

A **FREE** RESOURCE FOR TEACHERS!

SHERLOCK

THE SIGN OF THREE

Level 2

This level is suitable for students who have been learning English for at least two years and up to three years. It corresponds with the Common European Framework level A2. Suitable for users of CROWN/TEAM magazines.

SYNOPSIS

Sherlock Holmes is facing the biggest challenge of his life: being best man at the wedding of his friend, John Watson, to Mary Morstan. In his best man's speech, Sherlock tells the wedding guests about two cases he and John have worked on and which they have never solved. The first concerns Stephen Bainbridge, a soldier in the Queen's Guard, who almost died after he was found wounded inside a locked shower cubicle. The second is the case of the Man for One Day – a man who used false identities to date a series of women once only. Mid-speech, Sherlock realises that the two cases are connected and that the attack on the soldier was a rehearsal for a murder planned to take place during the wedding. Sherlock realises that the intended victim is retired major, James Sholto, and that he has already been stabbed, like Bainbridge, through the belt of his army uniform. Sherlock arrests the wedding photographer who also turns out to be the Man for One Day and whose motive was revenge for the death of his brother, a soldier under Major Sholto's command. Once the drama is over, Sherlock makes another speech which this time brings him to the realisation that John and Mary are soon to be three: Mary is expecting a baby.

THE BACK STORY

'The Sign of Three' is an episode from the third series of the BBC's television detective drama *Sherlock*, which updated two of the most famous characters in English literature – Sherlock Holmes and Dr John Watson – and set them in the present day. The series was created by writers Steven Moffat and Mark Gatiss, who wanted audiences to share the excitement which readers felt when Conan Doyle first wrote the stories. With Benedict Cumberbatch as Sherlock and Martin Freeman as John, the series has been a huge success with critics and audiences around the world, winning numerous awards and causing a significant rise in sales of the original Conan Doyle stories about Sherlock Holmes.

MEDIA LINKS

DVD: The complete TV series of *Sherlock* is available on DVD.

CD: A recording of *Sherlock: The Sign of Three* is available to accompany the Scholastic Reader.

Internet: The official website of the BBC television series is at: www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b018ttws. The site contains John Watson's blog, tests of your deduction skills, clips, interviews and character information.

HOW TO USE YOUR SCHOLASTIC READER

Choosing and motivating

Is this the right story for your class? Have students seen any of the episodes on TV? Ask them to describe their favourite character. Motivate them with some clips or information from the website, and by reading aloud the first page of the story with dramatic atmosphere.

Organising

Plan a class reading schedule. Decide how many pages to set for reading each week. Select exercises from the Self-Study section at the back of the reader and extra activities from this resource sheet to go with each chunk of reading. (All answers are on page 4 of this resource sheet.)

Using the CD

Students can listen and follow in their books. They can listen and then read. They can read and then listen. All these activities will improve their reading speed and skills.

Using the DVDs

Select the English language option on the DVD. Watch the episode yourself before class to check that it is suitable for your class. Select key scenes to show in parallel with the

class reading schedule. Alternatively, show it as a reward when the class have finished the book.

Glossary

Go to 'New Words' at the back of the reader. Translate the words with the class or get students to find meanings at home. The Vocabulary Builder on page 3 of this resource sheet also practises the new words.

Casual language

Introduce the informal expressions used in *Sherlock: The Sign of Three* (see Vocabulary Builder on page 3 of this resource sheet). Put them into context. Ask students to look out for them as they read.

Fact File

Set this as self-study or use for whole class work. This spread provides background information about Conan Doyle's original stories compared with the modern series.

What did they think?

Get everyone to do a written or spoken review of *Sherlock: The Sign of Three*. Compare opinions. Did you like the reader? Let us know at readers@link2English.com.

RESOURCE SHEET STUDENT ACTIVITIES



SHERLOCK

THE SIGN OF THREE

People and places

Complete the sentences with these names.

Stephen Bainbridge ~~Janine Hawkins~~ Sherlock Holmes
 Mrs Hudson Detective Inspector Lestrade Mary Morstan
 John Watson

- a) Janine Hawkins is Mary's best friend.
- b) is a doctor.
- c) is a guard at Buckingham Palace.
- d) lives downstairs from Sherlock.
- e) often has help from Sherlock.
- f) doesn't understand people's emotions.
- g) is John's girlfriend.
- h) knew John when he was in the army.

Chapters 1–2

1 Choose the correct answers.

- a) The police are trying to catch the Waters family who have
 - (i) taken money from banks.
 - ii) killed people.
 - iii) taken cars.
- b) Lestrade leaves the bank in a hurry because
 - i) it's time for John's wedding.
 - ii) he gets a text message from Sherlock.
 - iii) the Waters family have escaped.
- c) Lestrade thinks that Sherlock is
 - i) going to the police station.
 - ii) in trouble.
 - iii) helping with the case.
- d) Sherlock wants Lestrade's help with
 - i) his clothes for the wedding.
 - ii) a case.
 - iii) a speech.

2 Answer the questions.

Who ...

- a) ... thinks a wedding isn't a big day? Sherlock
- b) ... didn't see her best friend much after her wedding?
- c) ... wants to see photos of bodies with no heads?
- d) ... wants to know about the men at the wedding?
- e) ... lives in a place in the country that no one has heard of?
- f) ... doesn't like the drink at the wedding?

3 What do you think? Is Sherlock going to make a good best man's speech? What will he talk about?

Chapters 3–4

1 Put these events in the right order.

- a) Sherlock and John go to the home of the Queen's Guard.
- b) Major Reed wants to send John and Sherlock to the police.
- c) Sherlock and John meet Major Reed.
- d) A guard finds Bainbridge in the shower.
- e) Sherlock gets a letter from Bainbridge.
- f) John sees that Bainbridge isn't dead.

2 Correct the mistakes in these sentences.

- a) Tessa and Tim had their date in a ~~restaurant~~ ^{his flat}.
- b) Tessa saw the Man for One Day many times.
- c) Sherlock found an interesting newspaper story in Tim's flat.
- d) The Man for One Day dated five women in the same town.
- e) The Man for One Day used the flats and names of the people that he killed.

Chapter 5

1 Match the two halves of the sentence.

- a) John never told anyone his middle name
- b) The guests were looking uncomfortable
- c) Lestrade left the room
- d) The Man for One Day had dates with the women
- e) The Man for One Day wanted
- i) to kill Major Sholto.
- ii) because Sherlock's speech was strange.
- iii) because they all worked for Major Sholto.
- iv) because he hated it.
- v) because Sherlock sent him a text message.

2 What do you think? Who is the Man for One Day?

RESOURCE SHEET STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Chapters 6–7

1 Are these sentences true (T) or false (F)? Correct the false sentences in your notebook.

- a) Sherlock is waiting on the stairs because he doesn't know his room number.
F. *Sherlock is waiting on the stairs because he doesn't know Sholto's room number.*
- b) Sholto takes a belt out of his travel bag.
- c) Mary and John tell Sherlock to solve the case.
- d) Sherlock tells Sholto not to take off his uniform.
- e) The Man for One Day put a knife through Bainbridge's and Sholto's belts.
- f) Sholto opens the door and asks for some water.

2 Circle the correct words in italics.

- a) Sherlock loves *dancing* / *weddings*.
- b) Janine is bad at *dancing* / *singing*.
- c) Sherlock finds a man for *Janine* / *Mary*.
- d) Sherlock wants to look at Small's *emails* / *photos*.
- e) Sherlock thinks that Small's plan was *brilliant* / *quite good*.
- f) Mary wasn't feeling *happy* / *well* this morning.
- g) Sherlock thinks John and Mary will be very good *detectives* / *parents*.

3 What do you think?

- a) Are John and Mary going to be happy together? Why / Why not?
- b) Will Sherlock continue to be friends with them? Why / Why not?

FINAL TASKS

1 You are John. You wrote about the Guard in the Shower and the Man for One Day in your blog before your wedding. Now write your blog, giving your readers the latest information about the cases, and tell them about the crime that happened on your wedding day.

2 Imagine your best friend is getting married. Think about the things that you like about the person. Think of funny stories about them too. Write a wedding speech about them.

3 Make a poster about weddings in Britain. Use information from this book and from the Internet.

4 Work in pairs. Act out this conversation.

Student A: You are Sherlock. You are in your flat a few hours after you left the wedding.

Student B: You are Mrs Hudson. You have arrived home after the wedding. You were surprised when Sherlock left early. You visit him in his flat.

VOCABULARY BUILDER

1 Choose the correct words from 'New Words' at the back of your reader.

- 1. Taking someone's money is an example of this. *a crime*
- 2. You ask people to come to a party with this.
- 3. You use this to think.
- 4. You give this when you talk to a big group of people.
- 5. This is someone who helps doctors in hospitals.
- 6. This is someone who kills people.
- 7. This is someone who keeps people and buildings safe.
- 8. This is something that the police are working on.
- 9. Two people get married at this.
- 10. This describes how you feel, such as when you are happy or sad.
- 11. This may appear in a newspaper after someone dies.

2 Complete the text with words from 'New Words'.

If you join the (1)....*army*...., you will learn to use guns and other (2)..... You will wear a (3)....., sometimes with a big (4)..... around your jacket. Someone who fights for their country can't be frightened; they must be (5)..... There are army nurses too, who care for people with (6).....

Casual language

- **'for a bit'** (p.19). This means 'for a short time'. Sherlock and John look around the home of the Queen's Guard 'for a bit'.
- **'do stuff'** (p.21). Sherlock says that John can 'do stuff'. 'Stuff' means 'things', and Sherlock means useful things, for example saving Bainbridge's life.
- **'have a date'** (p.25, p.33). Five women 'had a date' with the Man for One Day. This means they met him because he was a possible boyfriend.

Complete the sentences with the Casual language expressions.

- 1. 'Sorry, I can't help you tonight. I with someone special that I met at a party!'
- 2. A: What do you want to do?
B: Let's go to the park But we can't stay long. I have to work later.
- 3. 'I can't go out tonight. I have to around the house.'

FACT FILE FOLLOW-UP

THE FAMOUS MR HOLMES (pages 50–1)**Make an actor fact file**

Choose one of the many actors who have played Sherlock Holmes or Dr John Watson. Do some research about the actor and make a fact file about him (or her: Lucy Liu played Dr Joan Watson in US TV series *Elementary*). Include information about the actor's early years, famous roles and life outside acting. Also try to include the actor's feelings about playing the role in the Sherlock Holmes stories.

Plan a TV series

Sherlock is based on old stories, but it is set in today's world. Work in groups and decide on another old story for a new TV series. What changes will you make to put it into a modern setting? What actors will you choose for the main characters?

Detectives quiz

Students work in small groups to write true/false sentences about famous detectives from books, TV and film, e.g. *Agatha Christie wrote stories about Miss Marple (T)*. *Inspector Clouseau is a funny American detective (F)*. Each team reads out their five sentences. The other groups guess whether they are true or false.

Write a scene

Plan the start of the next episode of *Sherlock*. Mary is going to have her child very soon. What are John and Sherlock doing? What do they say? Write and act out some dialogue.

TV interview

You work for Time Travel TV. You are going to travel back in time to interview Sir Arthur Conan Doyle about Sherlock Holmes. Plan some questions to ask him. Then work in pairs. Your partner is Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. Act out the interview.

DVD/CD FOLLOW-UP**Observation**

Play a scene from the DVD and ask students to watch carefully. Ask comprehension questions about the scene afterwards. Then play another scene. This time students watch and write at least two questions for other students to answer.

Prediction

Read a chapter with the students and play the relevant part of the DVD or CD. Stop the DVD/CD at key moments and ask what happened next. Students make predictions. They listen to or watch the next part of the recording to see if their predictions are correct.

Missing words

Photocopy a page from the book. Blank out key words (for example: all the verbs, important nouns or prepositions) on the photocopy. Make enough copies for the class. Play the same section on the CD. Students listen for and write in the missing words.

Put it in context

Play short sections of the story on the CD. After each section, ask students to give the context, i.e. explain who the speakers are, where they are and what they are talking about.

ANSWER KEY**Self-Study Activities (pages 52–5)**

- 1 a) iv b) i c) ii d) iii
- 2 a) brave b) speech c) solve d) case
- 3 a) Sherlock Holmes and Mrs Hudson b) John Watson and Mary Morstan c) John Watson and Major James Sholto
- 4 a) F. He sends them because he wants help with his speech. b) F. All of them died there. c) T d) F. He wants to see photos of bodies with no heads. e) T f) T
- 5 a) Sherlock Holmes, about his best man's speech b) Mrs Hudson, about John and Mary's wedding c) Janine, about Sherlock (and his information about the men at the wedding) d) Mary, about Major Sholto
- 6 a) an obituary b) a hug c) a murder d) a wound e) your mind
- 7 a) emotional b) Logical c) weapon d) guard
- 8 a) because he doesn't think people are interested in them/his doesn't like talking about emotions b) from Bainbridge's letter c) on the floor of a shower d) Bainbridge wasn't dead. e) because the crime happened in a shower that someone locked from the inside, and there was no weapon
- 9 a) T b) T c) F. He had four dates, but only one of them was with Tessa. d) F. John thinks this. e) T
- 10–12 Open answers.
- 13 a) Sherlock, the Man for One Day b) Lestrade, Sherlock c) Sherlock, Sholto d) the Man for One Day, Sholto e) Archie/Sherlock, Bainbridge
- 14 a) i b) iii c) ii
- 15 Open answers.
- 16 The correct order is: c, f, g, e, d, b, h and a.
- 17 a) He was the photographer. b) Because he thinks that his brother died because of Sholto. c) He put a knife into them through their army belt. d) At first they didn't die because the belt kept the wound closed. Later, they didn't die because of John's help. e) Mary is going to have a child. f) They were worried. g) She met a nice man. h) He went home because he felt very alone.
- 18 Open answers.

Resource Sheet Activities**People and places**

- b) John Watson c) Stephen Bainbridge d) Mrs Hudson
e) Detective Inspector Lestrade f) Sherlock Holmes
g) Mary Morstan h) Major James Sholto

Chapters 1–2

- 1 b) ii c) ii d) iii
- 2 b) Mrs Hudson c) Archie d) Janine e) Sholto f) Mary
- 3 Open answers.

Chapters 3–4

- 1 The correct order is: e, a, c, d, b and f.
- 2 b) once (not many times) c) nothing interesting (not an interesting newspaper story) d) the same week (not the same town) e) people that were dead (not people that he killed)

Chapter 5

- 1 b) ii c) v d) iii e) i
- 2 Open answers.

Chapters 6–7

- 1 b) F. Sholto takes a gun out of his travel bag. c) T d) F. Sherlock tells Sholto not to take off his belt. e) T f) F. Sholto opens the door and asks for a doctor.
- 2 b) dancing c) Janine d) photos e) brilliant f) well g) parents
- 3 Open answers.

Vocabulary Builder

- 1 2. an invitation 3. your mind 4. a speech 5. a nurse
6. a murderer 7. a guard 8. a case 9. a wedding 10. emotional
11. an obituary
- 2 2. weapons 3. uniform 4. belt 5. brave 6. wounds

Casual language

1. have a date 2. for a bit 3. do stuff