

MYP2 – Sherlock Holmes – English Knowledge Organiser

Expectations and content

What is this unit about and why do we teach it?

This unit covers three of the short stories from the 'Adventure of Sherlock Holmes' anthology (A Scandal in Bohemia, The Red-Headed League and The Blue Carbuncle), giving students the opportunity to see one of literature's most famous fictional characters use his intellect and skills to solve crimes that no one else can.

Key Vocabulary taught:

- Deduction
- Scandal
- Periodical
- Introspective
- Dual nature
- Observation
- Infallible
- Morality
- Audience surrogate
- First person narrative

If your child needs support

Vocabulary help:

- Use a dictionary to find definitions of the key vocabulary.
- Write sentences about the novel using the key vocabulary
- Create a crossword/wordsearch where the answers are the key vocabulary

Terminology help:

- Find examples of the key terminology in your current reading book.
- Create your own examples of the key terminology to help your understanding
- Create flashcards or visual diagrams to help you remember the definitions of the key terminology

General help

Links to adaptations of the short stories we will read are found below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9D0bGia4QrI>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PTtiR9j-IQw>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eAPWPDL9aMU>

If your child needs extension

Questions to discuss with your child

- Why would the Victorian London public and police have needed a detective like Sherlock Holmes?
- Why do you think the stories are told from the perspective of Watson instead of Holmes?
- How might reactions of modern readers be different to Victorian readers?

Challenging activities to complete

- Research Arthur Conan Doyle – find out what his life experiences were and how these influenced the creation of Holmes and Watson.
- Research the Broad Street cholera epidemic. How was John Snow's methodology similar to that of a detective?

Suggested further reading

- The House of Silk – a 2011 Sherlock Holmes story written by Anthony Horowitz in the style of Arthur Conan Doyle.