Character Analysis

Name: _____

Date: _____

1. Imagine you are a journalist writing an article about **Irene Adler**. Write a short introductory paragraph: who is she, why should your readers be interested in her, and why are you interviewing her?

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

You are on your way to the Continent after a run-in with the famous detective Sherlock Holmes. Can you tell us what happened, and why you are leaving England?

After crossing paths with Mr Holmes, what do you think of this mysterious man? Are his powers of reason as impressive as we have heard? Are you worried that he will keep pursuing you?

Finally, rumours are circulating about a past relationship between you and the hereditary King of Bohemia. Why did it end? What is your opinion of the King now?

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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 *She watched us with a sardonic eye as we stepped from the brougham. "Mr Sherlock Holmes, I believe?" said she.*

2 *"What!" Sherlock Holmes staggered back, white with chagrin and surprise. "Do you mean that she has left England?"*

3 *Holmes rushed at the bell-pull, tore back a small sliding shutter, and, plunging in his hand, pulled out a photograph and a letter.*

4 *"From what I have seen of the lady, she seems, indeed, to be on a very different level to your Majesty," said Holmes, coldly. "I am sorry that I have not been able to bring your Majesty's business to a more successful conclusion."*

A 

B 

C 

D 

Glossary

Name: _____

Date: _____

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

Sardonic: (adj) grimly mocking or cynical

Chagrin: (n) annoyance or distress at having failed

Impudent: (adj) failing to show respect

Antagonist: (n) an adversary; a person who actively opposes

Epistle: (n) a letter

Inviolate: (adj) free or safe from injury

BEFORE YOU READ

When a plan fails, is it better to admit you were beaten or to keep trying? Why?

Can an opponent be someone you admire? Think of an example.

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Quiz

Name: _____

Date: _____

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

1. Why is Holmes in hopes that Irene Adler loves Norton?

(a) Because it means she will leave the King alone in future

(b) Because he likes her and wishes her happiness

(c) Because her reasoning capacities will be blinded by love

2. Who is standing at the door of Briony Lodge?

(a) A shabbily dressed man

(b) An elderly woman

(c) Irene Adler

(d) Godfrey Norton

3. What does Holmes find in the hiding place in Adler's living room?

(a) The photograph they have been looking for

(b) A sovereign

(c) A photograph of Adler and a letter for Holmes

(d) A train ticket to Bohemia

4. Who was the slim youth who wished Holmes good night?

(a) Adler's coachman

(b) An old enemy of Holmes

(c) Irene Adler in male costume

(d) Godfrey Norton

5. What does the King offer Holmes as a reward for his services?

(a) An emerald snake ring

(b) A sapphire brooch

(c) His weight in gold

(d) Nothing, as the photograph has yet to be recovered

If you read it in the iClassics app

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

1. What happens to the houses behind Sherlock's face when you press the image?

2. What does the photograph of Irene Adler do at the end of the story?

Think like a detective

Name: _____

Date: _____

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

1. Irene Adler outwits Holmes. Which of her decisions show she is as clever as he is? Use evidence from the text.

2. Holmes asks for Adler's photograph as his reward instead of a jewel. What does this say about how he sees her, and about how he sees the King?

3. The King says Adler would have made an admirable queen. Do you agree? What does Holmes's answer reveal about each of them?

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Writing

Name: _____

Date: _____

Go back to your predictions from Parts 1 and 2 and complete the “What really happened?” check: were you right? Then write a short paragraph answering the question below.

Why does Holmes ask for Irene Adler’s photograph as his reward, and what does it show about the way he now thinks of her?

