

Any Sherlock Holmes Story Questions

To be used after students have read several stories:

1. Do you agree that Sherlock Holmes stories routinely emphasize plot over characterization? Why or why not?
2. Discuss Doyle's portrayal of female characters in these stories.
3. Which of the plots do you think work particularly well, and why?
4. Give examples of how Doyle creates and sustains narrative suspense in the stories.
5. Discuss Doyle's portrayal of foreigners in this volume.
6. Do you think that the short story form is particularly suited to detective fiction? Explain your answer with reference to these stories.
7. Do you think these stories give a consistent impression of the characters of Holmes and Watson? Why or why not?
8. Give examples of how Holmes and Watson play off each other in these stories.
9. Discuss ways in which Doyle creates atmosphere for his stories.
10. Analyze the role of class in Sherlock Holmes short stories.
11. Analyze Doyle's notion of justice in relation to the Sherlock Holmes stories.
12. Consider whether the Sherlock Holmes stories are open to the charge of racism and/or sexism.