

A STUDY GUIDE TO SHERLOCK HOLMES

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The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes
Adventure XVII -- The
Adventure of the Yellow Face

THE YELLOW FACE DATE OF THE ADVENTURE*

(Holmes unmasked the little girl)

CLUES:

1. Grant Munro said, "I am a married man and have been so for three years." (353)
2. Effie Munro received an estate of £4,500 (353) when her first husband, John Hebron, died. It usually takes about one year to settle an estate.
3. Effie "... had been six months at Pinner ..." (353) before she met Grant Munro. Assuming Effie had lived six months in England before meeting Grant Munro implies Effie had lived in England for one year.
4. John Hebron died of yellow fever. (353)
5. There was an epidemic of yellow fever in New Orleans in 1878.
6. Watson said that it was "... in early spring ..." (351)
7. Grant Munro said "... last Monday ... I suddenly became aware that a face ... was looking at me out of one of the upper windows" in the cottage. (354)
8. Grant Munro said, "I should have gone to the City (the next) day ... ", but instead he went for a walk and "... the door (of the cottage) suddenly opened and my wife walked out." (356)
9. Munro said, "For two days after this I stayed home, ..." (357)
10. The following day Munro said he entered the empty cottage and added, "That was yesterday ..." (358)
11. April 1, 1883 was Saturday.

*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.

CONCLUSIONS:

- A. 1, 2, and 3 imply that John Hebron died five years before the adventure took place
- B. A, 4 and 5 imply that the adventure took place in 1883.
- C. 6 implies it was about the second week of spring, that is, between March 28 and April 4.
- D. 7 and 8 imply that Grant Munro didn't go to the City on Tuesday.
- E. D and 9 imply that Munro stayed home on Wednesday and Thursday
- F. E and 10 imply that Munro entered the cottage on Friday.
- G. F and 10 imply that the day on which Munro spoke to Holmes was Saturday.
- H. B, C, G and 11 imply that it was Saturday, April 1, 1883

Holmes unmasked the little girl on Saturday, April 1, 1883

THE YELLOW FACE VOCABULARY WORDS

- bestirred (351) – **became active**
- the Park (351) – **Hyde Park**
- amber (351) – **a hard, translucent, yellow, orange, or brownish-yellow fossil resin**
- seven and sixpence (351) – **7 ½ shillings; 3/8 of a pound**
- charred (352) – **scorched; made black from burning**
- wideawake (352) – **a soft broad-brimmed felt hat**
- tether (353) – **extent or limit of one's endurance**
- incognito (353) – **having a concealed identity**
- hop merchant (353) – **someone who sells hops, which are what adds the characteristic bitter taste to beer**
- villa (353) – **country estate with a substantial house**
- livid (355, 357, 359, 361) – **ashen or pallid**
- gaunt (355) – **thin and bony**
- churlish (355) – **having a bad disposition; surly**
- mantle (355, 356) – **a loose, sleeveless coat worn over outer garments; a cloak**
- remonstrance (355) – **objection**
- furtively (355) – **stealthily; appearing to have hidden motives**
- venomous (356) – **malicious; spiteful**
- the City (356) – **financial district of London**
- Crystal Palace (356) – **a large, mostly glass construction built in Hyde Park, London by John Paxton for the Great Exhibition in 1851; moved to Sydenham in 1854 where Grant Munro would have visited it; torn down in 1941 because it was an air raid target during World War II**
- entreaty (356, 360) – **pleading**
- surmise (359) – **to infer something without sufficiently conclusive evidence**
- highroad (360) – **main road**
- devoid (361) – **completely lacking**

THE YELLOW FACE OPEN QUESTIONS

1. Why did Grant Munro's wife refer to him as 'Jack'?

Jack was probably a pet name that Effie used; perhaps connected with his middle name.

2. What is unusual about Grant Munro usually returning home on the 3:36 train (page 357)?

It must have meant that Grant Munro had a very short workday.

3. Effie Munro said that she married a man of African descent in Atlanta (361). How can you tell that she was lying?

In the late 19th century interracial marriages were illegal in Georgia.

4. Grant Munro said, "... there was a great fire at Atlanta shortly after his (John Hebron's) death ... " (page 358). Apparently Effie Munro had told him this. What is wrong with Munro's statement?

There has been no great fire in Atlanta since the US Civil War and that occurred more than 10 years before Effie's marriage to John Hebron.

5. Effie Munro says, "... little Lucy is darker far than ever her father was." (page 361). What is wrong with this statement?

Genetically, if one parent is white and one parent is black, the offspring usually is lighter skinned than the black parent.

6. In view of the answers to questions 3, 4, and 5 above, what do you think of Effie Munro's explanation of her past?

It sounds like Effie lied again and again. Remember, however, her background. She had been married to a black man in the South and had become accustomed to hatred and rejection if she told the truth to anyone.

THE YELLOW FACE SIMPLE QUIZ*

1. What nationality was Effie Munro?
 - a. British
 - b. American
 - c. French
 - d. none of the above

2. What kind of person was hiding behind the yellow face?
 - a. an escaped criminal
 - b. the mistress of Grant Munro
 - c. a little girl
 - d. none of the above

3. What happened to Grant and Effie Munro at the end of the story?
 - a. they were divorced
 - b. they went their separate ways
 - c. they lived happily together
 - 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 YELLOW FACE INTERMEDIATE QUIZ[#]

1. What was John Hebron's profession?
 - a. doctor
 - b. lawyer
 - c. stock broker
 - d. none of the above

2. What did Grant Munro leave behind in the rooms on Baker Street?
 - a. his cane
 - b. his pipe
 - c. his watch
 - d. none of the above

3. What name did Effie use when speaking to her husband?
 - a. Grant
 - b. Jim
 - c. Jack
 - d. none of the above

4. How had Effie's papers in Atlanta been destroyed?
 - a. in a fire
 - b. in a flood
 - c. they were stolen
 - 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 YELLOW FACE ADVANCED QUIZ[&]

1. What did Holmes say had perhaps more individuality than a pipe?
 - a. knees of trousers
 - b. hats and canes
 - c. watches and bootlaces
 - d. none of the above

2. Where did Grant Munro keep his watch at night?
 - a. on the table beside his bed
 - b. under his pillow
 - c. on the top of his dresser
 - d. none of the above

3. When Effie came to England with whom did she first live?
 - a. a friend of Grant Munro
 - b. a maiden aunt
 - c. a friend of hers from America
 - d. none of the above

4. What was Grant Munro's occupation?
 - a. wine importer
 - b. banker
 - c. hop merchant
 - 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

QUESTION	1	2	3	4
Silver Blaze				
Simple	c	b	d	xx
Intermediate	c	a	a	b
Advanced	c	c	b	a
The Yellow Face				
Simple	b	c	c	xx
Intermediate	b	b	c	a
Advanced	c	b	b	c
Stock-Broker's Clerk				
Simple	a	b	c	xx
Intermediate	c	c	a	a
Advanced	a	a	b	b
'Gloria Scott'				
Simple	b	b	a	xx
Intermediate	b	a	b	c
Advanced	c	c	a	c
Musgrave Ritual				
Simple	b	d	a	xx
Intermediate	b	a	a	c
Advanced	a	b	c	a
Reigate Puzzle				
Simple	c	b	b	xx
Intermediate	a	c	b	c
Advanced	b	a	c	b
Crooked Man				
Simple	b	b	a	c
Intermediate	b	a	c	c
Advanced	c	d	a	b
Resident Patient				
Simple	c	b	c	xx
Intermediate	c	a	b	d
Advanced	b	c	c	a

Answers to Quizzes

QUESTION	1	2	3	4
Greek Interpreter				
Simple	b	c	c	xx
Intermediate	b	c	b	a
Advanced	c	a	b	b
Naval Treaty				
Simple	c	a	b	xx
Intermediate	b	a	c	a
Advanced	c	b	c	b
Final Problem				
Simple	c	b	c	xx
Intermediate	b	c	c	a
Advanced	a	a	b	b