

The Speckled Band and Other Stories by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle**THE SPECKLED BAND****1**

- 1 (a) A famous private detective. (b) Holmes' friend and helper.
- 2 A client had arrived, a young lady who had something important to tell them. Holmes thought that it would be an interesting case.
- 3 She was shivering with fear (with terror).
- 4 Her hair was already turning grey, although she was only about thirty years old.

2

- 1 Julia.
- 2 She married again. She married Dr Grimesby Roylott.
- 3 In a house called Stoke Moran.
- 4 Her income would go to Dr Roylott if Helen and Julia did not marry. Roylott would get about one thousand pounds every year. If Helen or Julia married, some of the money would go to them.
- 5 She was killed in an accident.
- 6 His only friends were gypsies.
- 7 He had animals from India. Two of these were a cheetah and a baboon.
- 8 Julia died.

3

- 1 The three bedrooms were next to each other, on the ground floor of the house. Their windows looked out onto the garden.
- 2 (a) She asked, 'Have you ever heard anyone whistle in the middle of the night?' (b) She thought that one of the gypsies might be whistling at night.
- 3 They were afraid of the cheetah and the baboon.
- 4 A low clear whistle. And a sound like metal clanging against metal.
- 5 'Oh, my God! Helen! It was the band! The speckled band!'
- 6 She was holding a burned match.
- 7 The door was locked. The chimney was built so that no one could climb down into the fireplace from the roof.
- 8 She did not know what they meant. She thought that perhaps Julia meant a band of people. There were gypsies camping near the house. Many of them wore handkerchiefs on their heads. These handkerchiefs had designs of spots or speckles. Perhaps Julia was trying to describe the band of gypsies.
- 9 (a) Because some builders started to knock a hole through the wall. (b) Julia's bedroom. (c) A low clear whistle – the same sound Julia heard for several nights before her death.

4

- 1 Five red marks, the marks of four fingers and a thumb.
- 2 He needed more information. He wanted to examine the bedrooms at Stoke Moran.
- 3 To keep out of his life.
- 4 To show that he was strong.
- 5 He pulled the poker straight again.

5

- 1 That Dr Roylott would lose a lot of money if Julia and Helen married.
- 2 (a) It did not seem necessary. (b) It did not ring a bell –

it was not a real bell-rope. (c) A ventilator should connect one room with the air outside. This one connected two rooms.

- 3 There was a small saucer of milk on top of the safe.
- 4 There was a noose of thin rope attached to it.
- 5 In Julia's bedroom.

6

- 1 To put a lamp in the window of Julia's room.
- 2 They would come to the house.
- 3 (a) It was false – it did not work. (b) It was false – it did not work. (c) The bed was fixed to the floor.

7

- 1 Dr Roylott's baboon.
- 2 *Student's own answer. Student could mention that they were in great danger and in complete darkness.*
- 3 A very soft, hissing noise.
- 4 He jumped up and lit a match. Then he began hitting the bell-rope with a stick.
- 5 A snake. It was bright yellow with brown speckles.

8

- 1 It came through the ventilator and down the bell-rope.
- 2 He whistled. That was his signal to the snake.
- 3 The safe door clanging shut.
- 4 Because he killed Julia, and he tried to kill Helen.

THE DANCING MEN**1**

- 1 He came to ask Holmes to find out the meaning of the drawings on the paper he had sent. The drawings were making his wife very frightened.
- 2 They looked like a child's drawings. They were drawings of little dancing men.

2

- 1 For nearly five hundred years.
- 2 (a) That he would never ask about her past life. (b) Yes.
- 3 Her face turned white. (She threw the letter in the fire.)
- 4 Because she knew he was proud of his family.
- 5 (a) The drawings of the dancing men. (b) She fainted.
- 6 He thought the police would laugh at him.
- 7 To go back to Norfolk, and to make a copy of any more pictures of dancing men that he found.

3

- 1 (a) Copies of more pictures of the dancing men.
(b) The man who drew the pictures.
- 2 (a) To see who the figure near the toolhouse was.
(b) She caught him in her arms and held him back.
- 3 He thought she knew what the pictures meant and who the man who drew the pictures was.
- 4 By examining the pictures carefully.

4

- 1 He jumped up excitedly. Then he sat down again and wrote out a long telegram.
- 2 He received a telegram which was the answer to the telegram he had sent. The news made him sure that Cubitt was in great danger.
- 3 It was late, and the last train to Norfolk had gone.
- 4 That Mr Cubitt was dead and his wife was seriously

The Speckled Band and Other Stories by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

injured. They had been shot.

- 5**
- 1 Because the crime was only committed at three o'clock that morning. He did not know that they had set out before they knew of the crime.
 - 2 (a) Hilton Cubitt had been shot through the heart and was dead. (b) Mrs Cubitt had been shot in the head. The bullet had gone into her brain, but the doctor said she would not die.
 - 3 Two.
 - 4 When they ran out of their room upstairs.

- 6**
- 1 (a) He found a hole in the window frame which was the exact shape and size of a bullet. (b) The servants had smelt gunpowder *upstairs*; the gun had been fired *downstairs*; therefore the window must have been open, and the smell was blown up to the floor above.
 - 2 Outside the window.
 - 3 Mrs Cubitt.
 - 4 There was money in it – twenty fifty-pound notes.
 - 5 The missing bullet.
 - 6 Mr Abe Slaney.

- 7**
- 1 (a) A letter of the alphabet. (b) They divided the message into words. A figure with a flag meant the last letter of a word.
 - 2 (a) Abe Slaney. (b) Elriges.
 - 3 (a) A friend in the New York Police. (b) He had asked about Abe Slaney. (c) 'THE MOST DANGEROUS CROOK IN CHICAGO'.
 - 4 That Abe Slaney was going to kill Mrs Cubitt.
 - 5 Because he had written to Slaney asking him to come to the house.

- 8**
- 1 (a) He put a gun against the man's head. (b) He put handcuffs on the man's wrists.
 - 2 He had shot Cubitt when Cubitt tried to kill him.
 - 3 Because he thought that the note Holmes had sent was written by Mrs Cubitt.
 - 4 She did not want to be married to a criminal.
 - 5 Elsie had offered Slaney the money to make him go away.
 - 6 The secret writing had been used to catch a criminal.

THE RED-HEADED LEAGUE

- 1**
- 1 His hair was bright red.
 - 2 (a) In the Red-Headed League. (b) Four pounds a week. (c) Red-headed men over twenty-one years old. (d) 7 Pope's Court, Fleet Street, London.

- 2**
- 1 In Saxe-Coburg Square, in the City of London.
 - 2 Mr Wilson's assistant.
 - 3 (a) For half pay (*amount unspecified*). (b) Photography. (c) To the cellar of Mr Wilson's shop.
 - 4 Because there was a vacancy in the Red-Headed League. Members of the League could make a lot of money.
 - 5 That when a man became a member he would be paid an excellent salary for very little work.

- 6 Because his hair was bright red.

- 3**
- 1 The whole street was full of red-headed men.
 - 2 His colour of his hair was a brighter red than Mr Wilson's own.
 - 3 To make sure that his hair was real – that he was not wearing a wig.
 - 4 (a) Vincent Spaulding. (b) Every day, between the hours of ten o'clock and two o'clock. (c) He was to copy out the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*. (d) *Student's own answer. This could mention that there was no need for anyone to copy out the encyclopaedia.*
 - 5 He did not want to lose his pay.
 - 6 From a piece of card on the locked door of the office.

- 4**
- 1 They thought there was something rather funny about the Red-Headed League.
 - 2 He should wait. Perhaps the League would write to him.
 - 3 (a) He had a white mark on it. (b) They had holes in them for earrings.
 - 4 They were going to visit Saxe-Coburg Square.

- 5**
- 1 He hit it with his stick.
 - 2 'No, but I wanted to look at the knees of his trousers'.
 - 3 The houses in Saxe-Coburg Square were old ones in a poor part of London. The street behind the Square was a busy and important street, with expensive shops and important businesses.
 - 4 The building was the City and Suburban Bank.
 - 5 (a) Ten o'clock that night. (b) His gun.

- 6**
- 1 (a) A police detective. (b) The manager of the City and Suburban Bank.
 - 2 (a) Thirty thousand pounds. (b) The prize of a criminal he wanted to catch.
 - 3 A huge amount of gold was lying in boxes in the cellar.
 - 4 Catch criminals if they tried to escape through the shop.

- 7**
- 1 (a) From underneath the floor. (b) It slowly turned over on its side.
 - 2 'You'll see your friend very soon. There are three policemen waiting for him at the front door.'
 - 3 The strange story of the Red-Headed League had made it interesting.

- 8**
- 1 To get Mr Wilson out of his shop for some hours every day.
 - 2 Spaulding – who was really Clay – spent many hours in the cellar of the shop. The knees of his trousers were dirty. There was a bank behind the shop, and Holmes knew that the cellar was not at the front of the shop.
 - 3 The criminals had closed the Red-Headed League office. They did not need to keep Mr Wilson out of the shop any more. Holmes knew that the tunnel was finished and that the criminals were ready to move. It was Saturday, and Holmes knew no one would go to the bank until Monday. The criminals would have two days to escape.