

# Silver Blaze and Other Stories

## Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

### A Before Reading

1 1e) 2c) 3a) 4b) 5d)

2 Student's own answer.

a) Students may know that Sherlock Holmes is a famous fictional detective created by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, that his helper is Dr Watson, that Holmes is very clever, that there are many stories about him and films made of the stories, that he lived in London at 221B Baker Street in the 19th century. Sherlock Holmes is fictional - some people have thought he was a real detective.

b) Some possible questions: What is Sherlock Holmes' job? Why does he help the police? Is he a detective? Where does he live? He wears old-fashioned clothes, so when was he alive?

### B After Reading Each Story

3 Student's own answer. Details for notes:

Peterson: porter at the apartments where Holmes lives, he found the hat and goose on Christmas Eve when a tall man dropped them, he ate the goose with his family and found the Blue Carbuncle in the goose.

Henry Baker: a tall man, dropped his hat and the goose when he was attacked by some young men, he replied to the advertisement and came to collect the hat and goose from Holmes, he knew nothing about the jewel in goose.

The Countess of Morcar: owner of the Blue Carbuncle, stayed at the Hotel Cosmopolitan.

Ryder: under-manager at the Hotel Cosmopolitan (the hotel from which the Blue Carbuncle was stolen), he is the brother of Mrs Oakshott, he stole the jewel and gave it to one of his sister's geese to swallow to keep it safe, he is very scared, he was sorry he stole the jewel, he won't steal again - he is too scared to do so.

Breckinridge: salesman at Covent Garden Market, he got angry when he was asked about the geese because someone else had been asking about them too, he gave some information about where the geese came from - from Mrs Oakshott.

Mr Windigate: red-faced man, the landlord of the Alpha Inn, near the British Museum, ran a 'goose club' of which Henry Baker was a member.

- 4 Student's own answers. Possible answers:

Page	Caption
22	He was about thirty years old and carried a heavy stick./ 'The stranger took a ten pound note out of his pocket.'
27	There was a pipe and tobacco, some money, a few papers, a book of matches and a small, sharp knife./ 'There's blood on it.'
34	'If you wash the horse, this dye will disappear./ 'You'll find he is Silver Blaze.'

- 5 Correct order for headings:

6	Lestrade Has Some Information
7	Beppo is Caught
8	The Sixth Bust
1	A Visit from Lestrade
3	A Terrible Murder
9	The Mystery is Explained
2	Three Broken Napoleons
5	A Visit to Gelder and Company
4	The Fourth Broken Napoleon

### C After Reading All the Stories

- 6 Student's own answer. Student's could work in pairs or groups to create a new Sherlock Holmes' story. They need to remember that Holmes is a private detective and people pay him to find things or people which are lost (or stolen). The story must end with Holmes explaining how he solved a mystery or caught a criminal. (Students could use their own language if necessary for some discussion.)
- 7 Student's own answer. Georges Simenon's Maigret from France and Agatha Christie's Hercule Poirot from Belgium are two famous fictional detectives. In America, Raymond Chandler wrote about the detective Philip Marlowe. In the Macmillan Readers, at Elementary and Intermediate Level, there is El Nur, the Egyptian police detective who protects Egyptian antiquities (in *The Black Cat* and *The Queen of Death*). And at Starter, Beginner and Intermediate Level there is Lenny Samuel who works in Los Angeles (*L.A. Detective*, *L.A. Raid* and *The Woman Who Disappeared*).
- 8 Student's own answer. The students could ask Dr Watson to tell the story of another of Holmes' cases and then make up a story for Watson to tell. Or perhaps the students could ask Watson where and when he first met Holmes. Or ask what it is like to work with Holmes or if he is ever scared when he is working with him.