarlane is not stupid – a clever man doesn't kill a man on the same day that he made his will.  
e Perhaps a thief was passing the house and the room and thought there was money in there.  
f Why Oldacre wanted to give his money to McFarlane.
- 9 a McFarlane's thumbprint in blood.  
b He knows the print was not there the day before.  
c Some policemen – strong, with loud voices – old newspapers and plenty of water.



## The Return of Sherlock Holmes

### 10 Possible answers:

- a He was hiding in a secret room he built at the end of a passage.
  - b He made a small fire and Oldacre became frightened.
  - c He got McFarlane's thumbprint in some wax for closing papers and put the print on the wall, probably using his own blood.
  - d He wanted to disappear because he had money problems, and he hated McFarlane's mother so he wanted to kill her son.
- 11
- a Because they are pretty – and Mr Smith said 'it was she' before he died.
  - b Because they are made of gold.
  - c Because the glasses are made for a person with a thick nose.
  - d Because the glasses are made for a person with eyes that are close together.
  - e Because the glasses are very strong – people with weak eyes look closely at things.
  - f Because the glasses were mended twice, once recently – the gold is very new.
- 12
- a  One goes to the back door the other goes to his bedroom.
  - b
  - c  Inside the cupboard in the room in which the secretary died there were papers and letters.
  - d  Professor Coram's cook said that he ate sometimes too much sometimes too little.
  - e  Sherlock Holmes said that the answer to the Coram case was in the bedroom.
  - f  The death of Coram's secretary was a mistake.

### Progress test key

- 1 a dangerous > mad  
 b Scotland Yard > a newspaper  
 c Venucci > Beppo  
 d German > Italian  
 e robbed > knifed
- 2 a T  
 b T  
 c T  
 d T  
 e T
- 3 a 5 b 2 c 3 d 4 e 1 f 6 g 7
- 4 a   
 b  In Blackheath, Holmes discovered that Oldacre was a bad man.  
 c   
 d  Holmes believed that the thumbprint was really put by somebody else.  
 e
- 5 a hang  
 b lawyer  
 c thumbprint  
 d passage  
 e rabbit
- 6 Suggested answers:  
 a Scotland Yard.  
 b his wife.  
 c for ten years. / because she was a revolutionary. / because they killed a policeman.  
 d she had taken poison and was dying.
- 7 a footprints  
 b revolutionary  
 c embassy  
 d poison  
 e ash