STUDY GUIDE FOR THE SPECKLED BAND

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Date of *The Adventure of the Speckled Band*

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 both Helen Stoner's visit and Dr. Roylott's death occurred.

CLUES:

1. It was early in April in the year '83.
2. April 1, 1883 was a Saturday.
3. Two days before Holmes visited Stoke Moran, some repairs were started at Stoke Moran.
4. Repairmen would not have worked on Saturday or Sunday.
5. Holmes visited Doctors Commons to see a will on the day of visit.
6. Doctors Commons would not have been open on Sunday.
7. When Holmes and Watson visited Stoke Moran, there was "no sign of workmen." Such a statement would be unnecessary if the day were Saturday or Sunday when workmen would not be expected to be working anyway.
8. It was a perfect day with bright sun.
9. Wednesday and Thursday (April 4 and 5, 1883) produced little sun in London.

CONCLUSIONS:

A. 1 implies it was in the first week of April 1883.
B. A and 2 imply that the day of Holmes's visit to Stoke Moran was April 1 through April 7 of 1883.
C. 3 and 4 imply that the day of the visit was not Monday or Tuesday.
D. C implies that the day of the visit was Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, or Sunday.
E. 5 and 6 imply that the day of the visit was not Sunday.
F. D and E imply that the day of the visit was Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, or Saturday.
G. 7 implies that the day of the visit was not Saturday.
H. F and G imply that the day of the visit was Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday.
I. 8 and 9 imply that the day of the visit was not Wednesday nor Thursday.
J. H and I imply that the day of the visit was Friday.
K. B, J, and 2 imply that the day of the visit was Friday, April 6, 1883.

Dr. Roylott died on Friday, April 6, 1883.
The Adventure of the Speckled Band Vocabulary Words

affected showed a liking for
aperture opening
averted turned away
bile-shot eyes eyes whose whites are colored brownish-yellow or greenish-yellow
blandly showing no concern or worry
bramble-covered covered with prickly shrubs or bushes
camp-bed folding bed
clinched fists clenched fists
counterpane bedspread
dark lantern lantern with sliding door
dissolute indulged in sensual pleasures or vices
dog-cart a cart with two seats placed back-to-back; name is derived from box under rear seat originally used to carry dogs
dog lash dog leash
draught draft
fain gladly; willingly
fortnight two weeks
frock-coat close fitting, double-breasted, knee-length coat
gable part of house that is enclosed by part of the roof that slopes downward
gaiters cover for the ankle and instep, spats
hasp metal fastener with a hinged, slotted part that fits over a projecting part and is secured by a bolt
herald a sign of something to come
insolence arrogance; impertinence
Jack-in-office a petty official unjustifiably claiming distinction or merit
knock you up wake you by knocking at the door
lichen-blotched spotted with a fungus that forms a crust-like branching growth
livid discolored as from a bruise; black-and-blue
morose gloomy
parapet low protective wall
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>parish clock</td>
<td>church clock</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>parsonage</td>
<td>residence provided by a church for its parson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pauper</td>
<td>extremely poor person</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pittance</td>
<td>very small amount of money</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>retorted</td>
<td>returned like for like; retaliated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>return ticket</td>
<td>round trip ticket</td>
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<tr>
<td>reverie</td>
<td>daydream</td>
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<tr>
<td>scruples</td>
<td>uneasy feelings arising from conscience</td>
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<tr>
<td>singular</td>
<td>beyond what is ordinary or usual; remarkable</td>
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<tr>
<td>sounded</td>
<td>examined something by causing it to emit sound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>squire</td>
<td>a country gentleman especially one who is the principal landowner in a village</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>staples</td>
<td>U-shaped metal loops with pointed ends, driven into a surface to hold bolts or wiring in place</td>
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<tr>
<td>stile</td>
<td>steps over a fence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stump</td>
<td>short piece</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Regency</td>
<td>1811-1820; last nine years of George III’s reign when he was insane</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>trap</td>
<td>one-horse, two-wheeled open carriage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vigil</td>
<td>watch kept during normal sleeping hours</td>
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<tr>
<td>whipcord</td>
<td>strong twisted or braided cord used a whip</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>whitewashed</td>
<td>covered with a mixture of lime and water to whiten it</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wilton carpet</td>
<td>carpet with lush surface loops of yarn’ named for the town in Southwestern England where it was first made</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Adventure of The Speckled Band Open Questions

1. What was it that crawled up and down the bell pull? Snakes are totally deaf, so whistling would not call a snake back. Snakes do not feed on milk. A snake might crawl down a rope but could not crawl up. There is no such thing as a swamp adder.

The poison was fast acting so it must have been of the cobra family. Perhaps it was a hybrid of a cobra and a Gila monster.

2. When Holmes woke Watson, he (Holmes) was fully dressed. If Helen Stoner was waiting in the sitting room, why did Holmes dress before waking Watson?

Holmes or any English gentleman would not appear before a lady unless he was fully dressed.

3. Holmes says that the case involving Mrs. Farintosh was "before your time, Watson." If so, how did Helen Stoner get the Baker Street address?

By the time Holmes sent his bill to Mrs. Farintosh, he (Holmes) had moved to Baker Street.

4. Helen Stoner says that "...there seemed to be no obstacle to our happiness." Based on Dr. Roylott's past (in a fit of anger he beat a native butler to death), did it seem like there were no obstacles to their happiness?

A strange statement indeed.

5. Julia was described as having "hands groping for help" but, on the same page, it says "In her right hand was found the charred stump of a match, and in her left a match-box." How did she 'grop' with her hands full?

It would be difficult if not impossible.

6. Dr. Roylott poured brandy down Julia's throat. Does that seem to be a wise thing to do?

No, brandy would speed up the effect of the poison.

7. Holmes says, "...the schemer falls into the pit which he digs for another". The correct quotation is, "He that diggeth a pit shall fall into it, and whoso breaketh a hedge, a serpent shall bite him." From where is that quotation taken?

Ecclesiastes 1:2
The Adventure of the Speckled Band Simple Quiz*

1. Grimesby Roylott was killed by
   a. a heart attack
   b. an angry gypsy
   c. a poisonous snake
   d. none of the above

2. After Grimesby Roylott left the rooms at 221B Baker Street, Sherlock Holmes
   a. put on his coat and followed Roylott
   b. looked up Roylott's name in his records
   c. straightened the poker Roylott had bent
   d. none of the above

3. Helen Stoner's relationship to Grimesby Roylott was that she was
   a. his housekeeper
   b. his step daughter
   c. his niece
   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 Speckled Band Intermediate Quiz*

1. How much income would Grimesby Roylott receive if both of his stepdaughters married?
   a. £100
   b. £250
   c. £500
   d. none of the above

2. Who referred Helen Stoner to Holmes?
   a. Mrs. Farintosh
   b. Mrs. Forrester
   c. Inspector Lestrade
   d. none of the above

3. What was the name of Helen Stoner's fiancé?
   a. Percy Armitage
   b. James Farintosh
   c. George Forrester
   d. none of the above

4. Watson said that the snake that killed Julia Stoner and Grimesby Roylott was
   a. a black adder
   b. a swamp adder
   c. a water moccasin
   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 Speckled Band Advanced Quiz*

1. Where did Holmes and Watson stay on their visit to Stoke Moran?
   a. the Crown Inn
   b. the Horse and Coach Inn
   c. the White Hart Inn
   d. none of the above

2. What type of slippers was Grimesby Roylott wearing when the snake attacked and killed him?
   a. English
   b. Persian
   c. Turkish
   d. none of the above

3. What type of carpet was on the floor of Julia Stoner's bedroom?
   a. Checkered
   b. Persian
   c. Wilton
   d. none of the above

4. What was the maiden name of Helen and Julia Stoner's mother?
   a. Westbury
   b. Westcombe
   c. Westphail
   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 Speckled Band*

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

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

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