

# CHAPTER 1

“Watson, I am bored,” said Sherlock Holmes.

Sherlock Holmes is my friend and a great **detective**. He is very **intelligent**.

“Give me a problem to solve, Watson,” said Holmes. “When I am bored, I **get into mischief!**”

My name is Dr John Watson. I am a doctor and an ex-soldier. Holmes and I **solve** crimes together. When there are no crimes to solve, Holmes gets very bored.

“Where did I go today?” I asked him.

“That is too easy,” said Holmes. “You went to the Post Office to send a telegram.”

I was surprised. How did he know that?

“There is special **dirt** outside the post office,” said Holmes. “The dirt on your clothes is the same as the dirt outside the post office. I know you sent a **telegram** because you have some stamps here. You did not need stamps, so you went to the post office to send a telegram.”

**detective** (noun) a person whose job is to find information about crimes

**intelligent** (adjective) good at learning and understanding things

**get into mischief** (idiom) to start behaving badly

**solve** (verb) to find a solution; to find the correct explanation for something

**dirt** (noun) mud or dust

**telegram** (noun) a message that is sent by telegraph



*“Give me a problem to solve, Watson,” said Holmes.*

“Very clever,” I said.

“Not very clever at all,” said Holmes. “It was too easy. I need a difficult problem.”

Suddenly, there was a knock at the door.

It was Mrs Hudson, our **landlady**.

“There’s a lady here to see you,” she said.

Mary Morstan had blonde hair and blue eyes. “She is very pretty,” I thought.

“I need your help,” she said. “Ten years ago my father **disappeared**.”

This made me **sad**. Holmes was not sad.

“This is not a problem for me to solve,” he said.

I thought he was very rude, but the lady did not stop. She gave him some letters to look at.

“Every year, I receive a letter,” said Mary. “Inside the letter is an expensive pearl.”

Suddenly, Holmes was interested, and Mary smiled.

**landlady** (noun) a woman who owns a house and rents it to other people  
**disappear** (verb) to stop being visible; to no longer exist; to vanish  
**sad** (adjective) not happy, upset



*“Every year, I receive a letter,” said Mary. “Inside the letter is an expensive pearl.”*

“She is pretty and intelligent,” I thought.

“Today, I received another letter,” said Mary. “It is for a meeting.”

She gave Holmes the new letter, and he looked at it.

“The handwriting is the same,” said Holmes. “The person who sent the pearls is the same person who wants to meet you. Will you go?”

“Yes, but I am **scared** to go alone,” said Mary. “Will you and Watson come with me?”

“Of course we will!” I said.

We went to the meeting. An Indian man opened the door and took us inside a big house. We met a man called Thaddeus Sholto.

“My father and your father were friends,” Thaddeus told Mary. “They were in the army together in India. They found some treasure. It was a secret. Ten years ago they had an **argument**. Your father got upset. He had a heart attack and died. My father was scared of the police, so he hid the body.”

Mary sat down in shock, and I went to care for her.

**scared** (adjective) afraid

**argument** (noun) a situation in which two people disagree about something, often angrily

Thaddeus said, “Before he died, my father told me and my brother about the secret treasure. He said we should share it with you. But we did not know the place of the treasure. It was lost.”

Holmes **frowned**. “But you had some pearls and you sent them to Mary?”

“Yes,” said Thaddeus. “But now I have good news. We found the treasure! There is so much treasure that you will be very rich, Mary! We will go to my brother’s house now and get it.”

**frown** (verb) to make a serious or angry facial expression by moving your eyebrows



*An Indian man opened the door and took us inside a big house.*

# COMPREHENSION QUIZZES

## Quiz 1

Are the following sentences **TRUE (T)** or **FALSE (F)**?

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1. Sherlock Holmes is bored. T / F
2. Dr Watson is a soldier. T / F
3. Mary receives letters with pearls inside. T / F
4. Mary's brother was poisoned. T / F
5. Holmes and Watson find some jewellery. T / F
6. They use a dog to track someone. T / F
7. Holmes asks some children to help him. T / F
8. Watson goes to see Mary. T / F
9. Holmes dresses up as an old farmer. T / F
10. They track the criminals to the river. T / F
11. The police do not shoot at the criminals. T / F
12. They catch the man with the wooden leg. T / F
13. His leg was bitten off by a tiger. T / F
14. They find the treasure. T / F
15. Watson took the box to Mary. T / F