

pp. 2-20

Author

1859-1930
Scottish physician

S.H. based on Joseph
Bell → surgeon,
diagnosed by
close observation

56 stories, 4 novels
(preferred own
historical romances
& spiritualism)

* "Steel True,
Blade Straight"
on British oak
(epitaph)

Setting

- London,
England, Oct. 9, 1890.

- 1) Holmes's apt.
- 2) Coburg Square
- 3) St. James's Hall
- 4) vault of bank
- 5) Holmes's apt.

Clues: 1) 1/2 pay
2) in cellar
3) white splash
4) trouser knees
5) hollow pavement

"The Red-Headed League" by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

■ Sherlock Holmes - "quick eye;"
love of the bizarre; musician +
composer; brave → disarms Clay
★ "dual nature" p. 13

- 1) exact scientific logic vs.
- 2) poetic contemplative intuition

Good Reader (Kennui p. 19)
(221B Baker Street)

My life is spent in one long
effort to escape from the
commonplaces of existence. p. 19

■ Dr. John Watson - NARRATOR (1st person);

"partner, friend, and helper;"
"embellish" adventures; Bad Reader
"I was always obsessed with
a sense of my own stupidity
in my dealings with S.H." p. 13

■ Jabez Wilson - pawnbroker (3 gilt
balls);
red-headed, fat, pompous, slow;
"Commonplace British tradesman."

4 £/week → copy Ency. Brit. (2 months)

- Clues: 1) manual labor → right hand
2) snuff 3) Freemason → pin
4) writing → shiny cuff, smooth elbow
5) China → coin, fish tattoo

■ Vincent Spaulding - aka John Clay;
assnt, 1/2 wages, photo nut, no beard,
< 30, white splash on forehead, pierced
ears. "There's no vice in him." p. 43

Master Criminal

* "... fourth smartest man in London." p. 11

"... a man who might play a
deep game." p. 13

rough
blood

Theme - careful observation and reasoning can make sense out of perplexing circumstances.

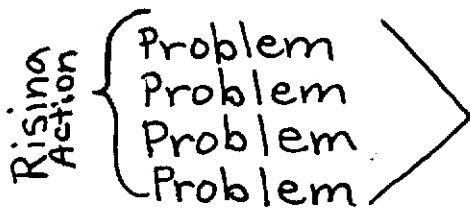
Point of View

1st person
central character
unreliable

Plot Development

Exposition →

Narrative Hook →



Climax →

Falling Action →

Resolution →

□ Duncan Ross - head R.H.L.; accomplice; aka William Morris + Archie; red-headed.

□ Peter Jones - Scotland Yard; calls S.H.'s methods "theoretical and fantastic." Dumb Cop

"He has one positive virtue. He is as brave as a bulldog, and as tenacious as a lobster if he gets his claws upon anyone." p.14

□ Mr. Merryweather - Coburg branch of City and Suburban Bank; 30,000 gold napoleons = \$1,200,000
27 years w/o missing bridge DUMB!!

introduces Watson, Holmes, Wilson + hints at "singular" story.
ad for Red-Headed League + Wilson's story.

✓ R.H.L. is dissolved

✓ Coburg square trip reveals tunnel.

✓ Holmes sets trap for bank robbers.

✓ Clay breaks into bank

Holmes stops the robbery.

Holmes explains to Watson how he solved the mystery.

Holmes comments on boredom + how man is nothing, work is everything.

Significant Quote

"... for strange effects and extraordinary combinations we must go to life itself, which is always far more daring than any effort of the imagination." p.20