

# A STUDY GUIDE TO SHERLOCK HOLMES

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**The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes  
Adventure XXIV -- The  
Adventure of the Greek  
Interpreter**

# THE GREEK INTERPRETER DATE OF THE ADVENTURE\*

(Escape of Latimer and Kemp)

## CLUES:

1. “It was a summer evening ... “ (435)
2. “It was almost dark ... “ (444)
3. Watson was not yet married.
4. Watson was married late in 1888 or early in 1889
5. Mycroft says “I hear of Sherlock everywhere since you became his chronicler.” (437)
6. *A Study in Scarlet* was published in December 1887.
7. “This is Wednesday evening ... “ (438)
8. Mycroft always left the Diogenes Club at “... twenty to eight” (436) which must have been the time he left to take a cab to 221B Baker Street.
9. Shortly after Mycroft arrived at 221B Baker Street Holmes, Watson and Mycroft rode back to Mr. Melas’s rooms (444).
10. It was “almost dark” when Holmes, Watson, and Mycroft arrived at Mr. Melas’s rooms (444).
11. The only Wednesdays in the summer of 1888 on which sunset was between 7:00 pm and 7:30 pm were August 15 and August 22.
12. It was “... half past (ten) (when) the four of us alighted on the Beckenham platform” (444).
13. “A drive of half a mile brought us to the Myrtles” (444).
14. When Holmes, Watson and Mycroft reached The Myrtles, they saw wheel tracks “in the light of the gate lamp.” (444)
15. There was a full moon and a clear sky on August 22, 1888.

\*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 and 2 imply it was late summer.
- B. 3 and 4 imply it was before 1889
- C. 5 and 6 imply it was after 1887
- D. B and C imply it was 1888
- E. A, D, and 7 imply it was Wednesday in the summer of 1888
- F. 8 and 9 imply Holmes, Watson, and Mycroft arrived at Mr. Melas's rooms at about 8 pm.
- G. F and 10 imply that sunset was between 7:00 pm and 7:30 pm
- H. E, G, and 11 imply it was August 15 or August 22
- I. 12 and 13 imply that they arrived at The Myrtles at about 11 pm
- J. 14 implies that there was no bright moonlight
- K. I, J, and 15 imply it was not August 22.
- L. H and K imply it was August 15.

**Latimer and Kemp escaped on Wednesday, August 15, 1888**

## THE GREEK INTERPRETER VOCABULARY WORDS

- reticence (435) – **unwillingness**
- desultory (435) – **fitful, disconnected, lacking in consistency**
- spasmodic (435) – **intermittent. sudden, abnormal muscular contraction,**
- obliquity of the ecliptic (435) – **angle between the Earth's equator and the great circle which the sun describes in its annual course across the sky**
- atavism (435) – **recurrence in a descendent of characteristics of a remote ancestor**
- singular (435, 437, 441, 446) – **beyond what is ordinary or usual; remarkable**
- country squire (435) – **lord of a country manor**
- Vernet (435) – **Émile Jean Horace Vernet (1789 – 1863)  
French painter of martial pieces**
- dilettante (436) – **dabbler**
- corpulent (436) – **large, bulky**
- introspective (436) – **examining one's own intellectual or emotional state**
- bow-window (437) – **window that projects outward from the building in the shape of the arc of a circle**
- billiard-marker (437) – **man who attends to billiard players and records the progress of the games**
- ammunition boots (437) – **boots issued to army personnel below the rank of officer**
- sapper (437) – **trench digger, small person, digs tunnels**
- sticking plaster (438, 440, 445) – **band-aid**
- bludgeon (438) – **short club loaded with lead at one end**
- rasping (439) – **grating sound**
- causeway (439) – **raised roof or path**

- emaciated (440, 441, 445) – **abnormally thin**  
sovereign (441) – **gold coin worth 1 £**  
peaky (441) – **sickly**  
sallow (441) – **pale, sickly, yellowish color**  
St. Vitus's dance (441) – **acute chorea, irregular involuntary  
contractions of muscles**  
inexorable (441) – **not capable of being persuaded by pleading**  
heathy common (441) – **public area covered only with low  
shrubs including heather**  
mottled (441) – **spotted or blotched**  
furze-bushes (441) – **low growing bushes**  
railway porter (442) – **attendant at a railway station**  
conjecture (443) – **judgment based on inconclusive or incom-  
plete evidence**  
hansom (443) – **two-wheeled, one horse carriage seating two  
with the driver mounted behind and reins  
going over the roof of the hood; invented by  
J. A. Hansom, a Yorkshire architect who  
patented the cab in 1834**  
J pen (443) – **broad pointed, steel pointed desk pen with the  
nose of the point curved up so that it resem-  
bles the letter J**  
four-wheeler (444) – **carriage with four wheels**  
Japanese mail (445) – **Japanese suit of armor**  
livid (445) – **black and blue**  
brazen (445) – **brass**  
life preserver (445) – **a bludgeon; short club loaded with lead  
at end**  
mesmeric (446) – **hypnotic**  
blanched (446) – **extremely pale**  
imprudently (446) – **unwisely**  
coachman (446) – **driver of a horse drawn carriage**  
Buda-Pesth (446) – **Budapest, Hungary**

## THE GREEK INTERPRETER OPEN QUESTIONS

1. How did Latimer and Kemp know that they needed to escape from the Myrtles (444)?

**Did Mycroft warn them? Did Sherlock want them to escape? See also 4. below.**

2. Surely Sherlock and Mycroft both realized that they had signed Mr. Melas's death warrant with the advertisement (442). Why then did they place the ad?

**Were the two brothers in such competition that they were willing to risk the lives of others to best each other?**

3. Why didn't Latimer and Kemp pick up on Mr. Melas's trick of adding to the questions especially when there were replies of 'Kratides' and 'Athens'?

**Good question.**

4. Mycroft passed Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson on his way to Baker Street (443). Why didn't he stop to offer them a ride?

**See response to 2. above.**

5. Who sent the news clipping from Budapest (446)?

**Mycroft who read foreign press regularly.**

## THE GREEK INTERPRETER SIMPLE QUIZ\*

1. Mycroft Holmes lived
  - a. in quiet rooms on Pall Mall
  - b. just opposite from the Diogenes Club
  - c. just opposite from 10 Downing Street
  - d. none of the above
  
2. Mr. Melas lived
  - a. across the street from Sherlock Holmes
  - b. in rooms in the Diogenes Club
  - c. in rooms above Mycroft Holmes
  - d. none of the above
  
3. How was Paul Kratides related to Sophie Kratides?
  - a. He was her husband
  - b. He was her father
  - c. He was her brother
  - d. They were not related

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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 GREEK INTERPRETER INTERMEDIATE QUIZ<sup>#</sup>

1. Mycroft was how many years older than his brother Sherlock?
  - a. five years
  - b. seven years
  - c. eight years
  - d. none of the above
  
2. What did Paul Kratides have on his face?
  - a. a gag
  - b. a large bandage
  - c. sticking plasters
  - d. none of the above
  
3. What was the name of the place where Paul Kratides was kept prisoner?
  - a. the Beckenham
  - b. the Myrtles
  - c. the Brixton
  - d. none of the above
  
4. What was the name of the Scotland Yard detective in this adventure?
  - a. Gregson
  - b. Lestrade
  - c. Hopkins
  - 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 GREEK INTERPRETER ADVANCED QUIZ &

1. Between what two times could Mycroft Holmes always be found at the Diogenes Club?
  - a. from half past four till six
  - b. from five till six thirty
  - c. from quarter to five till twenty to eight
  - d. none of the above
  
2. Who was the culprit in the Manor House Case?
  - a. Adams
  - b. Anderson
  - c. Latimer
  - d. none of the above
  
3. What did the Buda-Pesth newspaper report had happened to the two Englishmen who had been travelling with a woman?
  - a. they had fallen from the train
  - b. they had been stabbed
  - c. they had been shot
  - d. none of the above
  
4. On what day of the week did Sherlock Holmes first meet Mr. Melas?
  - a. Monday
  - b. Wednesday
  - c. Thursday
  - d. none of the above

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& 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
<b>Silver Blaze</b>				
Simple	c	b	d	xx
Intermediate	c	a	a	b
Advanced	c	c	b	a
<b>The Yellow Face</b>				
Simple	b	c	c	xx
Intermediate	b	b	c	a
Advanced	c	b	b	c
<b>Stock-Broker's Clerk</b>				
Simple	a	b	c	xx
Intermediate	c	c	a	a
Advanced	a	a	b	b
<b>'Gloria Scott'</b>				
Simple	b	b	a	xx
Intermediate	b	a	b	c
Advanced	c	c	a	c
<b>Musgrave Ritual</b>				
Simple	b	d	a	xx
Intermediate	b	a	a	c
Advanced	a	b	c	a
<b>Reigate Puzzle</b>				
Simple	c	b	b	xx
Intermediate	a	c	b	c
Advanced	b	a	c	b
<b>Crooked Man</b>				
Simple	b	b	a	c
Intermediate	b	a	c	c
Advanced	c	d	a	b
<b>Resident Patient</b>				
Simple	c	b	c	xx
Intermediate	c	a	b	d
Advanced	b	c	c	a

Answers to Quizzes

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