Questions for Further Discussion on "The Red-Headed League"

1. What does the story reveal about Holmes' methods for solving crimes?

2. Watson says, "I trust that I am not more dense than my neighbors, but I was always oppressed with a sense of my own stupidity in my dealings with Sherlock Holmes." Explain what makes him feel this way. Do you see any evidence that Holmes enjoys making him feel this way?

3. Holmes and his companions are able to catch John Clay red-handed by setting a trap for him. Do you think they are behaving fairly by doing this? Why or why not?

4. Do you generally admire Holmes? Why or why not?

5. Does the story meet the six requirements of a good detective story? Explain.