

Study Questions for The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes

You must read the entire book and take notes on each story. We have supplied study questions for some of the stories which must be answered and uploaded to turnitin.com.

Study Questions for “The Speckled Band”

1. Describe the woman who has come to consult Holmes and Watson early one morning. How is she dressed? What makes Holmes think he should offer her coffee? What is odd about her hair?
2. Describe what Helen Stoner tells Holmes about her stepfather. Why did he go to India? What forced him to leave?
3. What happened to Helen Stoner’s mother and how did her stepfather change after her mother’s death?
4. Describe what Helen Stoner hears just before her sister dies. What are her sister’s last words to her?
5. Why does Helen move into Julia’s room? What frightens her when she does?
6. Describe Dr. Roylott as he appears in Holmes’ room.
7. Describe Dr. Roylott’s behavior also. What does he do to try to frighten Holmes? What does he want Holmes to do?
8. Holmes obtains a copy of Helen Stoner’s mother’s will, and it provides a motive for Dr. Roylott’s not wishing his stepdaughter ever to marry. Explain.
9. What does Holmes learn from trying to break into the room after Miss Stoner fastens the shutters?
10. The bell-rope Holmes notices in the bedroom would have been used to summon a servant to the room. What things seem odd about the rope?
11. Holmes and Watson see Dr. Roylott return home from their window at the Crown Inn. What do they witness that is another example of his terrible temper?
12. What did Holmes notice is odd about the bed?
13. Give details about exactly what happens after Holmes and Watson hear the whistle.
14. Describe what they find when they enter Dr. Roylott’s room after the dreadful shriek. What is the *speckled band*? How did the doctor die?
15. Earlier in the story Holmes warned Miss Stoner that if Dr. Roylott suspected he was nearby, his journey would be in vain. What did he mean by that? How do you think the doctor might have altered his plan if he had known Holmes was nearby?

Study Questions for “The Red-Headed League”

1. Watson finds Holmes with a visitor, Mr. Jabez Wilson. Give details about his appearance.
2. Holmes lists the “obvious facts” that he deduces from Mr. Wilson’s appearance.

What are they and how did Homes know?

3. What is the only requirement needed to apply for a vacancy in the Red-Headed League? What are the benefits?
4. Mr. Wilson is a pawnbroker, one who lends money at interest to people who give him items of personal property in exchange. What is unusual about his assistant, Vincent Spaulding? Why does he spend a lot of time in the cellar?
5. How does Mr. Wilson learn of the newspaper ad? Describe how he gets the job.
6. Describe the work Mr. Wilson must do for the League. What exactly is it? When must he do it? What is supposedly the purpose? What happens if he leaves the office during working hours?
7. Explain how his job suddenly ends.
8. What does Mr. Wilson learn from the landlord?
9. Holmes begins to question Mr. Wilson about his assistant. List here some of the things that he learns.
10. What detail suggests that Holmes already knows who this man is?
11. Why does Holmes pretend to be lost and ask the way of Mr. Wilson's assistant? What other odd thing does he do in front of Mr. Wilson's place of business?
12. Who are Mr. Jones and Mr. Merryweather? (Note: Scotland Yard is the home of the London police force.) Who is John Clay?
13. What of special interest is hidden where they wait?
14. Describe the two people who enter the room from the hole in the floor.
15. On page 88 Holmes explains to Watson how he guessed the truth. What was the purpose of Clay's hiring Mr. Wilson to copy the Encyclopedia? What was Clay doing in the cellar? How did Holmes know Clay would attempt to rob the bank that night?

Study Questions for "The Adventure of the Engineer's Thumb"

1. Paddington Station is a train station in London. Two men from Paddington appear Dr. Watson's consulting room, a guard and Mr. Victor Hatherley. What brings them there in?
2. Describe Colonel Stark, the man who comes to see Mr. Hatherley about the job.
3. What is the one condition of employment that Colonel Stark insists on over and over?
4. What is the job he offers Mr. Hatherley? At what time of the day will he perform this job?
5. According to Colonel Stark, what has he been doing with his hydraulic press, and why does he wish to keep his actions a secret? Is there anything suspicious about his explanation?
6. Describe what happens when the woman comes to greet them as they enter the house.
7. Who is Mr. Ferguson?
8. Describe the house Mr. Hatherley sees as they walk to the press.
9. What is wrong with the machine?
10. Explain how Colonel Stark tries to kill the engineer. How does he escape?
11. Explain how he loses his thumb.
12. Explain what Holmes guesses about the fresh, glossy horse that helps him locate the house.
13. What was the real use of the machine?
14. What has happened to the house? How did it happen?
15. How did the unconscious engineer end up near the train station? What evidence tells Holmes and Watson who helped him?

Study Questions on “The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle”

1. List here the facts Holmes presents to Watson about the battered billycock.
2. Why could the hat and the goose not be returned to the owner?
3. Holmes gives Watson his magnifying glass and asks him to try his methods. List here all the observations that Watson makes.
4. What deductions does Holmes make from what they are able to observe?
5. Explain how Holmes guesses the age and hair color of the hat’s owner.
6. Why does Holmes suggest the owner’s wife has ceased to love him? How does he know he is even married?
7. What is found in the goose? Whose is it?
8. Who was accused of the crime, and what evidence was there against him?
9. Describe Henry Baker.
10. Explain how Sherlock Holmes figures out that Mr. Baker is innocent, that he had no knowledge that the gem was in the goose.
11. What does Holmes learn from the owner of the Alpha Inn?
12. Explain how Holmes tricks the innkeeper into telling him where he got the goose.
13. How does Holmes meet James Ryder? Who is he?
14. Holmes tells Ryder exactly what he did to get the blue gem. Explain in your own words.
15. How did the gem get into the goose’s throat?

Study Questions on “The Adventure of the Copper Beeches”

1. What does the letter from Violet Hunter ask of Holmes?
2. Describe the gentleman with Miss Stoper. How does he react when he sees Miss Hunter?
3. Why does he offer her such a large sum of money?
4. What odd requests does the gentleman say he might make of his new governess? What is her reply?
5. What offer does the letter Miss Hunter receives make? What are the conditions?
6. Describe the family Miss Hunter encounters at her new job. What is the wife like? The child?
7. How does Miss Hunter see out the window while she is sitting in the chair? What does she see?
8. A mastiff is a large dog. What is this dog’s job, and how does the owner ensure that he will do it well?
9. What odd thing does Miss Hunter find locked in her drawer? Where do you think it came from?
10. How does Mr. Rucastle explain the shuttered window of the abandoned wing? Do you believe him? Why or why not?
11. Describe what Miss Hunter sees when she steps into the normally locked hallway.
12. Describe Mr. Rucastle’s reaction when he learns what she has done.
13. What is Holmes’ explanation for the hiring of Miss Hunter?
14. Describe what Holmes and Watson find when they break down the door to the locked room.
15. Explain why Mr. Rucastle locked up his daughter. What has become of her?