Character Analysis

Name: _____

Date: _____

1. Imagine you are a journalist writing an article about **Dr Watson**. 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 Watson being interviewed. Write your answers under each question.

You are best known as the companion of Mr Sherlock Holmes. What exactly do you do to help him? Could he have concluded so many investigations without you?

As Holmes's closest confidant, you can give our readers a sneak peek into his true character. How would you describe Mr Holmes?

And finally: why do you help Holmes with so many of his investigations? What drives you to keep returning to his service?

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Matching exercise

Name: _____

Date: _____

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

1	*It was close upon four before the door opened, and a drunken-looking groom, ill-kempt and side-whiskered, with an inflamed face and disreputable clothes, walked into the room.*	A	
2	*I only caught a glimpse of her at the moment, but she was a lovely woman, with a face that a man might die for. "The Church of St. Monica, John," she cried, "and half a sovereign if you reach it in twenty minutes."*	B	
3	*There was not a soul there save the two whom I had followed and a surpliced clergyman, who seemed to be expostulating with them.*	C	
4	*He disappeared into his bedroom, and returned in a few minutes in the character of an amiable and simple-minded Nonconformist clergyman.*	D	
5	*I caught a glimpse of rushing figures, and a moment later the voice of Holmes from within, assuring them that it was a false alarm.*	E	
6	*"Then, when the row broke out, I had a little moist red paint in the palm of my hand. I rushed forward, fell down, clapped my hand to my face, and became a piteous spectacle. It is an old trick."*	F	
7	*Now it was clear to me that our lady of to-day had nothing in the house more precious to her than what we are in quest of. She would rush to secure it.*	G	

Glossary

Name: _____

Date: _____

Exalted: (adj) at a high or powerful level

Incisive: (adj) analytical and clear-thinking

Inextricable: (adj) impossible to separate

Invariable: (adj) unchanging

Freemasonry: (n) fellow feeling between people with something in common

Bijou: (adj) small and elegant

Mews: (n) stables, or houses converted from stables, around a yard or alley

Ostler: (n) someone employed to take care of horses

Half-and-half: (n) a drink of half strong beer and half lighter beer

Bonnet: (n) a woman's hat that ties under the chin

Dashing: (adj) attractive, adventurous, confident

Confidant: (n) someone in whom you have confided a secret

Ominous: (adj) giving the impression that something bad will happen

Flurried: (adj) nervous, agitated

Earnestly: (adv) seriously

Landau: (n) a type of horse-drawn carriage

Half a guinea: (n) one pound and one shilling

Half a sovereign: (n) ten shillings

Fare: (n) a passenger paying to travel in a taxi; a range of food

Surplice: (n) a loose white garment worn by the clergy

Expostulate: (v) to express strong disapproval

Spinster: (n) an unmarried woman beyond the usual age for marriage

Sally: (v) to set out from a place to do something

Nonconformist: (adj) a member of a Protestant church that dissents from the Church of England

Dusk: (n) semi-darkness

Loafing: (v) idling, spending one's time aimlessly

Compunction: (n) a moral urge or feeling of guilt

Ulster: (n) a man's long, loose overcoat

Fathom: (v) to understand

Deuce: (n) a euphemism for 'devil'

BEFORE YOU READ

Have you ever disguised yourself or pretended to be someone else? How did you do it?

If you wanted someone to reveal where they hid something, how could you make them show you?

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Quiz

Name: _____

Date: _____

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

1. What was Sherlock Holmes dressed up as when he got back to the house?

(a) An unemployed groom
(b) A homeless man
(c) A respectable butler
(d) A postman

2. What did the ostlers give Sherlock Holmes?

(a) Twopence
(b) Shag tobacco
(c) A glass of half-and-half
(d) Information about Irene Adler
(e) All of the above

3. How many times would Godfrey Norton call for Irene Adler?

(a) Never less than once a day
(b) 3 times a day
(c) Every other day
(d) On the first and third Sunday of each month

4. Where does Godfrey Norton want to go in Regent Street?

(a) Bird & Butlers
(b) The Bohemia Brothers
(c) His home
(d) Gross & Hankeys

5. How quickly do Norton and Adler want to reach the Church of St. Monica?

(a) In 20 minutes
(b) In 5 minutes
(c) Before the sun sets

6. Where does Holmes ask Watson to station himself at Irene Adler's house?

(a) Five paces down the lane
(b) In a waiting cab
(c) Outside the sitting-room window
(d) In a bush in the garden

7. What object does Holmes ask Watson to throw into the room at the right moment?

(a) A magnifying glass
(b) A worn photograph
(c) A plumber's smoke-rocket
(d) An antique gun

8. What role does Sherlock Holmes assume for their mission to Irene Adler's house?

(a) A plumber
(b) A Nonconformist clergyman
(c) A kindly old man
(d) A friendly postman

9. Who does Watson say lost out when Holmes chose to specialise in crime? Choose all that apply.

[a] The church
[b] Science
[c] The medical profession
[d] The stage

10. Who else is on Irene Adler's street when Holmes and Watson arrive?

(a) A group of shabbily dressed men
(b) A scissors grinder with his wheel
(c) Two guardsmen flirting with a nurse
(d) Several well-dressed young men
(e) All of the above

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Quiz

Name: _____

Date: _____

11. How does Sherlock Holmes get into Irene Adler's house?

(a) He climbs in through the passage window

(b) He is injured in a scuffle and taken in to recover

(c) He knocks on the door and is invited in immediately

12. How many of the people in the street were Sherlock Holmes's accomplices?

(a) None of them

(b) Only the well-dressed people

(c) Only the shabbily dressed people

(d) All of them

13. How does Holmes know where the photograph is hidden?

(a) He searched the room while everyone was distracted

(b) Irene Adler rushed to it when she thought her house was on fire

(c) She confessed it to him

14. What happens when Watson and Holmes reach Holmes's front door?

(a) A slim youth wishes Holmes good night

(b) Irene Adler is waiting for them

(c) The hereditary Bohemian King pulls up in his carriage

(d) The door is hanging open on its hinges

If you read it in the iClassics app

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

1. What colour is the horse pulling Godfrey Norton's cart?

_____

2. What time shows on Holmes's pocket watch with the sovereign on the end?

_____

3. Which piece of advice does Watson recount on the 5th moving screen?

_____

4. What colour is Irene Adler's necklace?

_____

5. What pattern is on the wallpaper of Irene Adler's living room?

_____

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Think like a detective

Name: _____

Date: _____

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

1. Holmes disguises himself twice (as a groom and as a clergyman). How does each disguise help his plan, and what does it show about him?

2. Watson says that when Holmes chose crime, "the stage lost a fine actor". Which moments of the chapter prove it? Use evidence from the text.

3. Holmes tricks Irene Adler into revealing the hiding place by staging a false fire. Was this clever, unfair, or both? Argue your view.

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Writing

Name: _____

Date: _____

Part 1. In the middle of chapter 2, just before Holmes and Watson leave Baker Street for Irene Adler's house, write your predictions. **Part 2.** At the end of chapter 2, answer the last two questions. Then check what really happened.

1. How do you think Sherlock Holmes will end up being conveyed into Briony Lodge? How will his plan get him closer to finding the photograph?

2. Who was it that bid Holmes good night when he returned to Baker Street, and why did they do it?

3. Will Holmes succeed in getting the King's photograph back to him in the end? If yes, how? If not, what will happen?

