Character Analysis

Name: _____

Date: _____

1. Imagine you are a journalist writing an article about **Sherlock Holmes**. Write a short introductory paragraph: who is he, why should your readers be interested in him, and why are you interviewing him?

2. Now imagine you are Holmes being interviewed. Write your answers under each question.

You are becoming increasingly famous for your incredible powers of deduction. Please tell our readers, how do you do it?

On a more personal note: your close companion Mr Watson has recently been married. How has this affected your relationship, and how are you feeling about it?

One more question: what about your love life, Mr Holmes? Have you got a special someone in your life, and if not, why not?

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Matching exercise

Name: _____

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1. Match each phrase from the story with an image. Draw a line to join them.

1 "*I was returning from a journey to a patient (for I had now returned to civil practice), when my way led me through Baker-street.*"

2 "*Obviously they have been caused by someone who has very carelessly scraped round the edges of the sole in order to remove crusted mud from it.*"

3 "*Quite so,*" *he answered, lighting a cigarette, and throwing himself down into an armchair. "You see, but you do not observe. The distinction is clear.*"

4 *His dress was rich with a richness which would, in England, be looked upon as akin to bad taste.*

A 

B 

C 

D 

Glossary

Name: _____

Date: _____

Seldom: (adv) not often

Predominate: (v) to be the strongest or the central element

Akin: (adj) similar or related

Abhorrent: (adj) awful, inspiring disgust and loathing

Gibe: (n) an insulting remark or taunt

Dubious: (adj) morally suspect

Establishment: (n) a business organization, public institution, or household

Bohemian: (adj) socially unconventional; relating to Bohemia

Faculty: (n) inherent mental or physical power

Woo: (v) to try to gain someone's love or affection

Spare: (adj) thin

Silhouette: (n) the dark shape and outline of something against a bright background

Effusive: (adj) showing heartfelt pleasure

Gasogene: (n) a device to produce carbonated water

Introspect: (v) to examine your own thoughts or feelings

Trifle: (n) an insignificant amount

Deduce: (v) to draw a logical conclusion

Incorrigible: (adj) unable to change or be reformed

Moment: (n) importance

Amiss: (adj) not quite right

Capital: (adj) punishable by death

Endeavour: (v) to try hard to achieve something

Half a crown: (n) two shillings and sixpence

Peculiar: (adj) strange

Monogram: (n) a motif of two or more interwoven letters

Astrakhan: (n) a dark curly fleece from young lambs

Beryl: (n) a transparent pale green mineral

Opulence: (n) great wealth or luxuriousness

Vizard: (n) a mask or disguise

Resolution: (n) determination

Obstinacy: (n) stubbornness

August: (adj) respected and impressive

Languid: (adj) relaxed and disinclined to physical exertion

Condescend: (v) to show that one feels superior

Hereditary: (adj) based on inheritance

Incognito: (adj) with your true identity disguised

Ransack: (v) to cause damage in the process of searching

Waylay: (v) to stop someone and keep them engaged in conversation

Reproachful: (adj) expressing disapproval or disappointment

Cabinet: (n) a style of photograph mounted on a card

Carte Blanche: (n) freedom to act as you wish

BEFORE YOU READ

Who is the best observer you know? What small details can a careful person notice that others miss?

Can a very logical person also fall in love? Why or why not?

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Quiz

Name: _____

Date: _____

Please choose the best option for each of the following questions.

1. Why is the idea of love abhorrent to Sherlock Holmes?

(a) Because it would interfere with his rational abilities

(b) Because he was terrified of rejection

(c) Because he had been scorned in the past by Irene Adler

2. Why does Watson say he hadn't seen Holmes much lately?

(a) Because they had a fight

(b) Because he had recently been married

(c) Because Holmes was away on a secret mission

3. On what date does Watson say he passed through Baker Street while returning from a journey to a patient?

(a) 18th April 1892

(b) 20th March 1888

(c) 3rd February 1876

4. What does the manner of Sherlock Holmes's pacing tell Watson?

(a) He is angry

(b) He has been taking drugs

(c) He has returned to solving crimes

(d) He is restless

5. How much weight does Sherlock Holmes think Watson has put on since he last saw him?

(a) Ten pounds

(b) Seven and a half pounds

(c) Seven pounds

(d) He thinks he has lost weight

6. From what does Sherlock Holmes deduce that Watson has been out in vile weather and has a careless servant girl?

(a) 6 parallel cuts in Watson's shoe

(b) A tear in Watson's trousers

(c) He saw it on Watson's social media page

(d) He had spoken to Watson's wife earlier that week

7. What does Sherlock Holmes say is the distinction between himself and Watson?

(a) Watson sees, but does not observe

(b) Watson is held back by human attachments

(c) Holmes is much more intelligent than Watson

(d) Watson has better eyesight than Holmes

8. What does the letter warn the visitor may be wearing?

(a) A mask

(b) A hat

(c) Nothing

(d) A cloak

9. What book does Sherlock Holmes use to look up the "Eg"?

(a) Global enterprise listings

(b) Continental Gazetteer

(c) The European Directory

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Quiz

Name: _____

Date: _____

10. What is the visitor wearing? Choose all that apply.

- [a] A double-breasted coat
- [b] A green woollen cloak
- [c] A blue silken cloak
- [d] A beryl brooch
- [e] A fox fur coat
- [f] A black vizard mask

11. Which reigning family of Europe could be seriously compromised by what the masked stranger is about to reveal?

- (a) The Great House of Ormstein
- (b) The House of Hapsburg
- (c) The Royal House of Lancaster

12. Who does the masked man turn out to be?

- (a) Wilhelm Gottsreich Sigismond von Ormstein
- (b) The Grand Duke of Cassel-Felstein
- (c) The hereditary King of Bohemia
- (d) All of the above

13. Where do Holmes's notes say that Irene Adler is now living?

- (a) Warsaw
- (b) Rome
- (c) London
- (d) Paris

14. How many pounds of gold does the hereditary King give to Sherlock Holmes?

- (a) 300
- (b) 100
- (c) 50
- (d) 700

If you read it in the iClassics app

Answer these extra questions about what you discover as you read:

1. What is in the desk drawer on page 1?

2. What colour is Watson's hat as he stands outside the door on Baker Street?

3. What is on the table between Holmes and Watson as they sit at the fireplace?

4. What appears when you zoom in on the steps?

5. What letters appear when Watson holds the paper up to the fire?

6. How many times does the visitor tap on the door?

7. Which names can you see in Holmes's index? Select all that apply.

Think like a detective

Name: _____

Date: _____

Answer in full sentences. Support your ideas with evidence from the text.

1. Holmes tells Watson: "You see, but you do not observe." What is the difference, and which clues in the chapter show it in action?

2. Holmes is brilliant but says love is abhorrent. What does the chapter suggest about his character, and what might it cost to live by reason alone?

3. The visitor arrives masked and in disguise. What do his clothes, his mask and the letter tell us about him before he speaks? Would you trust him?

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Writing

Name: _____

Date: _____

Complete this section at the end of chapter 1. Write your predictions below. At the end of the story, come back and check: were you right, and what really happened?

1. Will Irene Adler send the photograph on the day of the King's wedding? Give details of what will happen.

2. Will Sherlock Holmes meet Irene Adler? Will he like her or hate her? Why?



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