

# A STUDY GUIDE TO SHERLOCK HOLMES

By William S. Dorn



The Adventures of Sherlock  
Holmes  
Adventure VII -- The Adventure of  
the Five Orange Pips

**THE FIVE ORANGE PIPS**  
**DATE OF THE ADVENTURE\***  
(The entire adventure took place in one day)

**CLUES:**

1. The story was published in November 1891
2. Watson says, "It was in the latter days of September, and the equinoctial gales had set in with exceptional violence." (218)
3. Watson says, "My wife was on a visit to her mother's, and for a few days I was a dweller once more in my old quarters at Baker Street." (218)
4. Watson was married in late 1888 or early 1889
5. The September 25, 1889 edition of *The Times* of London says there were heavy rains and strong winds in London on the previous day.

**CONCLUSIONS:**

- A. 1 and 2 imply that it was September of 1890 or some earlier year
- B. 3 and 4 imply it was 1889 or later
- C. A and B imply it was September 1889 or 1890
- D. C, 2 and 5 imply it was Tuesday, September 24, 1889

**The adventure took place on Tuesday, September 24, 1889**

---

\*The story may contain other clues to the date of the adventure. However, use only the clues shown here. Your only goal should be to use logical reasoning to find a date based on the clues shown here.

## THE FIVE ORANGE PIPS VOCABULARY WORDS

- conjecture (217, 218) – **a theory without proof**
- surmise (217) – **a guess with little evidence**
- singular (218, 219, 220, 225, 226) – **beyond what is ordinary  
or usual; remarkable**
- equinoctial (218, 229) – **pertaining to the equinox when there  
are equal times of day and night**
- crony (218) – **buddy, close friend**
- pince-nez (218) – **eyeglasses clipped to the nose**
- aversion (219) – **intense dislike**
- backgammon (220) – **board game for two persons, played with  
pieces whose moves are determined by  
throws of dice**
- draughts (220) – **the game of checkers**
- colour of putty (220) – **yellowish or light brownish gray**
- K.K.K. (220, 222, 224, 226) – **Ku Klux Klan, a secret society  
organized in the South after the  
Civil War to reassert white  
supremacy by means of terrorism**
- pips (220) – **small seed of a fruit**
- palpitating (220) – **beating rapidly, fluttering**
- checkmate (220) – **defeat completely**
- sallies (221) – **ventures outdoors**
- ado (221) – **trouble**
- carpet-bag politicians (221) – **Northerners who went to the  
South after the Civil War to take  
advantage of unsettled conditions**
- cock-and-bull story (221) – **absurd or highly improbable tale  
passed off as being true**
- tomfoolery (222) – **foolish behavior**
- obstinate (222) – **stubborn**

The Adventures

chalk-pit (222) – **pit where chalk is mined**

well-nigh (222) – **nearly; almost**

waistcoat (222) – **vest**

inexorable (223) – **relentless, inflexible**

enigmatical (223) – **like a riddle or puzzle**

Cuvier (225) – **Baron Cuvier (1769-1832) French naturalist  
who founded the science of comparative  
anatomy**

lumber-room (225) – **room for storage of bulky household  
items**

hypothesis (225) – **tentative explanation that accounts for a set  
of facts**

abjure (226) – **to deny an oath**

impunity (226) – **freedom from punishment**

sporadic (226) – **occurring at irregular intervals**

implacable (227) – **unforgiving**

sallow (228) – **sickly yellowish color**

sideboard (228) – **a piece of dining room furniture having  
drawers and shelves for linens and tableware**

voraciously (228) – **eagerly consuming great amounts of food**

draught (228) – **a drink**

precursor (228) – **precedes something to come**

bark (229) – **sailing vessel**

stevedore (229) – **someone who unloads a boat at the dock**

stern-post (229) – **mast in the rear of the ship**

## THE FIVE ORANGE PIPS OPEN QUESTIONS

1. On two previous occasions the KKK had asked to have the secret papers returned. Why didn't the KKK simply burglarize the Openshaw house and steal the papers?

**Apparently they had no idea where to look for the papers and also felt that the risk was so great to the Openshaws that they would willingly return the papers.**

2. What was the so-called shattered stern-post bearing the letters "L.S."? A ship's mast usually bears the ship's name, not her initials.

**It must have been some other part of the ship, but what part is a mystery.**

## THE FIVE ORANGE PIPS SIMPLE QUIZ\*

1. The orange pips were sent by
  - a. Professor Moriarty
  - b. a member of the Ku Klux Klan
  - c. a member of an Irish secret society
  - d. none of the above
  
2. The person who sent the orange pips wanted
  - a. stolen jewels
  - b. old papers
  - c. money
  - d. none of the above
  
3. The person who sent the orange pips was
  - a. a sailor
  - b. a soldier
  - c. an ex-prisoner
  - 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. The Intermediate and Advanced Quizzes are more challenging.

## THE FIVE ORANGE PIPS INTERMEDIATE QUIZ<sup>#</sup>

1. The deaths of all three Openshaws occurred
  - a. in broad daylight
  - b. at night
  - c. in London
  - d. none of the above
  
2. Which one of the following people did NOT receive the pips?
  - a. James Calhoun
  - b. Edward Openshaw
  - c. John Openshaw
  - d. John Swain
  
3. Which one of the following ports was NOT made by the “Lone Star”?
  - a. Dundee
  - b. Liverpool
  - c. London
  - d. Pondicherry
  
4. From which London bridge did John Openshaw fall to his death?
  - a. London Bridge
  - b. Tower Bridge
  - c. Waterloo Bridge
  - d. none of the above

---

<sup>#</sup>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 FIVE ORANGE PIPS ADVANCED QUIZ &

1. What was the name of Elias Openshaw's maid?
  - a. Bertha
  - b. Martha
  - c. Mary
  - d. none of the above
  
2. Which of the following games did Elias and John Openshaw play?
  - a. backgammon
  - b. chess
  - c. whist
  - d. none of the above
  
3. What was the name of the police-constable who heard John Openshaw's cry for help?
  - a. Abernathy
  - b. Cook
  - c. Wilson
  - d. none of the above
  
4. Where was the factory that Joseph Openshaw owned?
  - a. Coventry
  - b. London
  - c. Manchester
  - 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 ADVENTURES

QUESTION	1	2	3	4
<b>A Scandal in Bohemia</b>				
Simple	a	b	c	xx
Intermediate	c	b	b	c
Advanced	b	a	b	b
<b>The Red-Headed League</b>				
Simple	b	b	a	xx
Intermediate	b	b	a	b
Advanced	b	c	b	a
<b>A Case of Identity</b>				
Simple	b	b	b	xx
Intermediate	b	c	c	b
Advanced	c	b	d	c
<b>The Boscombe Valley Mystery</b>				
Simple	a	b	b	xx
Intermediate	c	b	b	b
Advanced	b	a	c	a
<b>The Five Orange Pips</b>				
Simple	b	b	a	xx
Intermediate	b	b	b	c
Advanced	c	a	b	a
<b>The Man with the Twisted Lip</b>				
Simple	b	a	b	xx
Intermediate	a	c	b	a
Advanced	b	a	c	b
<b>The Blue Carbuncle</b>				
Simple	a	b	c	xx
Intermediate	c	b	a	a
Advanced	b	b	c	c
<b>The Speckled Band</b>				
Simple	c	c	b	xx
Intermediate	c	a	a	b
Advanced	a	c	c	c

The Adventures

QUESTION	1	2	3	4
<b>The Engineer's Thumb</b>				
Simple	b	a	c	xx
Intermediate	a	b	c	b
Advanced	b	c	c	a
<b>The Noble Bachelor</b>				
Simple	b	b	c	xx
Intermediate	a	b	b	c
Advanced	a	a	c	c
<b>The Beryl Coronet</b>				
Simple	b	b	b	xx
Intermediate	b	c	b	a
Advanced	b	c	b	c
<b>The Copper Beeches</b>				
Simple	a	a	b	xx
Intermediate	a	a	c	b
Advanced	a	b	c	c