

STUDY GUIDE FOR The Illustrious Client

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Date of *The Adventure of the Illustrious Client*

Although the story may contain other clues as to the date of the adventure, use only the clues shown below. Your goal is to use only logical reasoning to find the date when Kitty Winter threw vitriol into the face of Baron Adelbert Gruner.

CLUES:

1. Watson says that he and Holmes were in the Turkish bath... "upon September 3, 1902, the day when my narrative begins."
2. September 1, 1902 was Monday.
3. Watson says, "I did not see Holmes again until the following evening ... when I asked him what luck he had had in his interview (with Violet de Merville)."
4. Watson says, "The date was just two days after the last conversation ... was the terrible news-sheet MURDEROUS ATTACK UPON SHERLOCK HOLMES."
5. No further news would appear in the newspapers until the next weekday.
6. Watson says, "For six days the public were under the impression that Holmes was at the door of death."
7. Watson says, "On the seventh day, the stitches were taken out, ..."
8. Holmes asks Watson to " ... spend the next twenty-four hours in an intensive study of Chinese pottery."
9. At the conclusion of Watson's study of Chinese pottery, Holmes says, "That (Dr. Hill Barton) is your name for the evening, Watson. You will call upon Baron Gruner ..."
10. Watson's interview was interrupted by sounds, which caused Baron Gruner to rush from the room whereupon; "An arm ... shot out from among the leaves. ... the Baron uttered a horrible cry ..." It was then that vitriol was thrown into the Baron's face.

CONCLUSIONS:

- A. 1 and 2 imply the narrative begins on Wednesday, September 3, 1902.
- B. A and 3 imply Holmes's interview with Miss de Merville was Thursday, September 4, 1902.
- C. B and 4 imply the attack on Holmes took place on Saturday, September 6, 1902.
- D. C and 5 imply the next news report on Holmes's condition appeared on Monday, September 8, 1902.
- E. D and 6 imply that the public thought Holmes was dying up to and including Sunday, September 14, 1902.
- F. E and 7 imply the stitches were removed from Holmes on Monday, September 15, 1902.
- G. F, 8, and 9 imply that Watson (as Dr. Hill Barton) called upon Baron Gruner on the evening of Tuesday, September 16, 1902.
- H. G and 10 imply that Kitty Winter threw the vitriol into Baron Gruner's face on Tuesday, September 16, 1902.

Kitty Winter threw the vitriol into Baron Adelbert Gruner's face on Tuesday, September 16, 1902.

The Adventure of the Illustrious Client Vocabulary Words

abbess	Mother Superior of a convent
abject	humble
advent	coming or arrival
affable	gentle and gracious
Apaches	street ruffians of Paris
armorial bearings	coat-of-arms (<i>see picture, right</i>)
aspersions	unfavorable or damaging remarks
avenger	someone who inflicts punishment for revenge
barrister	lawyer admitted to plead at the bar in the superior courts
bench of bishops	the bishops who represent the Church in the House of Lords and who, as a consequence, sit on a bench
blithe	carefree and lighthearted
brand	a disgraced or notorious person
chemist's shop	druggist's shop; pharmacy
cockade	a ribbon worn on the hat as part of a uniform
colour card	face card
demure	affectedly shy or modest
dock	place in the courtroom where the prisoner stands
doddering	infirm or feeble
doss house	cheap rooming house
dotes	shows excessive love or fondness
drying-room	room where a person in a Turkish bath lies on a couch to cool
duplicity	deceptiveness in behavior or speech
emissary	agent sent to represent the interests of another
entrée	liberty to enter
erysipelas	also called Saint Anthony's fire; acute disease of the skin caused by streptococcus and marked by localized inflammation and fever
ethereal	not of this world; spiritual
fence	person who buys and sells stolen goods
filial	befitting a son or daughter





frock-coat	knee-length, double-breasted coat worn by a man in the daytime (<i>right</i>)
frocks	dresses
gambit	maneuver or ploy used in the first part of a battle or match
girt	surrounded
incognito	disguised
inexorable	not capable of being persuaded by pleading
kid-gloves	gloves made from the hide of a young goat
lacerated	having jagged or deeply cut edges
languorous	listlessness
lassitude	listlessness
lucent	giving off light
malign	make evil and untrue statements about
martyr	someone who endures great suffering
mendicants	beggars
meticulous	excessively concerned with details
miscreants	villains
Montmartre district	administrative district of Paris that includes the <i>Arc de Triomphe</i> , the <i>Champs Elysées</i> , and other well-known sites
nark	police spy or informer
parish	area served by one particular church of the Church of England
presentiment	a sense that something is about to occur
privy	had knowledge of something private or secret
rattle (the)	until death
remonstrance	expression of protest
reticent	inclined to keep his thoughts to himself
scintillate	sparkle or shine
scorbutic	literally affected by scurvy, that is, having spongy and bleeding gums, bleeding under the skin, and extreme weakness
self-compliance	a self-imposed inclination to comply willingly with the wishes of others

settee	small or medium-sized sofa
Simpson's	a well-known, exclusive restaurant in the Strand
single-stick	heavy stick with a guard for the hand, about 3 feet long, and used for saber training
swarthy	dark-complexioned
the Strand	busy and important street in London just north of the River Thames
tinker	someone who travels from house to house and mends metal household utensils
tomfoolery	foolish behavior
Turkish bath	a bath in which the client is placed in a heated room and perspires heavily and then is soaped, washed, massaged, and finally lies on a couch to cool
turrets	small towers or tower-shaped projections
vitriol	sulfuric acid

The Adventure of the Illustrious Client Open Questions

1. Watson used oil, cotton wadding and morphine to treat Baron Gruner (998). Since Watson was there to distract Baron Gruner with a Chinese tea saucer, where did he (Watson) get those medical supplies?

Apparently Watson was always prepared. He might have had cotton wadding protecting the precious saucer, and he could have obtained oil from the servants in Baron Gruner's household. The morphine, however, he must have carried with him. Of course, Watson also might have had his medical bag with him since he was posing as Dr. Hill Barton.

2. Who was the 'illustrious client' who provided the Chinese saucer?

Most observers believe it was His Royal Highness, the Prince of Wales.

The Adventure of the Illustrious Client Simple Quiz*

1. What was the name of the woman who threw vitriol in Baron Gruner's face?
 - a. Mary Sutherland
 - b. Violet de Merville
 - c. Kitty Winter
 - d. none of the above

2. What did Watson pose as an expert on when he visited Baron Gruner?
 - a. Chinese pottery
 - b. Venetian art
 - c. exotic African diseases
 - d. none of the above

3. What did Holmes steal from Baron Gruner's house?
 - a. a book detailing Gruner's prior wife's murder
 - b. a book detailing Gruner's previous love affairs
 - c. a book describing Gruner's spying activities for the Austrian government
 - d. none of the above

*The Simple Quiz is designed to determine if the student has read the story. Anyone who has read the story through should have no trouble in completing this quiz. This Intermediate and Advanced Quizzes are more challenging.

The Adventure of the Illustrious Client Intermediate Quiz*

1. What was unusual about the news vendor who was selling papers announcing the attack on Sherlock Holmes?
 - a. he was blind
 - b. he had only one leg
 - c. he had only one arm
 - d. none of the above
2. What was Violet de Merville's father's profession?
 - a. a university professor
 - b. a cabinet minister
 - c. an army general
 - d. none of the above
3. What was the name of the man who brought Kitty Winter to Holmes?
 - a. Charlie Peace
 - b. Shinwell Johnson
 - c. Sam Merton
 - d. none of the above
4. Holmes says, "Miss Winter's advent rather amazed her (Miss de Merville)." What does 'advent' mean in this sentence?
 - a. arrival
 - b. dress
 - c. physical appearance
 - d. none of the above

*The Intermediate Quiz is designed to test whether the student has read the story with reasonable attention to detail. The Simple Quiz is an easier test while the Advanced Quiz is much more challenging.

The Adventure of the Illustrious Client Advanced Quiz*

1. What case did Sir James Damery negotiate with Sir George Lewis?
 - a. the Manor House case
 - b. the Paradol Chamber case
 - c. the Hammerford Will case
 - d. none of the above

2. What was the name of the French agent who was beaten by Apaches in Montmartre?
 - a. Le Brun
 - b. Lesurier
 - c. Le Villard
 - d. none of the above

3. What was Baron Gruner's address?
 - a. Briony Lodge, St. John's Woods
 - b. Vernon Lodge, near Kingston
 - c. Popham House, Lee
 - d. none of the above

4. Outside what building was Holmes attacked by two men in the hire of Baron Gruner?
 - a. Charing Cross Railroad Station
 - b. the Grosvenor Hotel
 - c. the Café Royal
 - d. none of the above

*The Advanced Quiz is designed for aficionados of the Canon. The questions are quite challenging. The Intermediate and Simple Quizzes are designed for the more casual reader of the stories.

Answers to Quizzes for **The Adventure of the Illustrious Client**

SIMPLE QUIZ ANSWERS: 1-c; 2-a; 3-b

INTERMEDIATE QUIZ ANSWERS: 1-b; 2-c; 3-b; 4-a

ADVANCED QUIZ ANSWERS: 1-c; 2-a; 3-b; 4-c