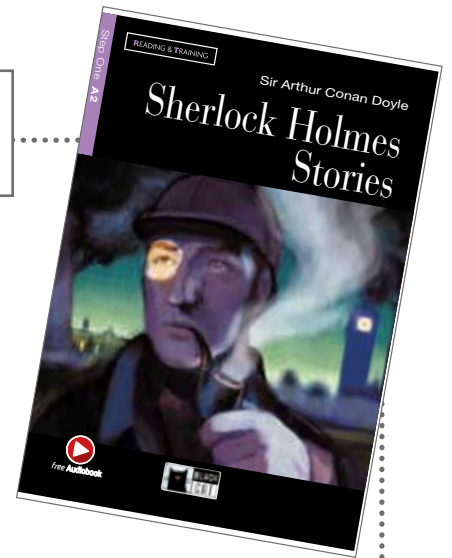


level  
A2

# LESSON PLAN 1/5



## SHERLOCK HOLMES STORIES

### Aim:

- to develop reading skills and expand vocabulary
- to predict the continuation of a story
- to identify a literary genre
- to encourage the pleasure of reading

### Expansive Reading Theme: *Sherlock Holmes's Deduction Techniques*

This cross-curricular feature allows students to explore the historical background, cultural connections and other topics of the story.

### Level:

A2

### Time:

60 minutes

### Materials:

1. front cover illustration of the graded reader: *Sherlock Holmes Stories*
2. worksheet – Parts 1 and 2

## INTRODUCTION

This lesson plan introduces two of Sherlock Holmes's most intriguing cases: *The Red-Headed League* and *The Speckled Band*, by the British author Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (1859-1930). The short extract chosen will draw students into the plot, encourage them to ask questions, develop their vocabulary, delve into the complex characters of the cases and predict what could happen next. With the feature, the Expansive Reading Theme, students will enjoy exploring the topics of the text, with their cross-curricular approach. All of this with the aim of increasing their pleasure in reading a famous detective story.

## BACKGROUND NOTES ON THE STORY

The British writer, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (1859-1930), created the world's most famous detective: Sherlock Holmes. Holmes was able to solve even the most intricate and mysterious cases. Here are two of the best-known cases:

1. *The Red-Headed League* hides a terrible secret—what is it? Why is a dark cellar so important? Why does Mr Wilson go to Sherlock Holmes?
2. How can a young woman be murdered inside her bedroom, after she locked the door at night? Why were her last words '*the speckled band*'?

Sherlock Holmes's deduction techniques were unusual and strange at the time, but they brought amazing results!

## DISCUSSION AND PREDICTION

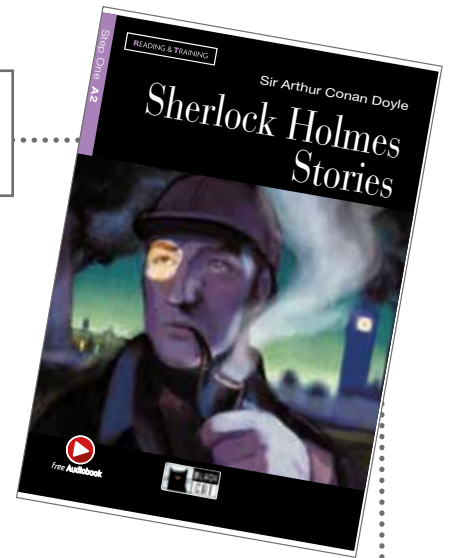
At this point there are some questions that need to be answered.

1. Was Mr Wilson a member of the Red-Headed League?
2. Was the Red-Headed League a criminal organization?
3. Did the young woman who was murdered have a terrible enemy?
4. Was 'the speckled band' a precious jewel that the woman kept inside her bedroom?



level  
A2

## LESSON PLAN 2/5



### PROCEDURE

#### Before the lesson:

- make a copy of the worksheet, part 1 and 2 (one for each student)
- tell your students you're going to be speaking about a book called *Sherlock Holmes Stories*.
- read the background notes on the story to the class

### PART ONE

#### Step One (10 minutes)

Ask the students to comment on their first impressions and ask them these questions:

- What genre do you think it is?
- Have you read any other book by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle?
- Show the students the cover illustration and ask them these questions.
- Describe the man on the cover.
- Where are the stories set?

#### Step Two (30 minutes)

Give the students the **Worksheet, Part 1**, and explain that the text comes from Chapter Two, An unusual job, from *The Red-Headed League*.

- Ask them to read the extract. You could read it out loud to make it more dramatic.
- Ask students to read it alone or in pairs for a more detailed understanding.
- Ask them to do **Activity 1, Comprehension**. Then ask them to work in pairs to check their answers. (**KEY:** 1b, 2c, 3b, 4c, 5a)
- Ask students to comment with opinions, predictions, feelings and observations.

### PART TWO– THEME (20 minutes):

#### **Sherlock Holmes's Deduction Techniques**

Tell your students that the purpose of this new theme is to make them part of 'cross-curricular learning': to connect what happened in the past to what is happening in today's world. Their comments and opinions are the backbone of this kind of learning.

Ask them to read Part 2 and do the activity.

If there is no time in class, this activity can be done as homework.

