

# A STUDY GUIDE TO SHERLOCK HOLMES

By William S. Dorn



The Adventures of Sherlock  
Holmes  
Adventure XIII -- The Adventure of  
the Beryl Coronet

## THE ADVENTURE OF THE BERYL CORONET VOCABULARY WORDS

- foot-paths (301) – **sidewalks**  
portly (301) – **stout**  
sombre (301) – **dull or dark in color**  
frock-coat (301) – **close fitting double breasted, knee length coat**  
gaiters (301) – **covering for the ankle and lower leg**  
contortions (301) – **strained, twisted expressions**  
gesticulating (301) – **making gestures for emphasis**  
easy-chair (302) – **large, comfortable, well-upholstered chair**  
remunerative (302) – **profitable**  
plate (302) – **household articles covered with a precious metal,  
such as silver or gold**  
parley (303) – **discussion**  
morocco (303) – **soft, fine leather of goatskin tanned with sumac**  
beryls (303) – **transparent white, green, blue, yellow, or pink gems**  
chasing (303) – **engraved or embossed metal**  
imprudence (304) – **an unwise or indiscreet act**  
groom (304) – **man or boy employed to take care of horses**  
page (304) – **boy employed to attend to the door, go on  
errands, etc.**  
waiting-maid (304) – **maid who waits on tables**  
wayward (304) – **behaving in a way that is not desirable in  
order to gratify one's own impulses**  
long purses (304) – **rich**  
turf (304) – **horse racing**  
box-room (305) – **storage room**  
farthing (305) – **one-fourth of a penny or a fourthing**  
singularly lucid (306) – **unusually and remarkably understand-  
able or intelligible**  
palpitating (306) – **trembling, shaking, or quivering**  
blackguard (306) – **person who lacks morals or principles**  
astir (306) – **moving about**  
heinous (307) – **atrocious, hateful**  
reparation (307) – **something done or paid to compensate or  
make amends**

- droning (307) – **making a continuous low dull humming sound**  
singular (308) – **beyond what is ordinary or usual; remarkable**  
sounding (308) – **probing with a sound**  
planking (308) – **boards that make up a wooden floor or wall**  
tenable (308) – **rationally defensible**  
desultory (308) – **moving or jumping from one thing to another**  
thicket (308) – **dense growth of shrubbery**  
pallor (309) – **extreme or unnatural paleness**  
drawing-room (309) – **large room in which guests are entertained**  
green-grocer (310) – **vegetable seller**  
lumber-room (309) – **room for storage of bulky household items**  
diadem (310) – **crown worn as a sign of royalty**  
inscrutable (311) – **difficult to understand; impenetrable**  
carte blanche (311) – **unconditional authority**  
cravat (311) – **scarf**  
will-o'-the-wisp (311) – **elusive object**  
joint (311) – **roast**  
sideboard (311) – **dining room furniture having drawers and shelves for linens and tableware**  
sallow (312) – **sickly yellowish complexion**  
lethargy (312) – **state of sluggishness, inactivity, and apathy**  
ashen face (313) – **very pale face**  
petrified (314) – **stiff or stonelike**  
highroad (315) – **main road**  
pavement (315) – **sidewalk**  
instep (315) – **arched middle part of the human foot between the toes and the ankle**  
maxim (315) – **succinct description of a fundamental principle, general truth, or rule of conduct**  
conjecture (315) – **judgment based on inconclusive or incomplete evidence; guesswork**  
valet (316) – **man's male servant, who takes care of his clothes and performs other personal services**  
shilling (316) – **one-twentieth of a pound**  
vagabond (316) – **vagrant; tramp**  
life-preserver (316) – **club heavily weighted at the far end**  
chaffering (316) – **bargaining or haggling**

## THE ADVENTURE OF THE BERYL CORONET OPEN QUESTIONS

1. The beryl coronet would surely be among the crown jewels kept in the Tower of London. How did Holder's client remove it from that well guarded place?

**The client must have been a member of the royal family, but even so it must have been difficult and dangerous to remove the coronet from the Tower of London.**

2. Apparently nobody (Holder, the client, Holmes, or Watson) saw anything improper in pledging public property (the coronet) for a private loan. Why?

**Royalty often felt they were above and outside the law, and Holmes often thought so too. This is one example.**

3. Why did Holder think his desk at home was more secure than the safe in his bank?

**His judgment was not very sound for a person in such a responsible position. See also 4 and 6 below.**

4. With such a valuable property in his house, why would Holder discuss it with anyone including his son and niece? Couldn't he have waited and told them after the coronet had been returned?

**See 3 above.**

5. Why didn't Mary give Sir George Burnwell the case as well as the coronet? It would have been both more convenient and safer.

**Mary was not a seasoned criminal and probably never thought of it. Sir George Burnwell must have been quite angry with her later.**

6. On page 303 Holder's client said "... any injury to it (the coronet) would be almost as serious as its complete loss". Why then would Holder say, "I am saved! I am saved!" (page 313) when Holmes returned the damaged piece?

**See 3 above.**

## THE ADVENTURE OF THE BERYL CORONET SIMPLE QUIZ\*

1. The man who received the stolen coronet when it was handed through the window was

- a. Francis Prosper
- b. Sir George Burnwell
- c. Arthur Pinner
- d. none of the above

2. On the day of the theft the weather was

- a. rainy and foggy
- b. snowy
- c. warm and sunny
- d. none of the above

3. The stolen coronet was

- a. returned in its original condition
- b. returned but broken
- c. never returned
- d. none of the above

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\* 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 ADVENTURE OF THE BERYL CORONET INTERMEDIATE QUIZ<sup>#</sup>

1. What was the name of the waiting-maid who might have heard Alexander Holder tell his son and niece about the beryl coronet?
  - a. Mary Barr
  - b. Lucy Parr
  - c. Helen Starr
  - d. none of the above
  
2. How old was Mary Holder when her father died and she went to live with her uncle?
  - a. 10
  - b. 17
  - c. 19
  - d. none of the above
  
3. What was the name of Alexander Holder's residence?
  - a. Briarbae
  - b. Fairbank
  - c. The Myrtles
  - d. none of the above
  
4. What article of George Burnwell's cast-off clothing did Holmes purchase?
  - a. his shoes
  - b. his coat
  - c. his hat
  - d. none of the above

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<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 ADVENTURE OF THE BERYL CORONET ADVANCED QUIZ<sup>&</sup>

1. What key did Alexander Holder's son say would open his father's bureau?
  - a. the key to the front door
  - b. the key to the box room
  - c. the key to lock the windows
  - d. none of the above
  
2. How many requests, in total, for money had Arthur Holder made of his father that month?
  - a. one
  - b. two
  - c. three
  - d. none of the above
  
3. Which one of the following did Alexander Holder NOT call his son?
  - a. blackguard
  - b. cheat
  - c. liar
  - d. thief
  
4. Where did Mary Holder leave the note for her uncle?
  - a. on his bureau
  - b. on the dining room table
  - c. on the hall table
  - d. none of the above

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<sup>&</sup> 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  |

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| 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  |