

READING ACTIVITY

1/4

SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE RED CIRCLE

Read the excerpt from *SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE RED CIRCLE* and then do the activities below.



‘Well, Mrs Warren, I’m sorry but I can’t help you. I have other things to do,’ said Sherlock Holmes, looking at the papers on his desk.

But Mrs Warren did not go away.

‘You helped my lodger Mr Hobbs last year,’ said Mrs Warren, looking at Holmes.

‘Yes, I remember,’ said Holmes.

‘Mr Hobbs said you are a kind, helpful man. Why can’t you help me?’ asked Mrs Warren. Holmes looked at her and said, ‘Alright, Mrs Warren, tell me about your problem. I understand your new lodger always stays in his rooms and you never see him. There’s nothing strange about that!’

‘But I’m really afraid and I can’t sleep,’ said Mrs Warren. ‘I hear his quick footsteps from morning to night, but I never see him. Why is he hiding? My husband is worried too, but he is away all day at work. I’m alone with the girl who helps me clean, and I’m very frightened.’

Holmes looked at her kindly and said, ‘Please sit down. Now if I decide to help you, I must know everything. Do you understand? The smallest thing can be the most important. You said that the man came ten days ago and paid you for two weeks. is that correct?’

‘Yes,’ said Mrs Warren. ‘I asked him to pay two pounds a week for a small sitting-room and a bedroom at the top of the house.’

‘Well?’ asked Holmes.

‘He said, “I’ll pay you five pounds a week if I can have the rooms on my conditions.”’

‘I’m a poor woman, sir, and Mr Warren doesn’t make much money. I needed the extra money. The man gave me ten pounds and said, “I can give you ten pounds every two weeks for a long time on my conditions.”’

‘What were his conditions?’ asked Holmes.

‘Well, he wanted a key to the house and that was alright. Lodgers often want a key. And he did not want anyone to disturb him.’

‘There is nothing strange about that, Mrs Warren,’ said Holmes.

‘No, but I never see him—no one sees him! He only went out of the house on the first night.’

‘Oh, he went out on the first night?’ asked Holmes.

‘Yes, sir, and he came back very late when we were all in bed.’ said Mrs Warren.

‘But, his meals’ asked Holmes.

‘Oh, we leave his meals on a chair outside his room when he rings the bell,’ said Mrs Warren. ‘And he rings again when he finishes eating. If he wants anything, he writes it in capital letters on a piece of paper and leaves it on the chair.’

(From Chapter One)

1 **lodger** : a person who rents a room in another person’s house.

2 **on my conditions** : following the rules I give you.

3 **disturb** : (here) go into his rooms.



READING ACTIVITY

2/4



ACTIVITIES

1 Choose the correct answer—a, b, or c.

1. What was on Sherlock Holmes's desk?

- a. a cup of tea
- b. papers
- c. a letter from Mrs Warren

2. Who did Sherlock Holmes help last year?

- a. Doctor Watson
- b. Mrs Warren
- c. Mr Hobbs

3. When did the lodger come to Mrs Warren's house?

- a. ten days ago
- b. two weeks ago
- c. late last night

4. How much money did Mrs Warren ask the lodger to pay each week?

- a. two pounds
- b. five pounds
- c. twelve pounds

5. Where does Mrs Warren put the lodger's meals?

- a. on the kitchen table
- b. in the lodger's small sitting-room
- c. on a chair outside the lodger's room



READING ACTIVITY

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2 Are the following sentences true (T) or false (F)? Correct the false ones.

1. At first, Sherlock Holmes did not want to help Mrs Warren. T F
2. Mrs Warren was worried about the new lodger, but her husband was not. T F
3. Mr and Mrs Warren are not rich people. T F
4. The lodger did not want a key to the house. T F
5. The lodger went out every night. T F
6. The lodger read the newspaper every morning. T F

