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

- Sherlock Holmes—“quick eye;”
  love of the bizarre; music; + composer; brave; disarms Clay
  ★ “dual nature” p. 13
  1) exact scientific logic vs.
  2) poetic contemplative intuition
- Good Reader ★ ennui p. 19
  (221B Baker Street)

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

- 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 gills);
  red-headed, fat, pompous, slow;
  “commonplace; British tradesman.”
  4 £/week → copy Enev. 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. ½ wage, photo; nut, no beard,
  <30, white splash on forehead, pierced
  ears. “There’s no vice in him” p. 4
  Master Criminal
  ★ “…fourth smartest man in London”
  “…a man who might play a
  deep game.” p. 13
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
Rising Action
Problem
Problem
Problem
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; 36,000 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 trap 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 freedom + how man is nothing, work is everything.

“... 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. 2