

The Norwood Builder and Other Stories

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

A Before Reading

- 1 a What do you already know about Sherlock Holmes, the main character in the stories? Complete the table.

Sherlock Holmes	
Nationality	
Job	
Where he lived	
Who he lived with	
When he worked	



- b Read pages 4–9 to check your ideas.

- 2 a Find the following words in the puzzle.

blackmail burglary case clue evidence fingerprint
 inspector investigate proof solve

A	M	J	E	T	N	M	D	L	P	E	Y	Z	M	B
Z	S	U	C	W	V	J	U	H	T	M	B	F	T	L
D	L	B	L	O	G	F	U	A	O	T	U	D	K	A
C	R	Q	D	B	U	R	G	L	A	R	Y	O	F	C
J	X	Z	I	R	C	I	U	M	Y	C	E	J	D	K
F	C	M	X	N	T	R	I	Z	U	V	W	K	C	M
V	Y	X	U	S	S	Q	I	O	I	O	D	Q	Q	A
P	K	U	E	K	X	P	B	D	L	Z	W	M	O	I
L	Y	V	F	I	N	G	E	R	P	R	I	N	T	L
E	N	C	A	S	E	N	Y	C	T	K	G	V	L	O
I	M	P	Q	U	C	K	P	K	T	I	K	T	K	R
P	Q	N	K	E	C	S	R	Q	S	O	L	V	E	P
G	I	W	G	I	D	S	O	D	M	Z	R	J	Q	Z
X	V	Y	B	S	W	N	O	F	J	U	J	Z	H	K
T	L	L	O	S	R	Q	F	N	I	X	O	D	P	S

b What links all the words? Do you know the meaning of all of them?

3 One of the stories in the book is about the world of politics and another is about business and finance. Write the following words and phrases from the stories under the correct heading in the table.

deal in valuable securities diplomatic secret firm government policy
 prime minister stockbroker stock market

Politics	Business and finance

B While Reading

- 4 As you read the first story in the book, *The Norwood Builder*, complete Sherlock Holmes's case notes with details from the story.

Case: The disappearance of Jonas Oldacre	
The suspect	
How is the suspect connected to the missing man?	<i>He is Oldacre's lawyer. He ...</i>
Why would the suspect want to kill Oldacre?	
Evidence found at Jonas Oldacre's house	<i>fire in the store ...</i>
More evidence found at the house the next day	
The real criminal	
The real reason for the crime	

5 In *The Second Stain*, at the scene of the murder, Holmes advises Inspector Lestrade to interview the policeman at the front door. Holmes says:

'Ask him why he let a stranger into this room. Don't ask him *if* he let someone in. Tell him that you *know* he did, but you want to know *why*. Tell him he can save his career if he tells the truth. Get the whole story from him.' (page 42)

Write the conversation between Lestrade and the policeman, MacPherson.

Lestrade: *Constable MacPherson, could I have a word with you please?*

MacPherson: _____

C After Reading

6 a Find all the jobs or occupations that are mentioned in the four stories and complete the table.

Job/occupation	Who does it
<i>lawyer</i>	<i>John McFarlane</i>

- b** Choose one of the jobs. What skills do you need to do this job? What sort of person do you need to be?

- c** Does the character in the book do the job well? Why / Why not?

- 7 a** In *The Stockbroker's Clerk*, Hall Pycroft says:

'In my new job at Mawson's I was only going to earn two hundred pounds a year. Now I was being offered five hundred. In the end I accepted his offer.' (page 56)

One of Hall Pycroft's reasons for accepting the other job offer is money. How important for you are the following when choosing a job? Put them in order of importance. Write 1 for the most important and 7 for the least important. Can you think of any more reasons? Add them to the list.

- Money (salary) _____
- Location: a job in the town/city where you live _____
- Interesting and varied tasks _____
- Opportunity to use your skills and experience _____
- Opportunity to progress in the job in the future _____
- Pleasant offices / work environment _____
- Good manager and colleagues _____

- b** Write a paragraph explaining your choices in 7a.

- 8 a Which of the four stories is your favourite? Why?

- b Imagine that you are making a TV drama of your favourite story. Which actors would you choose to play the characters? Complete the table with your notes.

Story:	
Character's name	Actor

- c What music would you have as the soundtrack for your TV drama?

- d Use your notes from 8b and 8c to write a paragraph giving details of your choices of actors and music, and your reasons for choosing them.