



JANET HARDY-GOULD

Sherlock Holmes | Worksheet

Part 1: Reading texts

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle Factfile

Arthur Conan Doyle is famous for his Sherlock Holmes stories. What do we know about his life?

Full name:	Arthur Ignatius Conan Doyle
Year / place of birth:	1859, Edinburgh, Scotland
University studies:	Studied medicine 1876 to 1881
Jobs:	Writer, doctor
Type of books:	Short stories, novels
Genre of books:	Detective fiction, science fiction
Famous characters:	Sherlock Holmes and his assistant Dr Watson
First Holmes story:	A Study in Scarlet, 1887
Other stories:	The Lost World, 1912 – a novel about ¹ dinosaurs
Died:	7 July 1930, aged 71

Six facts about Sherlock Holmes

- 1 Sherlock Holmes appears in four novels and 56 short stories. Watson narrates most of the stories, so we see Holmes through Watson's eyes.
- 2 Sherlock Holmes was inspired by Conan Doyle's university teacher, Dr Bell. He could ²diagnose patients just by looking at them.
- 3 Holmes and Watson live at 221b Baker St, London but that address never existed in real life.
- 4 Conan Doyle became tired of Holmes, so he killed him off in *The Final Problem* in 1893. But he brought the detective back in *The Hound of the Baskervilles* in 1901.
- 5 In pictures and films, Holmes wears a 'deerstalker' hat, but in the stories he never wears a hat like this.
- 6 Sherlock Holmes is in over 200 films. Many famous actors have played him including Benedict Cumberbatch.

The top Sherlock Holmes stories

Everyone has their top story. Here are our favourites.

The Hound of the Baskervilles Novel, 1901

Holmes and Watson investigate the death of Sir Charles Baskerville. People think that Sir Charles died because of a family ³curse related to a very big dog or 'hound'. Holmes and Watson travel to lonely Dartmoor to find the truth.

A Study in Scarlet Novel, 1887

In this first Sherlock Holmes story, Holmes and Watson go to an empty house and find a dead man. The man's body has no ⁴wounds on it, but on the wall in blood is the word RACHE, the German word for ⁵revenge. Can Holmes solve this unusual crime?

The Adventure of the Reigate Squire Short story, 1893

Holmes and Watson are staying in the countryside when they hear about some ⁶burglaries. The investigation involves a mysterious note. Holmes sees that the note was written by two people and he tries to discover why.

The Adventure of the Speckled Band Short story, 1892

Holmes meets a woman called Helen Stoner. She explains she is going to get married. Her sister died just before her wedding and Helen is worried about her own safety. This was Conan Doyle's favourite Sherlock Holmes story.

The Adventure of the Beryl Coronet Short story, 1892

A banker, Holder, visits Holmes. A member of the Royal Family left a crown at Holder's bank, and Holder took it home. One night, he heard a noise and found his own son with the crown. Did his son want to steal it? Holmes investigates.

Glossary

- 1 **dinosaur** a big animal that lived long ago
- 2 **diagnose** identify an illness
- 3 **curse** when someone wishes something terrible on another person
- 4 **wound** a cut or an injury to the body
- 5 **revenge** when you do something bad to someone who has done something bad to you
- 6 **burglary** when someone takes something from a house





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Ellis Island | Worksheet

Part 2: Questions and tasks

1 Before reading

- 1 What do you know about the detective Sherlock Holmes?
- 2 Find eight words in the word search. Use the words to write sentences about Sherlock Holmes.

K	W	I	J	C	L	U	E
Q	N	L	T	R	U	T	H
A	Y	P	S	I	Z	D	A
N	A	O	W	M	P	J	T
S	O	L	V	E	F	L	K
W	Z	I	C	O	A	Q	N
E	P	C	T	J	U	Z	P
R	J	E	N	E	M	Y	W

2 Reading task

Read the factfile. Are these sentences true (T), false (F) or not mentioned (NM)?

Arthur Conan Doyle ...

- 1 was born in Scotland.
- 2 studied English literature at university.
- 3 was a doctor and an author.
- 4 had a large family.
- 5 only wrote detective stories.
- 6 was very interested in sport.
- 7 wrote the first Holmes story in 1887.

3 Reading task

Read *Six facts about Sherlock Holmes*. How quickly can you find the answers to these questions?

- 1 Who narrates most of the Sherlock Holmes stories? Why is this important?
- 2 Who inspired the character of Sherlock Holmes?
- 3 Is 221b Baker St a real address?
- 4 Why did Conan Doyle kill off the character of Sherlock Holmes?
- 5 What does Holmes never wear in books?
- 6 How many films is Holmes in?

4 Reading task

Read *The top Sherlock Holmes stories*. Match the sentences from the stories below to the correct story. There is one extra sentence that you don't need.

- 1 Sherlock Holmes approached the body, and examined it carefully.
- 2 "She died just two years ago," she said. "And it is of her death that I want to speak to you."
- 3 "About two in the morning, I heard a sound in our house, and I got out of bed," he explained.
- 4 A cyclist was coming towards us. Suddenly, he looked up and we saw his face.
- 5 "The writing is of interest," he said, examining the piece of paper.
- 6 The huge black creature was running fast down the track.

5 Find the secret word

Do some detective work and find these words in *The top Sherlock Holmes stories*. Write them in the grid to reveal the name of Holmes's enemy.

- 1 With nothing or nobody inside it.
- 2 Another word for a cut or an open injury on your hand, leg etc.
- 3 Something that a king or queen puts on their head.
- 4 A sound that you can hear.
- 5 Secretly take something that is not yours.
- 6 When something is true, we say that it is the ____.
- 7 A short letter that you write by hand.
- 8 When you attempt to do something.

		1				
		2				
		3				
	4					
5						
		6				
	7					
	8					

6 Simple past irregular verbs

Complete the text with the simple past of the verbs.
be be born begin go read study work write

Arthur Conan Doyle ¹_____ in the city of Edinburgh in 1859. As a young man he ²_____ to Edinburgh University and he ³_____ medicine. He then ⁴_____ as a doctor, but he also ⁵_____ short stories too. At first, the stories weren't very popular and nobody ⁶_____ them. But then people ⁷_____ to talk about two of his characters – a detective and his assistant. What ⁸_____ their names? Sherlock Holmes and Dr Watson.