

LESSON PLAN

1/4



CLASSIC DETECTIVE STORIES

- Aim:**
- to develop reading skills and to practice speaking skills and giving opinions
 - to expand vocabulary
 - to predict the continuation of a story
 - to identify a literary genre
 - to encourage the pleasure of reading

Level: B1.2

Time: 50 – 60 minutes

- Materials:**
1. front cover illustration of the graded reader **CLASSIC DETECTIVE STORIES**
 2. worksheet

INTRODUCTION

This lesson plan introduces *The Five Orange Pips*, one of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's most famous Sherlock Holmes stories. The short extracts chosen will draw students into the plot, encourage them to ask questions, develop their vocabulary and predict what will happen next. All of this with the aim of increasing their pleasure in reading.

BACKGROUND NOTES ON THE STORY

As in all Sherlock Holmes stories, the narrator is Doctor Watson, Holmes's good friend and assistant. He immediately tells us that this case is very strange and unusual. One windy, stormy evening in September Sherlock Holmes and Dr Watson are sitting in their flat in Baker Street in front of a warm fire. They are quite surprised when the doorbell rings, as Holmes is not expecting anyone that evening.

A young man of about twenty-two appears at the door. He comes from the southwest of England, and he is pale and very worried. He needs Sherlock Holmes's help and advice. Holmes tells him clearly that advice is easy to give, but help is not always easy to give.

The young man is certain that Holmes will be successful. He tells Holmes that his case is strange and that the things that happened in his family are very mysterious.

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

- a. Why did the young man travel from the southwest of England to London to seek Holmes's help on such a stormy evening?
- b. Why did Holmes say that advice is easy to give, but help is not always easy to give?
- c. What strange and mysterious things could be part of this young man's case?



LESSON PLAN

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PROCEDURE

Before the lesson:

- make a copy of the worksheet (one per student)
- download a photo of the sitting room in the Sherlock Holmes's museum in London
- tell your students you're going to be speaking about a book called Classic Detective stories
- read the background notes on the story to the class
- write the title of the graded reader on the board
- read the background notes on the story to the class

First Step (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 of Sherlock Holmes's stories?
- Show the students the cover illustration and ask them these questions.
- Who is the man on the front cover of the reader?
 - How is he dressed?
 - How does this man feel? Why?

Second Step (30 minutes)

Give students the worksheet and explain that the text comes from Part One of the reader.

- Ask them to do **Exercise 1**, *Before you read*.
- Ask them to work in pairs to check their answers.
[KEY: 1 b, 2 d, 3 e, 4 a, 5 c, 6 f.]
- Read **Exercise 2**, *Extract Part 1*. You could read it out loud to make the dialogue more dramatic.
- Then ask the students to read it alone or in pairs for a more detailed understanding the second time.
- Ask students to comment with their opinions, predictions, feelings and observations.
- Ask students to read **Exercise 3**, *Extract Part 2*.

Last Step (10 minutes)

Ask students to do **Exercises 4 and 5**.

These can be done in pairs or in small groups. If there is no time in class, these exercises can be done for homework.

