

YEAR 8- English Literature **WEEK 4** **STUDY PLAN - DISTANCE LEARNING**

Class and Section: YEAR 8 A

Name of Teacher: Merlin Annamma Philip

Subject: English Literature

Week 3 : 13th September, 2020– 17th September, 2020 No. of lessons - 4

Student's access to Work: Work sent to students through **Class Group g mail / Google Classroom**

Topic: Prose: **The Speckled Band & A Scandal in Bohemia** from *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* by Arthur Conan Doyle

Learning Outcomes:

be able to identify elements of detective fiction in the given extract

understand how the story progresses through the eyes of the character

express response to events, characters, situation in the story

interpret questions and respond appropriately showing evidence of knowledge and understanding of the story

Zoom Lesson 1: Text provided

Zoom Lesson 2: Text provided

Zoom Lesson 3: Text provided

Asynchronous

DATE/LESSON No.	ACTIVITY CLOSE READING OF 'The Speckled Band' & 'A Scandal in Bohemia' & RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS
WEEK 7	20 th September 2020 – 24 th September, 2020
<p>LESSON 1</p> <p>20th Sept, 2020 8 A Sunday (3rd Period)</p>	<p><u>Lesson 1 - Zoom lesson 1</u></p> <p><u>Learning Outcomes :</u> able to identify the significant details that lead to the conclusion of the case.</p> <p><u>Learning Objectives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Explore how setting, character's behaviour and events help create tension in the story <p><u>Success Criteria:</u> - I can</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Closely follow Dr Watson's narration to understand, describe, select or retrieve information, events or ideas regarding key event, characters, mood, atmosphere <p><u>Whole class Activity:</u></p> <p>Loud reading of the passage.</p> <p>Teacher explains the reading section in detail, clarifies doubts, clears misconception, and summarises the course of events. (<i>Ongoing Teaching Activity</i>)</p> <p><u>Homework: (May be discussed if time permits)</u></p> <p><u>Questions to check comprehension:</u></p>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Why does Dr Watson refer to waiting in the dark as ‘that dreadful vigil’? 2. Read lines 1 – 13. Explain Doyle’s use of imagery and how this intensifies the tension and suspense in the scene. 3. Read lines 14 – 23. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Make notes on the significance of the event narrated. b. To which stage of narrative structure does this event belong? Justify your response with textual evidence. 4. ‘It was a singular sight which met their eyes.’ Why? Answer in points. 5. What do Holmes and Dr Watson discover? <p>PLENARY:</p> <p>What is the key event?</p> <p>Describe the atmosphere and mood created.</p> <p>PRE – READING FOR ZOOM LESSON 2 given along with Lesson 1.</p>
<p>20th September, 2020, Lesson 2</p> <p>8A Sunday (4th Period)</p>	<p>Lesson 2 - Zoom lesson 2</p> <p><u>Learning Outcome:</u> Understand the story ending Recognise Holmes’ manner of deduction</p> <p><u>Learning Objectives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Follow Holmes’ explanation that solves the mystery

➤ Express viewpoints

Success Criteria: - Success Criteria: I can

- deduce information about key events, characters
- interpret importance of event, characters and their interactions
- understand character development
- draw a connection between and among the characters
- express my understanding of characters and the theme of mystery with textual evidence

Whole class Activity:

Loud reading of the passage.

Teacher explains the reading section in detail, clarifies doubts, clears misconception, and summarises the course of events. (*Ongoing Teaching Activity*)

Discuss and make notes:

- a- What role did “the speckled band” play in the story?
- b- In what way was Sherlock Holmes responsible for Dr. Roylott’s murder in the story?
- c- What role did the gypsies serve in this story?
- d- Dr. Roylott was killed by his own collection of creatures (the speckled band.) How is this an appropriate end to the story?
- e- What other stories have you read that involve an animal or invention killing its owner?

Plenary: Review key events

Extension: Check how much you remember from the story.

- Go to the following site and do the ‘The Speckled Band’ quiz:

http://www.quia.com/quiz/1511507.html?AP_rand=65417978

Teachers please note:

PRE – READING FOR ZOOM LESSON 3 should be given after Lesson 2 is over.

Instructions to Students:

- **In the next lesson, we will read another story titled ‘A Scandal in Bohemia’.**
- **Answer the following questions as part of your preparation.**
- **The text is provided.**

Pre – reading questions to be answered in complete sentences:

1. *What are Holmes’s perspectives of Irene Adler?*
2. *What are Dr Watson’s observations of Sherlock Holmes?*
3. *Why does Dr Watson say that Holmes had a Bohemian soul?*
4. *Why does Dr Watson visit Holmes?*
5. *How do we know that Holmes was glad to see his dear friend?*
6. *How is the reader introduced to Holmes’s powers of deduction and reasoning?*

7. Holmes speaks about something that came by the last post. What is it?

Lesson 3 - [Zoom Lesson 3](#)

Learning Outcome: Recognise writer's techniques in introducing the characters of Holmes and Dr Watson.

(Draws the distinction in the personalities of the two characters; reveals Holmes to be a character who is unconventional in every way)

Learning Objective:

Explore details characters

Explore how conversations / dialogues reveal characters

Success Criteria

Select evidence linked to events and characters

Understand the significance of dialogues and the scenes presented

Main Activity:

Detailed discussion of **Pre – reading questions given in the previous Lesson. Students read out their responses.**

1. What are Holmes's perspectives of Irene Adler?
2. What are Dr Watson's observations of Sherlock Holmes?
3. Why does Dr Watson say that Holmes had a Bohemian soul?

4. Why does Dr Watson visit Holmes?
5. How do we know that Holmes was glad to see his dear friend?
6. How is the reader introduced to Holmes's powers of deduction and reasoning?
7. Holmes speaks about something that came by the last post. What is it?

Plenary:

Does the story opening provide any clues as to the plot of the story?

Teacher summarises the extract.

Lesson 4

Asynchronous Lesson

Learning Outcome: Understand and explore features of the story 'The Speckled Band' with greater clarity

Learning Objective: Read the text closely to fill in the blanks with appropriate details.

Success Criteria: Follow the text closely to select accurate information.

"The Adventure of the Speckled Band"

In _____, a terrified lady named _____ visits Holmes and Watson. She explains that she lives with her _____, Dr. Grimesby Roylott, who belongs to an old English family. _____ became a doctor and opened a practice in Calcutta, India. There, he married a young widow, who brought considerable _____ to the marriage. From her previous marriage she had twin girls, Helen and Julia, who would receive most of the money when they married. Roylott had a _____

_____. Once, angry about some theft from the house, he blamed the butler and beat him to death. After a long prison sentence, Roylott brought his family to London. Soon after, his wife was killed in a _____.

Roylott brought his daughters to his family estate at _____. He forced them into a _____ life and attacked the locals. He liked Indian animals, and bought a baboon and a cheetah to live on his property.

Despite all this, Julia eventually became engaged. As the wedding date approached, she began hearing a _____ at 3:00 a.m. One night, Helen heard Julia screaming in her bedroom, then a low whistle and _____. Julia ran out and died in Helen's arms, shrieking: 'It was the speckled band!' The sisters locked their doors at night, and the windows were heavily shuttered inside, so it was - _____ for anyone to have entered Julia's room.

Two years later, Helen became engaged. Roylott began construction on her room, forcing her to stay in Julia's bedroom. Helen began to hear the whistle her sister mentioned just before her death. Terrified, Helen decided to ask Holmes for help.

Holmes arranges to visit Helen at the estate with Watson the same day while Roylott is out. After she leaves, Roylott (who has followed her) bursts in and _____ them if they investigate. Holmes and Watson go anyway. During their investigation of the house, Holmes finds a dummy (non-functional) _____ and ventilator in Helen's room. A Victorian bell pull, or a vertical rope attached to a bell, was used to _____ servants; a ventilator is a vent. The ventilator connects with Roylott's bedroom, and the bed is bolted to the floor so it can't be moved away from the vent. In Roylott's room, they find an iron safe, a dog lash (leash) with a loop at the end, and a saucer of milk. On a hunch, Holmes insists that Helen sleep in her previous bedroom while he and Watson secretly camp out in Julia's.

Holmes and Watson return that night and quietly hide in Julia's room. After 3:00 a.m., they see a light through the ventilator and hear a _____. Holmes strikes a match and attacks the bell pull with his cane. Moments later, there's a yell from Roylott's room, and the two find him dead in a chair with a brown-speckled yellow snake wrapped around his head. Holmes identifies it as a _____, the _____ in India.

threatens	a metallic clang	strange low whistle	hissing sound	summon	bell pull	Helen Stoner	deadliest poisonous snake	railway accident
------------------	-------------------------	----------------------------	----------------------	---------------	------------------	---------------------	----------------------------------	-------------------------

	"The Adventure of the Speckled Band"	violent temper	swamp adder	impossible	Stoke Moran	wealth	stepfather	Royslott	reclusive
--	--------------------------------------	----------------	-------------	------------	-------------	--------	------------	----------	-----------

Pre – reading for Zoom 1

How shall I ever forget that dreadful vigil? I could not hear a sound, not even the drawing of a breath, and yet I knew *I* that my companion sat open-eyed, within a few feet of me, in the same state of nervous tension in which I was myself. The shutters cut off the least ray of light, and we waited in absolute darkness.

From outside came the occasional cry of a night-bird, and once at our very window a long drawn catlike whine, which told us that the cheetah was indeed at liberty. Far away we could hear the deep tones of the parish clock, which boomed out every quarter of an hour. How long they seemed, those quarters! Twelve struck, and one and two and three, and still we sat waiting silently for whatever might befall.

Suddenly there was the momentary gleam of a light up in the direction of the ventilator, which vanished immediately, but was succeeded by a strong smell of burning oil and heated metal. Someone in the next room had lit a dark-lantern. I heard a gentle sound of movement, and then all was silent once more, though the smell grew stronger. 10

For half an hour I sat with straining ears. Then suddenly another sound became audible—a very gentle, soothing sound, like that of a small jet of steam escaping continually from a kettle. The instant that we heard it, Holmes sprang from the bed, struck a match, and lashed furiously with his cane at the bell-pull.

“You see it, Watson?” he yelled. “You see it?”

But I saw nothing. At the moment when Holmes struck the light I heard a low, clear whistle, but the sudden glare flashing into my weary eyes made it impossible for me to tell what it was at which my friend lashed so savagely. I could, however, see that his face was deadly pale and filled with horror and loathing. He had ceased to strike and was gazing up at the ventilator when suddenly there broke from the silence of the night the most horrible cry to which I have ever listened. It swelled up louder and louder, a hoarse yell of pain and fear and anger all mingled in the one dreadful shriek. They say that away down in the village, and even in the distant parsonage, that cry raised the sleepers from their beds. It struck cold to our hearts, and I stood gazing at Holmes, and he at me, until the last echoes of it had died away into the silence from which it rose.

20

“What can it mean?” I gasped.

“It means that it is all over,” Holmes answered. “And perhaps, after all, it is for the best. Take your pistol, and we will enter Dr. Roylott’s room.”

With a grave face he lit the lamp and led the way down the corridor. Twice he struck at the chamber door without any reply from within. Then he turned the handle and entered, I at his heels, with the cocked pistol in my hand.

It was a singular sight which met our eyes. On the table stood a dark-lantern with the shutter half open, throwing a brilliant beam of light upon the iron safe, the door of which was ajar. Beside this table, on the wooden chair, sat Dr. Grimesby Roylott clad in a long grey dressing-gown, his bare ankles protruding beneath, and his feet thrust into red heelless Turkish slippers. Across his lap lay the short stock with the long lash which we had noticed during the day. His chin was cocked upward and his eyes were fixed in a dreadful, rigid stare at the corner of the ceiling. Round his brow he had a peculiar yellow band, with brownish speckles, which seemed to be bound tightly round his head. As we entered he made neither sound nor motion.

“The band! The speckled band!” whispered Holmes.

I took a step forward. In an instant his strange headgear began to move, and there reared itself from among his hair the squat diamond-shaped head and puffed neck of a loathsome serpent.

“It is a swamp adder!” cried Holmes; “the deadliest snake in India. He has died within ten seconds of being bitten. Violence does, in truth, recoil upon the violent, and the schemer falls into the pit which he digs for another. Let us thrust this creature back into its den, and we can then remove Miss Stoner to some place of shelter and let the county police know what has happened.”

As he spoke he drew the dog-whip swiftly from the dead man’s lap, and throwing the noose round the reptile’s neck he drew it from its horrid perch and, carrying it at arm’s length, threw it into the iron safe, which he closed upon it.

40

Such are the true facts of the death of Dr. Grimesby Roylott, of Stoke Moran. It is not necessary that I should prolong a narrative which has already run to too great a length by telling how we broke the sad news to the terrified girl, how we conveyed her by the morning train to the care of her good aunt at Harrow, of how the slow process of official inquiry came to the conclusion that the doctor met his fate while indiscreetly playing with a dangerous pet. The little which I had yet to learn of the case was told me by Sherlock Holmes as we travelled back next day.

Pre – reading for Zoom 2

“I had,” said he, “come to an entirely erroneous conclusion which shows, my dear Watson, how dangerous it always is to reason from insufficient data. The presence of the gipsies, and the use of the word ‘band,’ which was used by the poor girl, no doubt, to explain the appearance which she had caught a hurried glimpse of by the light of her match, were sufficient to put me upon an entirely wrong scent. I can only claim the merit that I instantly reconsidered my position when, however, it became clear to me that whatever danger threatened an occupant of the room could not come either from the window or the door. My attention was speedily drawn, as I have already remarked to you, to this ventilator, and to the bell-rope which hung down to the bed. The discovery that this was a dummy, and that the bed was clamped to the floor, instantly gave rise to the suspicion that the rope was there as a bridge for something passing through the hole and coming to the bed. The idea of a snake instantly occurred to me, and when I coupled it with my knowledge that the doctor was furnished with a supply of creatures from India, I felt that I was probably on the right **10** track. The idea of using a form of poison which could not possibly be discovered by any chemical test was just such a one as would occur to a clever and ruthless man who had had an Eastern training. The rapidity with which such a poison would take effect would also, from his point of view, be an advantage. It would be a sharp-eyed coroner, indeed, who could distinguish the two little dark punctures which would show where the poison fangs had done their work. Then I thought of the whistle. Of course he must recall the snake before the morning light revealed it to the victim. He had trained it, probably by the use of the milk which we saw, to return to him when summoned. He would put it through this ventilator at the hour that he thought best, with the certainty that it would crawl down the rope and land on the bed. It might or might not bite the occupant, perhaps she might escape every night for a week, but sooner or later she must fall a victim.

“I had come to these conclusions before ever I had entered his room. An inspection of his chair showed me that **20** he had been in the habit of standing on it, which of course would be necessary in order that he should reach the

ventilator. The sight of the safe, the saucer of milk, and the loop of whipcord were enough to finally dispel any doubts which may have remained. The metallic clang heard by Miss Stoner was obviously caused by her stepfather hastily closing the door of his safe upon its terrible occupant. Having once made up my mind, you know the steps which I took in order to put the matter to the proof. I heard the creature hiss as I have no doubt that you did also, and I instantly lit the light and attacked it.”

“With the result of driving it through the ventilator.”

“And also with the result of causing it to turn upon its master at the other side. Some of the blows of my cane came home and roused its snakish temper, so that it flew upon the first person it saw. In this way I am no doubt indirectly responsible for Dr. Grimesby Roylott’s death, and I cannot say that it is likely to weigh very heavily upon my conscience.” 30

Pre – reading for Zoom 3

A SCANDAL IN BOHEMIA

To Sherlock Holmes she is always THE woman. I have seldom heard him mention her under any other name. In his eyes she eclipses and predominates the whole of her sex. It was not that he felt any emotion akin to love for Irene Adler. All emotions, and that one particularly, were abhorrent to his cold, precise but admirably balanced mind. He was, I take it, the most perfect reasoning and observing machine that the world has seen, but as a lover he would have placed himself in a false position. He never spoke of the softer passions, save with a gibe and a sneer. They were admirable things for the observer—excellent for drawing the veil from men’s motives and actions. But for the trained reasoner to admit such intrusions into his own delicate and finely adjusted temperament was to introduce a distracting factor which might throw a doubt upon all his mental results. Grit in a sensitive instrument, or a crack in one of his own high-power lenses, would not be more disturbing than a strong emotion in a nature such as his. And yet there was but one woman to him, and that woman was the late Irene Adler, of dubious and questionable memory. 10

I had seen little of Holmes lately. My marriage had drifted us away from each other. My own complete happiness, and the home-centred interests which rise up around the man who first finds himself master of his own establishment, were sufficient to absorb all my attention, while Holmes, who loathed every form of society with his whole Bohemian soul, remained in our lodgings in Baker Street, buried among his old books, and alternating from week to week between cocaine and ambition, the drowsiness of the drug, and the fierce energy of his own keen nature. He was still, as ever, deeply attracted by the study of crime, and occupied his immense faculties and extraordinary powers of observation in following out those clues, and clearing up those mysteries which had been abandoned as hopeless by the official police. From time to time I heard some vague account of his doings: of his summons to Odessa in the case of the Trepoff murder, of his clearing up of the singular tragedy of the Atkinson brothers at Trincomalee, and finally of the mission which he had accomplished so delicately and successfully for the reigning family of Holland. Beyond these signs of his activity, however, which I merely shared with all the readers of the daily press, I knew little of my former friend and companion.

22

One night—it was on the twentieth of March, 1888—I was returning from a journey to a patient (for I had now returned to civil practice), when my way led me through Baker Street. As I passed the well-remembered door, which must always be associated in my mind with my wooing, and with the dark incidents of the Study in Scarlet, I was seized with a keen desire to see Holmes again, and to know how he was employing his extraordinary powers. His rooms were brilliantly lit, and, even as I looked up, I saw his tall, spare figure pass twice in a dark silhouette against the blind. He was pacing the room swiftly, eagerly, with his head sunk upon his chest and his hands clasped behind him. To me, who knew his every mood and habit, his attitude and manner told their own story. He was at work again. He had risen out of his drug-created dreams and was hot upon the scent of some new problem. I rang the bell and was shown up to the chamber which had formerly been in part my own.

31

His manner was not effusive. It seldom was; but he was glad, I think, to see me. With hardly a word spoken, but with a kindly eye, he waved me to an armchair, threw across his case of cigars, and indicated a spirit case and a gasogene in the corner. Then he stood before the fire and looked me over in his singular introspective fashion.

“Wedlock suits you,” he remarked. “I think, Watson, that you have put on seven and a half pounds since I saw you.”

“Seven!” I answered.

“Indeed, I should have thought a little more. Just a trifle more, I fancy, Watson. And in practice again, I observe. You did not tell me that you intended to go into harness.”

“Then, how do you know?”

“I see it, I deduce it. How do I know that you have been getting yourself very wet lately, and that you have a most clumsy and careless servant girl?”

41

“My dear Holmes,” said I, “this is too much. You would certainly have been burned, had you lived a few centuries ago. It is true that I had a country walk on Thursday and came home in a dreadful mess, but as I have changed my clothes I can’t imagine how you deduce it. As to Mary Jane, she is incorrigible, and my wife has given her notice, but there, again, I fail to see how you work it out.”

He chuckled to himself and rubbed his long, nervous hands together.

“It is simplicity itself,” said he; “my eyes tell me that on the inside of your left shoe, just where the firelight strikes it, the leather is scored by six almost parallel cuts. Obviously they have been caused by someone who has very carelessly scraped round the edges of the sole in order to remove crusted mud from it. Hence, you see, my double deduction that you had been out in vile weather, and that you had a particularly malignant boot-slitting specimen of the London slavey. As to your practice, if a gentleman walks into my rooms smelling of iodoform, with a black mark of nitrate of silver upon his right forefinger, and a bulge on the right side of his top-hat to show where he has secreted his stethoscope, I must be dull, indeed, if I do not pronounce him to be an active member of the medical profession.”

50

I could not help laughing at the ease with which he explained his process of deduction. “When I hear you give your reasons,” I remarked, “the thing always appears to me to be so ridiculously simple that I could easily do it myself, though at each successive instance of your reasoning I am baffled until you explain your process. And yet I believe that my eyes are as good as yours.”

“Quite so,” he answered, lighting a cigarette, and throwing himself down into an armchair. “You see, but you do not observe. The distinction is clear. For example, you have frequently seen the steps which lead up from the hall to this room.”

60

“Frequently.”

“How often?”

“Well, some hundreds of times.”

“Then how many are there?”

“How many? I don’t know.”

“Quite so! You have not observed. And yet you have seen. That is just my point. Now, I know that there are seventeen steps, because I have both seen and observed. By-the-way, since you are interested in these little problems, and since you are good enough to chronicle one or two of my trifling experiences, you may be interested in this.” He threw over a

sheet of thick, pink-tinted note-paper which had been lying open upon the table. “It came by the last post,” said he.
“Read it aloud.”