

People in the story

Sherlock Holmes: the famous detective

Dr Watson: Sherlock Holmes's friend and assistant

Mycroft Holmes: Sherlock Holmes's brother

Arthur Cadogan West: works at the Woolwich Arsenal

Miss Violet Westbury: Cadogan West's fiancée

Inspector Lestrade: a police inspector

Sir James Walter: a government expert

Colonel Valentine Walter: Sir James's brother

Sidney Johnson: a technical engineer at the Woolwich Arsenal

Hugo Oberstein: a foreign agent

BEFORE YOU READ

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❶ What do you know about Sherlock Holmes?

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❷ Where do you think the story takes place?

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❸ Look at the pictures on pages 5–43 and *People in the story* above. Who do you think the people are?

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ACTIVITIES

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- 1 Check your answers to *Before you read* on page 4.
- 2 Complete the summary of the story with the names in the box.

Sherlock Holmes	Mycroft (x2)	Cadogan West
Inspector Lestrade (x3)	Sir James Walter	
Colonel Valentine Walter (x2)	Violet Westbury	
Sidney Johnson	Watson (x4)	Hugo Oberstein (x3)

¹ receives a telegram from his brother, ² , about the death of a man called ³ and some missing papers. Mycroft and ⁴ visit Holmes and ⁵ in Baker Street to explain the case. Holmes, Watson and ⁶ go to Aldgate station, where Cadogan West's body was found. Then Holmes and ⁷ go to the house of ⁸ , but discover that he has died that morning. They speak to his brother, ⁹ After that, Holmes and Watson visit Cadogan West's mother and his fiancée, ¹⁰ Finally, Holmes and Watson visit ¹¹ at his office in the Woolwich Arsenal. Holmes then continues his investigations alone. He later calls ¹² and arranges to meet him at a restaurant in Kensington. That evening, Holmes and Watson break into the house of ¹³ , where they find a window overlooking the Underground line. Holmes puts a message in the newspaper, hoping Cadogan West's killer will see it. Holmes waits in ¹⁴ 's house with ¹⁵ , ¹⁶ and ¹⁷ for the thief and killer to arrive. After a while ¹⁸ arrives. He has stolen the papers, but ¹⁹ killed Cadogan West.

3 Put the events in order.

- 1 Oberstein takes three of the papers and puts the rest in Cadogan West's pocket.
- 2 Cadogan West follows Colonel Walter to Oberstein's house.
- 3 Cadogan West sees Colonel Walter near the Woolwich office and follows him.
- 4 Cadogan West's body is found at Aldgate station.
- 5 Cadogan West sees Colonel Walter take the submarine papers.
- 6 Oberstein and Colonel Walter put Cadogan West's body onto the roof of a train.
- 7 Oberstein hits Cadogan West on the head and kills him.

4 How does Sherlock Holmes solve the case? Read the sentences and write T (true) or F (false) in the boxes.

- 1 Cadogan West did not have a train ticket.
- 2 Cadogan West's body was thrown out of the window of a train.
- 3 Sidney Johnson probably stole the plans to sell them.
- 4 Cadogan West and Violet Westbury argued about something.
- 5 Someone has broken the shutter of the window of the Woolwich Arsenal office.
- 6 Some of the houses near the Underground line have windows above the train line.
- 7 Cadogan West's body has been thrown out of the window of Oberstein's house.
- 8 Oberstein is leaving secret messages in the newspaper, using the name 'Pierrot'.

People in the story

Sherlock Holmes: the famous detective

Dr Watson: Sherlock Holmes's friend and assistant

Violet Hunter: a governess¹³

Miss Stoper: runs an employment agency

Jephro Rucastle: lives in the countryside near Winchester

Alice Rucastle: Jephro Rucastle's daughter by his first wife

Mrs Rucastle: Jephro Rucastle's second wife

Toller: Jephro Rucastle's servant

Mrs Toller: Toller's wife, also Jephro Rucastle's servant

Edward Rucastle: Jephro Rucastle's young son by his second wife

Mr Fowler: a friend of Alice Rucastle

BEFORE YOU READ



- 1 What do you think the title refers to?

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- 2 Look at the pictures on pages 47–73 and *People in the story* above. Who do you think the people are?

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ACTIVITIES

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- 1 Check your answers to *Before you read* on page 46.

- 2 Put the sentences from Miss Hunter's diary in order.
 - 1 I cut my hair.
 - 2 I found some hair exactly like mine in my bedroom.
 - 3 I went to an agency looking for a new job as a governess.
 - 4 I had to wear a blue dress and sit near the window.
 - 5 Mr Rucastle asked me to cut my hair short and I refused.
 - 6 I asked Sherlock Holmes to meet me in Winchester.
 - 7 I met a man called Mr Rucastle, who wanted a governess for his young son.
 - 8 I wrote to Mr Rucastle accepting the job as governess.
 - 9 I saw a man in the garden with my mirror.
 - 10 I started work at the Copper Beeches.

- 3 Who or what do the underlined words refer to in these sentences from the story?
 - 1 He's full of anger and his main enjoyment seems to be catching and harming small animals.
 - 2 It was of excellent material and it had obviously been worn before.
 - 3 Please turn around and wave him away.
 - 4 Toller lets him loose every night and God help anyone he gets his teeth into.
 - 5 I kept it – in the bottom of my suitcase.
 - 6 If you could find some reason to send her into the cellar, and lock her in
 - 7 For six weeks we thought she would die, she was so out of her mind.
 - 8 Running up, I shot the dog in the head.

4 What happened to Alice Rucastle? Match the two parts of the sentences.

- 1 When Alice's mother died
- 2 After Alice's mother died
- 3 When Alice met Mr Fowler
- 4 When Mr Rucastle asked to use Alice's money
- 5 When Alice became ill
- 6 When Alice was locked in a room
- 7 After Alice climbed through the skylight
- 8 After Alice and Mr Fowler were married

- a she refused.
- b they went to Mauritius.
- c she left Alice some money.
- d she fell in love.
- e Mr Rucastle said she had gone to America
- f her father married again.
- g she escaped down the ladder.
- h she cut her hair.

5 Answer the questions.

1 Why does Miss Hunter go to visit Sherlock Holmes the first time?

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2 Why does Mr Rucastle want Miss Hunter to work for his family?

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3 Why does Miss Hunter go up to the secret rooms?

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4 After Miss Hunter goes to work at the Copper Beeches, why does she write to Holmes?

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5 Why does Mrs Toller help Mr Fowler rescue Alice?

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People in the story

Sherlock Holmes: the famous detective

Dr Watson: Sherlock Holmes's friend and assistant

Mr Roundhay: a vicar²¹

Mortimer Tregennis: a lodger at the vicar's house

Owen and George Tregennis: Mortimer's brothers

Brenda Tregennis: Mortimer's sister

Mrs Porter: cook and housekeeper for Owen, George and
Brenda

Dr Leon Sterndale: a lion hunter and explorer

BEFORE YOU READ



- 1 Where do you think the story takes place?

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- 2 Look at the pictures on pages 77–107 and *People in the story* above. Who do you think the people are?

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ACTIVITIES

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- 1 Check your answers to *Before you read* on page 76.
- 2 Put the events in order.
 - 1 Mortimer Tregennis is found dead.
 - 2 Holmes and Watson visit the Tregennis house.
 - 3 Mortimer Tregennis argues with his family about money.
 - 4 Holmes follows Sterndale to the vicar's house.
 - 5 The local vicar and Mortimer Tregennis visit Holmes and Watson in their cottage.
 - 6 Mortimer Tregennis plays cards with his sister and brothers.
 - 7 Leon Sterndale returns from Plymouth to Cornwall.
 - 8 Brenda Tregennis is found dead.
 - 9 Holmes does an experiment with a lamp.
 - 10 Mortimer Tregennis steals some devil's-foot root.
- 3 Read the sentences and write T (true) or F (false).
 - 1 Holmes goes to Cornwall on holiday to relax.
 - 2 Brenda dies shortly after Mortimer leaves the house.
 - 3 Mrs Porter thinks the Tregennis family had been arguing.
 - 4 Holmes thinks someone has been standing outside the dining room window of the Tregennis house.
 - 5 Leon Sterndale has just returned from Africa.
 - 6 Leon Sterndale read in the newspaper that Brenda Tregennis was dead.
 - 7 A servant finds the body of Mortimer Tregennis.
 - 8 Holmes takes something from the lamp in Mortimer Tregennis's sitting room.

4 Which evidence does Sherlock Holmes use to solve the case?

- 1 a poisonous atmosphere
- 2 a lamp burning
- 3 red stones
- 4 ancient coins
- 5 a photograph of Brenda Tregennis
- 6 a textbook about medicines and poisons
- 7 a gun
- 8 a watering can

5 Answer the questions.

- 1 Why does Mortimer Tregennis kill Brenda Tregennis?

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- 2 Why does Leon Sterndale kill Mortimer Tregennis?

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- 3 Why does Holmes let Leon Sterndale walk away?

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6 Now think about all three stories and answer the questions.

- 1 Which story did you like best? Why?

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- 2 Which story did you like least? Why?

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- 3 What have you found out about the character of Sherlock Holmes? Do you like him? Why / why not?

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