



Topic: Detective Fiction

Year: 7

NC Strand: Pre 1914 Prose

What should I already know?

I have used basic inference and deductions skills and have been able to select evidence from a text. I have applied retrieval techniques in previous terms work and can now build upon this when analysing a new set of texts.

What will I know by the end of the unit?

I will make inferences and deductions making clear reference to the texts. I will learn new vocabulary and through understanding the context in which it is used to apply it in a range of tasks. I will be able to compare within and across texts drawing out similarities and differences and evaluating both texts. I will be able to make comment on the language choice, structure and grammatical features of a text, exploring the impact and effectiveness. I will explore a whole novel using inference and deduction to explore a novel in greater depth. I will examine the structure of the text, examining characterisation, setting and plot. I will be able to comment on these, selecting relevant information from the text to support my ideas and opinions. I will explore in depth an author's use of language and how it presents meaning and affects the reader's understanding. I will be able to comment on what I have learnt in a detailed essay on the text, making comparisons across and between texts. I will know how cultural events can shape a narrative.

Key Characters

Sherlock Holmes	A fictional consulting detective created by Arthur Conan Doyle. He is known for his intelligence, introspection and dual nature. He is described as an 'observing machine' because of his ability to capture the essence of people with seemingly very little evidence.
Dr Watson	Holmes' former flatmate, a doctor and his closest companion. The stories are told from his perspective, working as Holmes' assistant.
Irene Adler	A famous American opera singer who had a relationship with the future King of Bohemia. To Holmes, she is 'the woman' who outsmarted him.
King of Bohemia	In the Victorian era, Bohemia was an area of central Europe; today it is a region of the Czech Republic. The King is engaged to a Scandinavian princess but five years previously was madly in love with Irene Adler. Because of his status, he was unable to marry her at the time, which he regrets. The King still respects Adler.
James Ryder	Head attendant of the hotel where the Blue Carbuncle goes missing. He works with his accomplice Catherine Cusack (the countess' maid) to steal the jewel and frame John Horner for the crime. He is racked with guilt and confesses when Holmes questions him.
Colonel Barclay	Colonel Barclay is a rough man who spent his life as a soldier. He was devoted to his wife and they rarely disagreed. 'He was a dashing, jovial old soldier in his usual mood, but there were occasions on which he seemed to show himself capable of considerable violence and vindictiveness. This side of his nature, however, appears never to have been turned towards his wife.'
Professor Moriarty	Moriarty's intelligence and cunning make him an equal for Sherlock Holmes.
Mary Sutherland	A typist and client of Sherlock who is the victim of a scheme to keep her married.

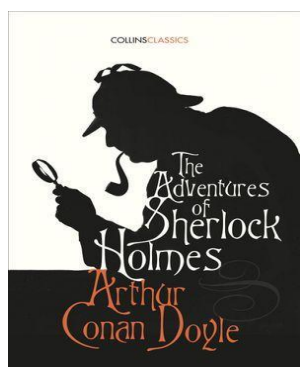


Topic: Detective Fiction

Year: 7

NC Strand: Pre 1914 Prose

Front Cover



Key Information

The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes is a collection of twelve short stories by Arthur Conan Doyle, first published on 14 October 1892. It contains the earliest short stories featuring the consulting detective Sherlock Holmes, which had been published in twelve monthly issues of *The Strand Magazine* from July 1891 to June 1892. The stories are collected in the same sequence, which is not supported by any fictional chronology. The only characters common to all twelve are Holmes and Dr. Watson and all are related in first-person narrative from Watson's point of view.

In general, the stories in *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* identify, and try to correct, social injustices. Holmes is portrayed as offering a new, fairer sense of justice.

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle was a British writer, who created the



Topic: Detective Fiction

Year: 7

NC Strand: Pre 1914 Prose

character Sherlock Holmes. Originally a physician, in 1887 he published *A Study in Scarlet*, the first of four novels and more than fifty short stories about Holmes and Dr. Watson. The Sherlock Holmes stories are generally considered milestones in the field of crime fiction.

Key Characters

Scandal in Bohemia - The King of Bohemia plans to marry a Norwegian princess. However, he previously had a relationship with a woman called Irene Adler. Adler is threatening to ruin his engagement with a picture she has of herself and the king together.

The Blue Carbuncle - A policeman named Peterson is left with a man's hat and Christmas goose and discovers a blue carbuncle (a rare, and very valuable jewel) inside the goose! Holmes recognises the jewel as the one that was stolen from The Countess of Morcar. Using the hat as a clue, Holmes and Watson set off to discover how the blue carbuncle was stolen and how it ended up in a goose.

The Crooked Man - This locked room mystery is a story about Colonel Barclay, who died in a locked room with only his wife present. Holmes and Watson hope to solve this mystery in order to prove that Mrs. Barclay is innocent.

The Final Problem - In this story, Watson writes of Sherlock Holmes's final adventure, in which Sherlock goes against Moriarty in a life-or-death chess match.

A Case of Identity - Miss Mary Sutherland consults Sherlock Holmes because her fiancé Mr Hosmer Angel disappeared just before their wedding. After hearing her story, Sherlock Holmes thinks this case is quite simple as he knows some similar cases. By a simple exchange of letters with Mr Windibank, Mary's step-father, he manages to confound him.

Homework

Research and bring in 10 new facts about Sir Arthur Conan Doyle or Sherlock Holmes.

Research and bring in a report about a famous bank robbery or jewellery heist.

Research and bring in any examples of unsolved crimes. Choose one and explore it in detail; possibly to contain your ideas about 'whodunnit'.

Create a diary entry of how you felt the night before you committed a crime.

Write a detailed review for your favourite crime film.

Watch a modern interpretation of Sherlock Holmes and write a review. How does it compare to the stories: character settings, action etc?

Spend at least one hour reading a different Sherlock story over the course of the week. Create a review of what you have read.

Find a crime story about someone who faked their own death. Write it up in a news report.