



The Sign of Four

Revision Booklet

Name: _____



The Sign of Four- Context

Crime and Punishment

- Crime was rife in Victorian London.
- Prostitution, drug abuse and murder was commonplace.
- Public hangings were frequent and Victorian people feared crime greatly.
- Despite this, the police were seen as inefficient and corrupt.
- Many Victorians, therefore, had a deep resentment against the police as they did not appear to be protecting the public.

Social Divisions

- There was much poverty, ill health & child labour in Victorian England yet the wealthy flaunted their affluence in horse drawn carriages.
- Society was hierarchical. Poor people lived in cramped, dirty and squalid conditions.
- Smog from growing number of factories caused pollution, particularly in London.
- Women had very few rights and were seen as belonging at home. Middle-class women, however, could sometimes find respectable jobs as school teachers, governesses, nurses or telephone operators.

Science and Technology

- A lot of new technologies changed the way people lived.
- Bicycles were the first new rage.
- Electric lights were becoming more common.
- Automobiles made their first appearance.
- The London subway system was growing.
- Trains were faster.
- Telegraphs made worldwide communication easier.
- Advances in medicine were instrumental in changing the face of medicine.

The Indian Rebellion of 1857

As the East India company expanded, it wanted to control lands of its own. For this it needed a bigger army. By 1857, the East India Company had an army of 240,000. Regular soldiers were Indians (Sepoys), and officers were British. The British officers often discriminated against the Indian soldiers, disrespecting their religions and paying them low wages. This led to a massive rebellion among the Indian troops. There were many reasons for this and 'Sepoy' soldiers in Bengal, northern India, shot their British officers and marched towards Delhi. Their actions inspired a string of rebellions.

After much bloodshed on both sides, the British regained control 13 months later. They had, however, realised that to ensure peace, Indian traditions must be respected. It was traditional India that had risen against the British, the India which remembered its past, hated the present and dreaded the future that was now absolutely certain to belong to the Westernized Indian, and not to the Indian soldiers or princes.

The Sign of Four

Chapter 1: The Science of Deduction

Plot summary:

- Sherlock Holmes injects himself with a 7% cocaine solution.
- Watson believes that Holmes is beginning to throw his life away. Holmes explains that even though the physical effects are taxing, the shot of cocaine allows his mind to remain clear and focused.
- Watson and Holmes reminisce about their previous case and how Holmes is 'the only unofficial consulting detective' in town.
- Holmes mentions three qualities necessary to be a great detective: deduction, observations, and a desire to seek knowledge.
- Sherlock takes Watson's older brother's watch, and tells Watson everything he has discovered about the owner of the watch, and its history.
- The land-lady then comes with a letter and tells him a lady named Mary Morstan has arrived to see him.

Key Events:

- Introduction to Sherlock Holmes and Doctor Watson.
- The readers first impressions of the characters and their personalities are established.
- Holmes is presented as a highly intelligent and dominant force.

Key Quotes:

- "His eyes rested thoughtfully upon the sinewy forearm and wrist all dotted and scarred with innumerable puncture marks."
- "His great powers, his masterly manner, and the experience which I had had of his many extraordinary qualities, all made me diffident and backward in crossing him."
- "But consider! I said earnestly. Count the cost!"
- "My mind," he said, "rebels at stagnation. Give me problems, give me work, give me the most abstruse cryptogram or the most intricate analysis, and I am in my own proper atmosphere."
- "I confess too that I was irritated by the egotism which seemed to demand that every line of my pamphlet should be devoted to his own special doings."

The Sign of Four

Consolidating knowledge through inference:

Why do you think Doyle opens the novel with Holmes injecting himself with cocaine?

What impact does this have on you as a reader?

What impression do you have of Holmes? Is this behaviour expected of a successful detective?

Why do you think the novel is written from the perspective of Doctor Watson?

As a reader, which character do we relate to more? Holmes or Watson?

If Holmes was the narrator, what *negative* impact would this have on the reader?

The Sign of Four

Quotation analysis (Example)

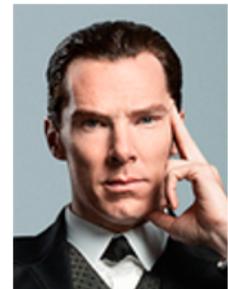
'Extraordinary' – adjective - suggests that Holmes is somehow not normal – emphasises his 'supernatural' powers.

'Hawk-like' – compound adjective – animalistic imagery conveys Holmes' superb eye for detail

'Expression of extraordinary concentration upon his clean-cut hawk-like features'

Semantic field of science – 'automaton' 'calculating machine' 'inhuman' creates a contrast with the romantic Watson. Suggests that Holmes is somehow different to a typical human – contrasts with earlier animal imagery

'Automaton, a calculating machine... Inhuman at times'



Sherlock Holmes

1. **Analysis and annotate the 2 quotations below about Sherlock Holmes and Dr, Watson.**
2. **Highlight the keywords and analysis in more detail. Make sure to note down the correct terminology.**

"His eyes rested thoughtfully upon the sinewy forearm and wrist all dotted and scarred with innumerable puncture marks."

3. **Now answer the following question in an analytical paragraph:**

Compare the way Holmes and Watson are presented in chapter 1.

The Sign of Four

Chapter 2 – The Statement of the Case

Plot Summary:

- Mary Morstan is introduced and Watson's attraction to her is established.
- Mary Morstan states her case: 10 years ago her father disappeared when back on army leave from India. 4 years later Mary begins to receive valuable pearls from a mysterious source.
- Mary has received her sixth pearl on this day because this time a letter asking her to meet at the Lyceum Theatre (without the police) has arrived with the pearl.
- Mary agrees to come back later and, alongside Holmes and Watson, meet her mysterious benefactor.
- Holmes leaves to make enquiries about the case, and Watson is left to think about Mary.

Key Events:

- Introduction to Mary Morstan in many ways she is an ideal Victorian woman: modest and 'dainty.'
- First key plot action is introduced – Mary's story gives Holmes and Watson a case to explore.
- Watson's love for Mary is established early on in the chapter.

Key Quotes:

- "Miss Morstan entered the room with a firm step and an outward composure of manner."
- "Her lip trembled, her hand quivered, and she showed every sign of intense inward agitation."
- "Holmes rubbed his hands, and his eyes glistened. He leaned forward in his chair with an expression of extraordinary concentration upon his clear-cut, hawk-like features."
- "You are a wronged woman, and shall have justice."
- "You really are an automaton, — a calculating-machine... Inhuman at times."
- "What was I, an army surgeon with a weak leg and a weaker banking-account, that I should dare to think of such things?"

The Sign of Four

Quotation analysis (Example)

'Sensitive' – adjective – reveals that she is delicate and feminine

'Composed but pale' – contrasting emotions – reveal that she is a strong woman, but is still bothered by the events of the evening: a perfect Victorian woman

'More than woman' – noun phrase which reveals a negative attitude towards woman in Victorian England

“Mary’s sensitive face was composed but pale. She must have been more than woman if she did not feel some uneasiness at the strange enterprise upon which we were embarking, yet her self-control was perfect”.



Mary Morstan

1. Analysis and annotate the quotation below about the character Mary Morstan.
2. Highlight the keywords and analysis in more detail. Make sure to note down the correct terminology.

“Miss Morstan entered the room with a firm step and an outward composure of manner.”

3. Now answer the following question in an analytical paragraph. ‘

How is Mary Morstan presented in Chapter 2?

The Sign of Four

Chapter 3 – In Quest of a Solution

Plot Summary:

- Holmes makes some initial deductions: he discovers that the case involves the Sholto family in some way.
- Holmes, Mary and Watson get a cab to the Lyceum Theatre.
- Holmes reads over a sheet of paper that mentions ‘The Sign of the Four’
- Watson notices how dreary and miserable the weather is while he chats to Mary – Holmes is caught up thinking about the case.
- Holmes, Watson and Mary meet a man who takes them to a mysterious house; they are told to enter at the end of the chapter.

Key Events:

- First explicit reference to India in the novel – Hindu servant at the end, Asian names as part of the Sign of Four.
- Pathetic fallacy utilised to emphasise the mysterious situation the characters find themselves in.
- More information is revealed about the case over the course of the two journeys.

Key Quotes:

- “Holmes returned. He was bright, eager, and in excellent spirits, a mood which in his case alternated with fits of the blackest depression.”
- “I picked up my hat and my heaviest stick, but I observed that Holmes took his revolver from his drawer and slipped it into his pocket. It was clear that he thought that our night’s work might be a serious one.”
- “Mary’s sensitive face was composed but pale. She must have been more than woman if she did not feel some uneasiness at the strange enterprise upon which we were embarking, yet her self-control was perfect”.
- “The day had been a dreary one, and a dense drizzly fog lay low upon the great city. Mud-coloured clouds drooped sadly over the muddy streets. Down the Strand the lamps were but misty splotches of diffused light which threw a feeble circular glimmer upon the slimy pavement.”
- “We had indeed reached a questionable and forbidding neighbourhood.”
- “Staring brick buildings—the monster tentacles which the giant city was throwing out into the country.”

The Sign of Four

Include as many adjectives as possible to this section that can be used as ways of describing the setting below. This is an opportunity to expand your vocabulary so fill the space!

Setting

The Sign of Four

Quotation analysis (Example)

'Questionable' – adjective – reveals the ambiguous nature of their surroundings.

'Forbidding' – adjective/verb – generates an ominous tone and foreshadows danger and mystery. Suggests a darker turn.

'We had indeed reached a questionable and forbidding neighbourhood.'

'drooped' – Verb – Use of personification to describe the
Emphasis on the tone and mood of the setting.

'Mud-coloured clouds drooped sadly over the muddy streets.'



Setting

1. Analysis and annotate the quotation below about the setting.
2. Highlight the keywords and analysis in more detail. Make sure to note down the correct terminology.

“The day had been a dreary one, and a dense drizzly fog lay low upon the great city. Mud-coloured clouds drooped sadly over the muddy streets. Down the Strand the lamps were but misty splotches of diffused light which threw a feeble circular glimmer upon the slimy pavement.”

3. Now answer the following question in an analytical paragraph.

'How does Doyle create setting in Chapter 3?'

The Sign of Four

Chapter 4 – The Story of the Bald-Headed Man

Plot Summary:

- Holmes, Mary and Watson enter Thaddeus Sholto's house in Norwood. From the outside, it appears to be bland and plain, but the inside is full of Indian treasure.
- Sholto reveals the existence of the Agra treasure, and claims that Major Sholto (Thaddeus' father) and Captain Morstan (Mary's father) brought it back from India.
- Captain Morstan is confirmed to be dead, after an argument with Major Sholto.
- Major Sholto has recently died of a heart attack, after observing a bearded man at the window.
- Bartholomew, Thaddeus' brother, has located the hidden treasure and Thaddeus and Mary go to Pondicherry Lodge to claim their share of £500,000.

Key Events:

- Still mystery shrouding the death of Morstan – he has probably been killed by Sholto but it isn't confirmed.
- Sholto is depicted as an unpleasant character: he is duplicitous and greedy, and perhaps a murderer.
- Thaddeus Sholto is unusual but pleasant – he counteracts the archetypal Victorian man – he is feminine and weak.
- Structurally this is the build up to the novel's first climax: the tragedy of Pondicherry Lodge.
- This is the first mention of the (unnamed) Jonathan Small – he is bearded, wild and has a wooden leg.

Key Quotes:

- “An oasis of art in the howling desert of South London.”
- “In that sorry house it looked as out of place as a diamond of the first water in a setting of brass.”
- “The strange, jerky little fellow, with his high, shining head, puffed uneasily in the centre.”
- “It was a bearded, hairy face, with wild cruel eyes and an expression of concentrated malevolence”
- “Surely it was the place of a loyal friend to rejoice at such news; yet I am ashamed to say that selfishness took me by the soul, and that my heart turned as heavy as lead within me. I stammered out some few halting words of congratulation, and then sat downcast, with my head drooped, deaf to the babble of our new acquaintance.”
- “I could not but recognize that there was every chance that I would be accused of his murder. His death at the moment of a quarrel, and the gash in his head, would be black against me. Again, an official inquiry could not be made without bringing out some facts”

The Sign of Four

Quotation analysis (Example)

'Oasis' – suggests that the artwork sustains Thaddeus and allows him to live – suggests a certain arrogance

'Howling' – verbal adjective - conveys a certain danger outside – foreshadows what will happen later

'Desert' – suggest a lack of culture in London – emphasises danger but also an Oxymoron: London is a huge, vibrant city

“An oasis of art in the howling desert of South London”.



Thaddeus Sholto's House

1. Analysis and annotate the quotation below about Thaddeus Sholto and his home.
2. Highlight the keywords and analysis in more detail. Make sure to note down the correct terminology.

“In that sorry house it looked as out of place as a diamond of the first water in a setting of brass.”

3. Now answer the following question in an analytical paragraph.

‘How does Doyle create a tense atmosphere in Chapter 4?’

The Sign of Four

Chapter 5 – The Tragedy of Pondicherry Lodge

Plot Summary:

- Holmes, Mary, Watson and Thaddeus Sholto travel to Pondicherry Lodge to speak to Bartholomew and claim some of the treasure.
- An ominous and foreboding atmosphere is created straight away – it is dark and mysterious.
- The characters find Bartholomew – he has been killed by a poisoned dart, and his face is contorted in a horrible manner.
- The treasure is gone, and Holmes sends a terrified Thaddeus to call the police.

Key Events:

- Setting is used by Doyle to create an ominous tone – a stereotypical ‘haunted house’ and negative pathetic fallacy is used.
- Holmes’ character and reputation literally opens doors for the characters – sign of his reputation and his almost superhuman abilities.
- This is the first climax of the novel – it contains elements of the supernatural and other supernatural ideas – very popular in the Victorian times.
- The Sign of Four is referred to in relation to the death of Bartholomew – this creates mystery for the reader.

Key Quotes:

- ‘Pondicherry Lodge stood in its own grounds, and was girt round with a very high stone wall topped with broken glass.’
- ‘A gravel path wound through desolate grounds to a huge clump of a house, square and prosaic, all plunged in shadow save where a moonbeam struck one corner and glimmered in a garret window. The vast size of the building, with its gloom and its deathly silence, struck a chill to the heart.’
- ‘So shaken was Thaddeus that I had to pass my hand under his arm as we went up the stairs, for his knees were trembling under him.’
- ‘Sherlock Holmes bent down to it, and instantly rose again with a sharp intaking of the breath: "There is something devilish in this, Watson," said he.’
- ‘There was the same high, shining head, the same circular bristle of red hair, the same bloodless countenance. The features were set, however, in a horrible smile, a fixed and unnatural grin, which in that still and moonlit room was more jarring to the nerves than any scowl or contortion.’
- ‘In the light of the lantern I read, with a thrill of horror, ‘The Sign of the Four.’ "In God's name, what does it all mean?" I asked. "It means murder," said Holmes.’

The Sign of Four

Quotation analysis (Example)

'stood in its own grounds' – personified phrase adjective 'own' connotes isolation and loneliness. The noun 'grounds' connotes wealth as the house must be very big and grand.

'Very high' adjective and intensifier – emphasises how inaccessible and dangerous the house is.

'Broken glass' noun phrases – reinforces the danger of the house – also perhaps suggests that the house has fallen to disrepair

“Pondicherry Lodge stood in its own grounds, and was girt round with a very high stone wall topped with broken glass.”



Pondicherry Lodge

1. **Analysis and annotate the quotation below about Pondicherry Lodge.**
2. **Highlight the keywords and analysis in more detail. Make sure to note down the correct terminology.**

A gravel path wound through desolate grounds to a huge clump of a house, square and prosaic, all plunged in shadow save where a moonbeam struck one corner and glimmered in a garret window. The vast size of the building, with its gloom and its deathly silence, struck a chill to the heart.'

3. **Now answer the following question in an analytical paragraph.**

'How does Arthur Conan Doyle present mystery, horror and suspense in the novel?'

The Sign of Four

Chapter 6 – Sherlock Holmes Give a Demonstration

Plot Summary:

- Holmes gives a demonstration of how the murder has happened. He deduces that two men, one with a wooden leg, and one who is very small have killed Bartholomew.
- Athelney Jones arrives and arrests Thaddeus and other members of the household – he disagrees with everything Holmes has said.
- They find a footprint belonging to the small man. Holmes sends Watson to find a dog, Toby, to track the killer.

Key Events:

- Sherlock Holmes shows off his deductive ability in this chapter. His character is juxtaposed with Athelney Jones (a negative stereotype of the Victorian police force).
- Holmes' name opens doors again – this time to borrow Toby for the evening.

Key Quotes:

- 'My case is almost complete... Simple as the case seems now, there may be something deeper underlying it.'
- 'for the second time that night a startled, surprised look come over Holmes' face... As I followed his gaze, my skin was cold under my clothes: "Holmes," I said, in a whisper, "a child has done the horrid thing."
- 'Holmes' beady eyes gleaming and deep-set like those of a bird. So swift, silent, and furtive were his movements, like those of a trained blood-hound.'
- 'Jones was red-faced, burly and with a pair of very small twinkling eyes which looked keenly out from between swollen and puffy pouches.'

The Sign of Four

Quotation Analysis (Example)

'red-faced' and 'burly' – adjectives – suggest that Jones is inactive and lazy. 'Red-faced' might also suggest anger and danger. Clear contrast with Holmes who is pale and slim.

'small twinkling' - adjectives – suggests Jones is almost pig-like, again in contrast to Holmes. 'Twinkling' suggests humour and possibly some intelligence. 'Small' suggests a lack of trust.

'Keenly' - adverb – further highlights Jones' possible intelligence contrasted with the adjective 'swollen' which suggests laziness.

“Jones was red-faced, burly and with a pair of very small twinkling eyes which looked keenly out from between swollen and puffy pouches”



Athelney Jones

1. **Analysis and annotate the quotation below.**
2. **Highlight the keywords and analysis in more detail. Make sure to note down the correct terminology.**

'Holmes' beady eyes gleaming and deep-set like those of a bird. So swift, silent, and furtive were his movements, like those of a trained blood-hound.'

3. **Now answer the following question in an analytical paragraph.**

“How does Doyle present the relationship between Holmes and Jones?”

The Sign of Four

Chapter 7 – The Episode of the Barrel

Plot Summary:

- Holmes, Watson and Toby track the killer by following the smell of creosote. While tracking the killer, Holmes gives more deductions about the case. He tells Watson that Jonathan Small is involved.
- Toby leads Holmes and Watson to a split barrel of creosote. Watson and Holmes laugh uncontrollably.

Key Events:

- Sherlock Holmes shows off his deductive ability in this chapter. His character is juxtaposed with Athelney Jones (a negative stereotype of the Victorian police force).
- Holmes' name opens doors again – this time to borrow Toby for the evening. Structurally chapter 7 is an anti-climax. The reader is expecting Holmes and Watson to confront the killer, instead they are lead in the wrong direction – this contrasts with the extreme drama and tension of Chapter 5.

Key Quotes:

- 'I escorted Miss Morstan back to her home. After the angelic fashion of women, she had borne trouble with a calm face as long as there was someone weaker than herself to support, and I had found her bright and placid by the side of the frightened housekeeper.'
- 'Might Mary look upon me as a mere vulgar fortune-seeker? I could not bear to risk that such a thought should cross her mind. This Agra treasure intervened like an impassable barrier between us.'
- 'Small learns that the major is on his death-bed. In a frenzy lest the secret of the treasure die with him, he makes his way to the dying man's window, and, mad with hate against the dead man, he enters the room that night.'

The Sign of Four

1. Analysis and annotate the 2 quotations below about Watson and Mary Morstan
2. Highlight the keywords and analysis in more detail. Make sure to note down the correct terminology.

I escorted Miss Morstan back to her home. After the angelic fashion of women, she had borne trouble with a calm face as long as there was someone weaker than herself to support, and I had found her bright and placid by the side of the frightened housekeeper.'

'Might Mary look upon me as a mere vulgar fortune-seeker? I could not bear to risk that such a thought should cross her mind. This Agra treasure intervened like an impassable barrier between us.'

3. Now answer the following question in an analytical paragraph. '

'How does Doyle present the relationship between Watson and Mary?'

The Sign of Four

Chapter 8 – The Baker Street Irregulars

Plot Summary:

- Toby leads Holmes and Watson to Mordecai Smith's boatyard. Holmes is able to find out some information based on a discussion with Smith's wife.
- Holmes gets the 'Baker Street Irregulars', a group of homeless children, to search for the boat.
- Holmes gives more information about Jonathan Small's companion.

Key Events:

- Victorian attitudes towards race and class are exposed in this chapter. Both are very negative by today's standards.
- Structurally Chapters 8 builds up to the climax of the boat chase across the Thames in Chapter 10.

Key Quotes:

- 'There came a swift pattering of naked feet upon the stairs, a clatter of high voices, and in rushed a dozen dirty and ragged little street-Arabs.'
- 'They are a fierce, morose, and intractable people... naturally hideous, having large, misshapen heads, small, fierce eyes, and distorted features'
- 'This infernal problem is consuming me.'

The Sign of Four

Quotation analysis (Example)

“*Naked*” adjective – reveals how poor and vulnerable the children were as they don’t have shoes

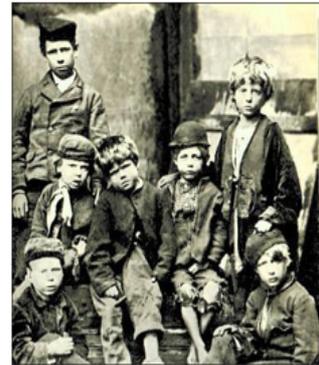
“*clatter*” noun – suggests chaos and disorganisation

“*rushed*” verb – exaggerates how chaotic the boys are

“*dirty, ragged, little*” adjectives – conveys how mistreated the boys are

“*little*” suggest vulnerability

“A swift pattering of naked feet upon the stairs, a clatter of high voices, and in rushed a dozen dirty and ragged little street-Arabs”



The Baker Street Irregulars

1. Analysis and annotate the 2 quotations below.
2. Highlight the keywords and analysis in more detail. Make sure to note down the correct terminology.

‘There came a swift pattering of naked feet upon the stairs, a clatter of high voices, and in rushed a dozen dirty and ragged little street-Arabs.’

3. Now answer the following question in an analytical paragraph. ’

How does Doyle present attitudes towards race and class in chapter 8?’

The Sign of Four

Chapter 9 – A Break in the Chain

Plot Summary:

- Holmes becomes frustrated due to a lack of progress in the case.
- Holmes disguises himself as a sailor to get more information about the Aurora. He decides to act that evening – Athelney Jones will prepare a police boat to chase Jonathan Small.

Key Events:

- Even Watson doubts Holmes at this stage – Holmes' mood becomes poor before he gets a break in the case.
- Structurally Chapters 9 builds up to the climax of the boat chase across the Thames in Chapter 10.

Key Quotes:

- 'Might Holmes be suffering from some huge self-deception? Was it not possible that his nimble and speculative mind had built up this wild theory upon faulty premises?'
- 'Very different was Athelney Jones, however, from the brusque and masterful professor of common sense who had taken over the case so confidently at Upper Norwood. His expression was downcast, and his bearing meek and even apologetic.'

The Sign of Four

1. Analysis and annotate the 2 quotations below about Athelney Jones.
2. Highlight the keywords and analysis in more detail. Make sure to note down the correct terminology.

Very different was Athelney Jones, however, from the brusque and masterful professor of common sense who had taken over the case so confidently at Upper Norwood. His expression was downcast, and his bearing meek and even apologetic.'

3. Now answer the following question in an analytical paragraph.

'Compare the presentation of Athelney Jones in Chapter 6 and Chapter 9'

The Sign of Four

Chapter 10 – The End of the Islander

Plot Summary:

- Holmes, Watson and the police locate the Aurora containing Jonathan Small and Tonga on the river.
- The Aurora is extremely fast and appears to be on the verge of escaping the police boat.
- At the last possible minute, Holmes and the police catch the Aurora.
- Tonga tries to shoot Holmes and Watson with a poison dart, it misses and Tonga is shot and killed.
- Jonathan Small tries to run away, but his wooden leg sinks into the mud at the riverbank: he is captured by Holmes and the police.

Key Events:

- This chapter forms the climax (emotional high point) of the novel and the chase is tense and dramatic.
- Lots of pathetic fallacy is used to build a sense of the horrible atmosphere that is unfolding.
- Tonga's description, and the description of his death, reveal more negative, imperialist attitudes towards people from different cultures.

Key Quotes:

- 'As we passed the City the last rays of the sun were gilding the cross upon the summit of St. Paul's. It was twilight before we reached the Tower.'
- "And there is the Aurora," exclaimed Holmes, "and going like the devil!"
- 'Now she was flying down the stream, near in to the shore, going at a tremendous rate. Athelney Jones looked gravely at her and shook his head'
- "We must catch her!" cried Holmes, between his teeth. "Heap it on, stokers! Make the boat do all she can!"
- 'The furnaces roared, and the powerful engines whizzed and clanked, like a great metallic heart... With every throb of the engines we sprang and quivered like a living thing.'
- 'Jonathan Small sprang up from the deck and shook his two clenched fists at us, cursing the while in a high, cracked voice. He was a good-sized, powerful man.'
- 'A little black man with a great, misshapen head and tangled, dishevelled hair. Holmes had already drawn his revolver at the sight of this savage, distorted creature. His face was deeply marked with bestiality and cruelty. His small eyes glowed and burned with a sombre light, and his teeth, chattered at us with a half animal fury.'
- 'It was a wild and desolate place, where the moon glimmered upon a wide expanse of marsh-land, with pools of stagnant water and beds of decaying vegetation.'
- 'Somewhere in the dark ooze at the bottom of the Thames lie the bones of that strange visitor to our shores.'

The Sign of Four

Quotation analysis (Example)

“*Misshapen*” adjective – suggests there’s something unnatural about Tonga

“*already drawn*” adverb – suggests that Holmes was going to kill Tonga no matter what

“*savage*” adjective – conveys how uncultured, dangerous and aggressive Tonga is – a reference to how Victorian people saw all ‘foreigners’?

“*savage, distorted creature*” noun phrase – reveals how foreigners were viewed: animals who were less than human and whose lives were worthless

“*misshapen head and tangled, dishevelled hair. Holmes had already drawn his revolver at the sight of this savage, distorted creature.*”



Tonga – The Islander

1. **Analysis and annotate the 2 quotations below about Tonga and Small.**
2. **Highlight the keywords and analysis in more detail. Make sure to note down the correct terminology.**

“Holmes had already drawn his revolver at the sight of this savage, distorted creature.”

3. **Now answer the following question in an analytical paragraph.**

How does Doyle present the character of Tonga in chapter 10?

The Sign of Four

Chapter 11 – The Great Agra Treasure

Plot Summary:

- Jonathan Small declares his innocence over the murder of Bartholomew Sholto. He is apologetic and explains that Tonga was at fault.
- Watson takes the treasure to Mary.
- Mary opens the box and it's empty!
- Mary and Watson are both happy. Watson proposes to Mary and she accepts.

Key Events:

- Chapter 11 completes the love story begun in chapter 2 – a happy ending.

Key Quotes:

- 'Jonathan Small was a reckless-eyed fellow, with mahogany features. His black, curly hair was thickly shot with grey. His face was not an unpleasing one, though his heavy brows and aggressive chin gave him a terrible expression when moved to anger.'
- 'Mary was dressed in some sort of white diaphanous material, with a little touch of scarlet at the neck and waist. The soft light of a shaded lamp fell over her sweet, grave face, and tinted with a dull, metallic sparkle the rich coils of her luxuriant hair.'
- "'Thank God the treasure has gone," Mary whispered, as I drew her to my side. Whoever had lost a treasure, I knew that night that I had gained one.'

The Sign of Four

1. **Analysis and annotate the 2 quotations below about Mary Morstan and Dr Watson.**
2. **Highlight the keywords and analysis in more detail. Make sure to note down the correct terminology.**

'Mary was dressed in some sort of white diaphanous material, with a little touch of scarlet at the neck and waist. The soft light of a shaded lamp fell over her sweet, grave face, and tinted with a dull, metallic sparkle the rich coils of her luxuriant hair.'

"'Thank God the treasure has gone," Mary whispered, as I drew her to my side. Whoever had lost a treasure, I knew that night that I had gained one.'

3. **Now answer the following question in an analytical paragraph.**

How does Doyle present the relationship between Watson and Mary in chapter 11?

The Sign of Four

Chapter 12 – The Strange Story of Jonathan Small

Plot Summary:

- Holmes interviews Jonathan Small and fills in the gaps of the narrative.
- Jonathan Small reveals that he stole the treasure in India along with Dost Akbar, Abdullah Khan and Mahomet Singh – they killed the merchant who was transporting the treasure.
- When the body was discovered, Jonathan Small and the other members of the ‘Four’ were sent away to the Andaman Islands to prison.
- Jonathan Small persuades Major Sholto and Captain Morstan to help free him. Sholto betrays them and takes the treasure for himself.
- Jonathan Small escapes with the help of Tonga – this sets in motion the novel’s events.

Key Events:

- Jonathan Small’s narrative is long – it marks a shift in narrator, and a flashback to before the novel begins.
- Everything is resolved, and the novel follows a circular structure.

Key Quotes:

- ‘Small had dropped his mask of calmness, and out came a wild whirl of words, while his eyes blazed, and the handcuffs clanked together with the impassioned movement of his hands. I saw the fury and the passion of the man and saw it was no unnatural terror which had possessed Major Sholto’
- "The city of Agra is a great place, swarming with fanatics and fierce devil-worshippers of all sorts."
- ‘There were ninety-seven very fine emeralds, and one hundred and seventy rubies, some of which, however, were small. There were forty carbuncles, two hundred and ten sapphires, sixty-one agates, and a great quantity of beryls, onyxes and turquoises’
- "For me," said Sherlock Holmes, "there still remains the cocaine-bottle." And he stretched his long white hand up for it.

The Sign of Four

Quotation analysis (Example)

“*Reckless-eyed*” compound adjective – suggests that Small is careless and dangerous

“*mahogany*” adjective – conveys a darkness and hardness to Small’s features

“*aggressive chin*” personification – emphasises the danger associated with Small he is violent and out of control

“*heavy... anger... terrible*” semantic field of fear and terror – further reveals that Small is a villain who is not to be trusted

“*Jonathan Small was a reckless-eyed fellow, with mahogany features. His black, curly hair was thickly shot with grey. His face was not an unpleasing one, though his heavy brows and aggressive chin gave him a terrible expression when moved to anger.*”



Jonathan Small

1. Analysis and annotate the 2 quotations below about Jonathan Small.
2. Highlight the keywords and analysis in more detail. Make sure to note down the correct terminology.

‘Jonathan Small was a reckless-eyed fellow, with mahogany features. His black, curly hair was thickly shot with grey. His face was not an unpleasing one, though his heavy brows and aggressive chin gave him a terrible expression when moved to anger.’

3. Now answer the following question in an analytical paragraph.

How does Doyle portray the character of Jonathan Small in chapter 12?

The Sign of Four

Include as many adjectives as possible to this section that can be used as ways of describing the characters below. This is an opportunity to expand your vocabulary so fill the space!

Sherlock Holmes

Doctor Watson

Mary Morstan

The Sign of Four

Include as many adjectives as possible to this section that can be used as ways of describing the character below. This is an opportunity to expand your vocabulary so fill the space!

Thaddeus Sholto

Athelney Jones

Jonathan Small

Tonga