

INTERMEDIATE LEVEL

The Speckled Band and Other Stories by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

A Before Reading

- 1 These stories are about mysteries and murders. Here are some chapter headings from the three stories in this book.

The Speckled Band

An Early Morning Visitor for Holmes

Night of Terror

The Speckled Band

The Dancing Men

A Strange Drawing

Terrible News

The Murderer is Caught

The Red-Headed League

The Red-Headed League

An Unusual Job

The Mystery Explained

- (a) Which stories do you think are mysteries? Which stories do you think have murders in them?
- (b) Choose one story. Decide what happens in each of these chapters. Do not write the story – write short notes.

B After Reading Each Story

THE SPECKLED BAND

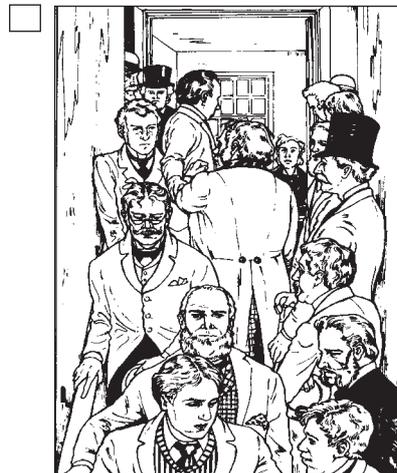
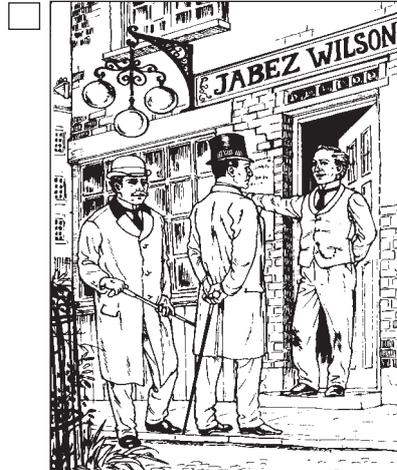
- 2 Helen Stoner gets married. She tells her husband about the story of the Speckled Band. What does he ask her? What does she tell him? Write a script (a play) of their conversation.

THE DANCING MEN

- 3 Inspector Martin has arrested Abe Slaney. Abe Slaney will go to prison because he is a murderer. But first Inspector Martin must write notes about the mystery of the Dancing Men, the murder of Hilton Cubitt and the death of Elsie Cubitt. You are Inspector Martin. Write your notes about this mystery. (You must give facts to show that Abe Slaney did the murder.)

THE RED-HEADED LEAGUE

- 4 Here are the pictures from this story.
- Number the pictures from 1 to 4 in the correct order.
 - Explain who the people are in each picture.
 - Explain what is happening in each picture. DON'T look at the book!



C After Reading All the Stories

- 5 Look at your answers to Question 1. Now write your story. You have notes for 1(b) to help you. Remember that Dr Watson tells the stories about Sherlock Holmes. Your story will be different from the one in the book.
- 6 Look again at the Dancing Men on pages 38 to 45.
- Write the alphabet from A to Z in Dancing Men. Think of new Dancing Men for any letters that are not in the book.
 - Write a note to a friend or to your teacher using Dancing Men. (Write an English translation of your note too.)

*There is a cassette recording of these stories. Have you read **The Sign of Four**, another Intermediate Level Reader about Sherlock Holmes?
And have you read **Dracula** by Bram Stoker?*