

READING AND LISTENING

Sherlock Holmes

- 1 Sherlock Holmes is a very famous character in literature. Underline what you think is the correct answer to these questions.
 - 1 Sherlock Holmes was a *doctor/scientist/detective*.
 - 2 He was *American/English/Scottish*.
 - 3 He lived in *Chicago/London/Edinburgh*.
 - 4 Stories about him first appeared in the *19th/20th/21st* century.
- 2 You are going to read a Sherlock Holmes story called *The Three Students*. Look at the picture and headings. What can you guess about the story?
- 3 Read Part 1 and answer the questions.
 - 1 Who are the people in the picture?
 - 2 Where was Sherlock Holmes staying?
 - 3 What did Mr Weaver receive that afternoon?
 - 4 What was lying on the floor when he returned to his room after tea?
 - 5 Why couldn't Mr Weaver call the police?
 - 6 Who is Bannister?
 - 7 What clues did Bannister and Mr Weaver find?
 - 8 What do they think happened?
- 4 Read Part 2. Are these sentences true (✓) or false (X)? Correct the false ones.
 - 1 The tutor's room was on the same floor as the three students'.
 - 2 Holmes couldn't see into the room through the window.
 - 3 He found a clue on the carpet.
 - 4 The papers were next to the window because it was easier to read them in the light.
 - 5 The intruder saw Mr Weaver returning.
 - 6 He escaped through the study window.
 - 7 Holmes found another clue in the bedroom.
- 5 Read Part 3. Which of the three students do you think copied the papers? Discuss with a partner and then the class.

THE THREE

PART 1 ~ Who copied the exam questions?

SHERLOCK HOLMES was staying in one of England's most famous university towns. One evening he received a visit from an old friend, Mr Henry Weaver, a tutor at one of the colleges. He seemed very nervous and excited.

'I need your help, Holmes. Something very serious happened at my college this afternoon.'

Holmes was very busy. 'Why didn't you call the police?' he said irritably.

'No, no that's impossible. We can't have a scandal at the college. Let me explain. You see, tomorrow is the first day of the university examinations, and this afternoon I received the Greek translation papers. I put them on the desk in my room while I went to have tea with a friend. When I returned, I saw immediately that the papers were lying on the floor by the window.'

'I see,' said Holmes. 'Please continue.'

'Well, at first I thought that perhaps my servant, Bannister, was responsible, but of course he said no, and I believe him. He and I examined the room very carefully.'

'And what did you find?' asked Holmes impatiently.

'On the table next to the window we found a broken pencil. Also, on my desk there was a small ball of black mud. There were no signs of entry at the window. Please help me, Holmes. It's clear that someone copied the exam questions. If I don't find who did it, I will have to cancel the exam and there will be a scandal.'

'I need to visit your room,' said Holmes.

PART 2 ~ Looking for clues

They walked towards the tutor's room, which was on the ground floor. Holmes tried to look in through the window but he wasn't tall enough. Above lived three students, one on each floor. Holmes entered the room and examined the carpet.

'Nothing,' he said. 'Let me look at the table by the window.'

'What can you see?'

'Ah, yes, it's clear what happened. Someone took the papers one at a time from your desk over to the window table to copy them, because from there he could see when you were returning.'

'But nobody could see me. I came back through the side door.'

'Ah, so you surprised him and he had to leave hurriedly. Did you hear someone running away as you entered?'

'No.'

'Interesting. So, we just have one small ball of black mud as a clue. Now tell me, where does that door go to?'

'My bedroom.'

'Can I examine it?'

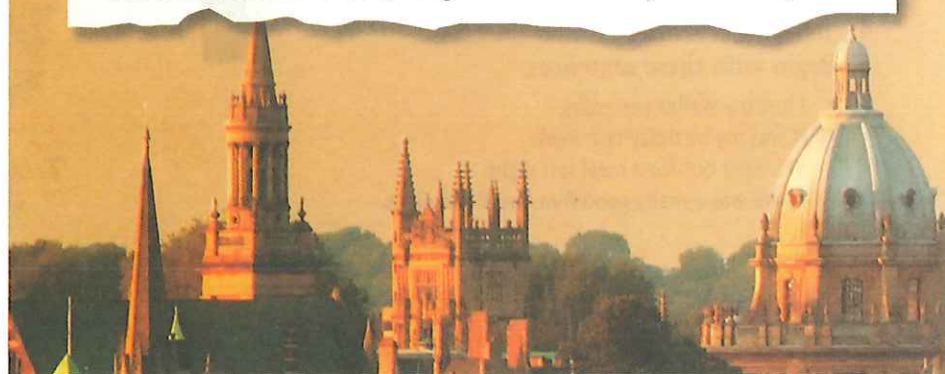
'Yes, of course.'

Holmes followed Weaver into his bedroom.

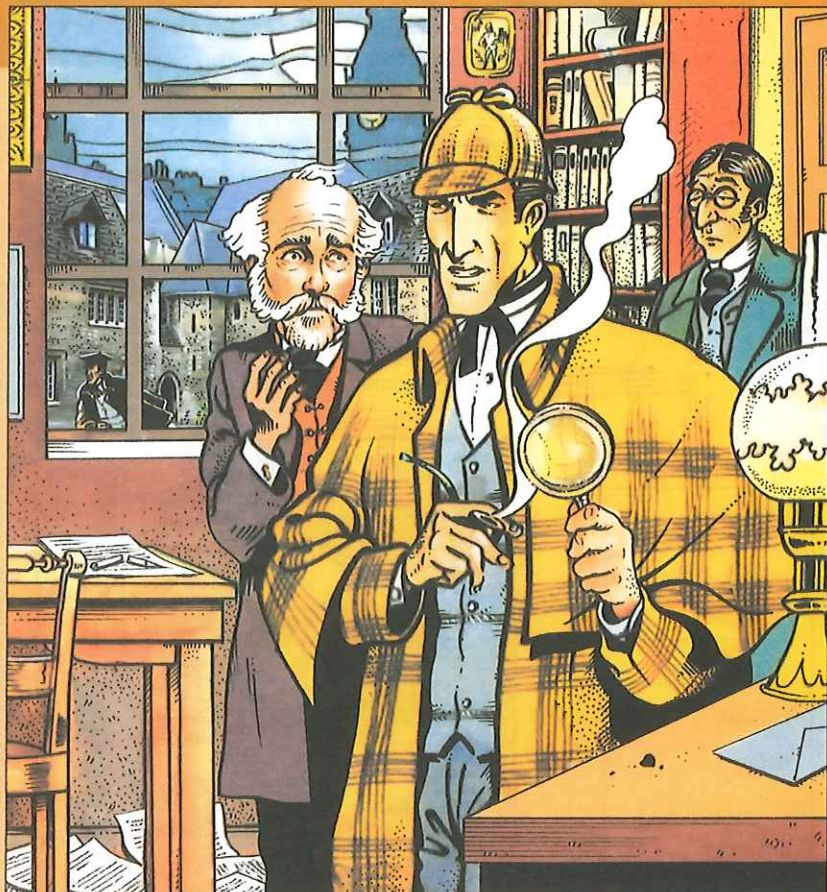
'Hello,' said Holmes, 'what's this? Another small ball of black mud, exactly like the one on the desk. Clearly your visitor came into the bedroom.'

'I don't understand. Why did he do that?'

'Well, when you came back so suddenly, he ran into your bedroom to hide. Look at the bedroom window, it's open. That is obviously how he escaped.'



STUDENTS



PART 3 ~ The three suspects

'Now,' said Holmes, 'the three students who live above you. Are they all taking this examination?'

'Yes.'

'Tell me about them.'

'Well, on the first floor is Gresham, an excellent student and an athlete, particularly good at the long jump. He's hard-working but poor.'

'And the second floor?'

'Daulat Ras lives there. He is from India – very quiet and hard-working, but Greek translation is his weak subject. And finally there's Miles McLaren on the top floor. A very intelligent student, one of the best when he chooses to work – but he's very lazy and very worried about this exam.'

'Now tell me,' said Holmes, 'how tall are these young men?'

'How tall? What a strange question. Erm ... I think Miles is taller than the Indian, but Gresham is the tallest, over six feet.'

'Ah, that's important. Now, Weaver. I wish you goodnight. I'll return tomorrow.'

Next morning Sherlock Holmes left his house very early before he returned to the tutor's rooms. Mr Weaver was waiting nervously for him.

Listening

- 6 T 3.7 Listen to Part 4. Whose ideas were correct? Did you guess who copied the papers? How did Sherlock Holmes solve the mystery? What was his explanation? Who wrote the letter? What did it say? Are the examinations going to take place?

What do you think?

- Do you think Sherlock Holmes was clever to solve this mystery?
- Why did Gresham decide not to take the exam?

Language work

- 7 Write the past form of these verbs from the story. Which are irregular?

receive	<u>received</u>
find	_____
say	_____
walk	_____
put	_____
try	_____
go	_____
can	_____
see	_____
copy	_____
think	_____
leave	_____
examine	_____
run	_____

Telling the story

- 8 Tell the story to a partner in your own words. Begin like this.

One evening when Sherlock Holmes was working at his desk, there was a knock at the door. It was his friend Henry Weaver, a college tutor. Mr Weaver wanted ...