Sherlock Holmes Short Stories  

Before Reading

BEFORE READING ACTIVITIES (PAGE 42)

ACTIVITY 1 BEFORE READING
Open answers. Encourage students to discuss detective and crime stories in general.

ACTIVITY 2 BEFORE READING
1 No 4 Yes 6 Yes
For questions 2, 3, and 5 encourage the students to speculate and to make guesses but do not tell them the answers. They will find out as they read that the only ‘yes’ answer is number 2.

While Reading

THE SPECKLED BAND

CHAPTER 1 WHILE READING
1 Helen Stoner’s stepfather, Dr Grimesby Roylott
2 Helen’s mother
3 Helen’s sister, Julia
4 Helen and Julia

CHAPTER 2 WHILE READING
1 Dr Roylott needed the girls’ money.
2 Nothing was wrong with Helen’s bedroom wall.
3 Helen and Julia never used the bell-rope.
4 The air-vent was between the two bedrooms.

BEFORE READING CHAPTER 3
The two ‘yes’ answers are numbers 3 and 4, but do not tell students if their answers are right or not. Encourage them to discuss possible endings.

A SCANDAL IN BOHEMIA

CHAPTERS 1 AND 2 WHILE READING
1 F 2 T 3 T 4 F 5 F 6 T 7 F 8 T

CHAPTERS 3 AND 4 WHILE READING
1 Who . . .? Sherlock Holmes.
2 Why . . .? Because he tried to help her, and she thought he was hurt in the fight.
3 Why . . .? Because Holmes asked him to.
4 What . . .? People in the street and in the house began to shout ‘Fire!’
5 Where . . .? In a cupboard in her sitting-room.
6 Who . . .? Irene Adler/Norton.
7 Why . . .? Because Irene gave her word not to show the photograph to anyone.
8 What . . .? The photograph of Irene Adler/Norton.

THE FIVE ORANGE PIPS

CHAPTERS 1 AND 2 WHILE READING
1 John Openshaw
2 Elias Openshaw
3 The police
4 The K. K. K.
5 John’s father
6 Sherlock Holmes
7 Elias Openshaw
8 John Openshaw

BEFORE READING CHAPTERS 3 AND 4
Encourage open answers and guesswork (correct answers are given below). Do not tell students if they are right or wrong. They will find out as they read.
1 Yes. Elias Openshaw wasn’t, but he was in the K. K. K. while he lived in America.
2 In East London (that’s where the last letter came from).
3 No. They will attack him in the street.
4 Yes.
5 No.
6 No.
7 Four, that is, John and the three K. K. K. men.
8 It will be the end of this group of men, but it is possible that another group of the K. K. K. is still in America.

After Reading

ACTIVITY 1 AFTER READING
The Speckled Band:
4 A Dangerous Room, 7 Death in the Country, 9 An Unexpected Death, 11 Money Matters
A Scandal in Bohemia:
1 The King’s Photograph, 6 All for Love, 8 A Clever Woman, 12 In the Wrong Hands
The Five Orange Pips:
2 Death in an Envelope, 3 Money isn’t Everything, 5 Finished Business, 10 A Dark Secret from the Past

ACTIVITY 2 AFTER READING
POLICE: Tell me, where were you at midnight last night?
GIPSY: I was outside in the garden, sitting round a small fire with my wife and child, and some of our friends.
POLICE: Did you see anyone moving around in the garden?
GIPSY: Yes, I saw two men. They crossed the garden and got into the house through Miss Stoner’s bedroom window.
POLICE: It was dark then. Were they carrying a light?
Gipsy: No, but there was a light in the room, so they could see where to go.
Police: And what happened next?
Gipsy: Nothing happened for about three hours. I waited near the house and listened. Then I heard a quiet whistle, and after that a terrible cry from Dr Roylott’s room.
Police: Did you see what was happening in his room?
Gipsy: Yes, I ran to his window and looked in. The two men were there. They were looking at a metal box. And I saw Dr Roylott sitting dead in a chair, with a yellow speckled band round his head. Then I ran away.
Police: Thank you for your help. You can go now.

**ACTIVITY 3** AFTER READING
If students need help with this, encourage them to look at links in the language, for example: that photograph in 3 links with keep it in 2; If Clotilde ever sees in 7 links with If she sees it in 10; and so on.

3 The King: Irene, I’ve come to ask you for that photograph.
2 Irene: I think that I want to keep it. Perhaps I’ll look at it every day, and remember our love.
7 The King: But I must have it, Irene! If Clotilde von Saxe-Meningen ever sees that photograph—
10 Irene: Ah! If she sees it, perhaps she will not marry you! And there will be a scandal!
5 The King: Think of my name and my family, Irene! There must be no scandal. I loved you, yes, I did, but that’s finished now—
8 Irene: Finished? So, I’m like an old coat that you don’t want to wear any more! What a fine friend you are!
1 The King: Irene, please! You know that I cannot marry you. I must marry a woman of royal blood.
6 Irene: Well, if I am not good enough for Your Majesty, no other woman will be. I’ll send the photograph to Clotilde!
9 The King: No! Irene, how much do you want for the photograph?
4 Irene: Don’t talk about money! I’m not interested in that at all! Leave me alone! Leave this room at once!

**ACTIVITY 4** AFTER READING
It’s night-time now, and I feel afraid, so I’ve locked all the doors very carefully. Today I received the five orange pips from the K. K. K! I’ve been safe from them for the last fourteen years, but now I know that it’s the end.

This morning I was at the breakfast table with young John when the servant brought in the post. There was a letter which came from Pondicherry in India. At first, I was surprised, because I don’t know anyone who lives there. Then I realized that it meant death! The five orange pips were in the envelope, and they fell on to my plate.

Immediately, I hurried upstairs to fetch the K. K. K. box from the locked room. While John was watching, I burnt all the papers in the box. But it’s no good, I know that they will find me and kill me! And if poor John gets my money one day, he will die too!

**ACTIVITY 5** AFTER READING
Encourage discussion of these questions. Students might want to say things like this:

- Sherlock Holmes is very good at noticing things that other people don’t see (for example, that Helen Stoner’s bed was fixed to the floor).
- Holmes doesn’t always succeed. He failed to get the King’s photograph back from Irene Adler, and he failed to prevent John Openshaw’s death. But he is never baffled; he always has an explanation.
- Dr Watson’s main purpose seems to be to show how clever Holmes is, though he is useful for small jobs (such as throwing smoke-sticks when asked to).

**ACTIVITY 6** AFTER READING
Open answers.