

A STUDY GUIDE TO SHERLOCK HOLMES

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**The Return of Sherlock Holmes
Adventure XXXII -- The
Adventure of the Priory School**

THE PRIORY SCHOOL DATE OF ADVENTURE*

(Date when the Duke of Holderness wrote a check to Holmes)

CLUES:

1. Holmes's encyclopedia reports that the Duke of Holderness was 'Lord Lieutenant of Hallamshire since 1900'. (539)
2. Dr. Huxtable says, "He (Lord Saltire) was last seen on the night of May 13th ... last Monday ..." (540)
3. The years in which May 13 was Monday include 1901, 1907, and 1912.
4. Holmes retired from active practice in 1903. (1071, 1080)
5. Dr. Huxtable says, "... now, on Thursday morning, we are as ignorant as we were on Tuesday." (541)
6. Holmes and Watson arrived at the Priory School on the same evening that Dr. Huxtable visited 221B Baker Street.
7. The night when Holmes and Watson arrived at the Priory School Holmes says, "... I will call you early to-morrow morning ..." (547)
8. Watson says, "At eleven o'clock next morning my friend and I were walking up ... (to) ... Holderness Hall." (553)

*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 implies the year was 1901 or later.
- B. A, 2 and 3 imply Lord Saltire disappeared on Monday, May 13, 1901 or 1907 or 1912
- C. B and 4 imply Lord Saltire disappeared on Monday, May 12, 1901
- D. 5 and 6 imply that Holmes and Watson arrived at the Priory School on Thursday
- E. 7 and 8 imply that the Duke of Holderness wrote the check on the following Saturday
- F. C and E imply that the Duke of Holderness wrote the check on Saturday, May 18, 1901

**The Duke of Holderness wrote the check for Holmes on
Saturday, May 18, 1901**

THE PRIORY SCHOOL VOCABULARY WORDS

- pompous (539) – **excessive self-esteem or exaggerated dignity**
hearthrug (539, 543) – **rug laid on a floor in front of a fireplace**
dolorously (539) – **exhibiting sorrow, grief, or pain**
Eton jacket (540) – **waist-length black jacket that has wide lapels and is cut square at the hips**
morose (541, 550) – **melancholy, gloomy**
red herring (543) – **something that draws attention away from the central issue**
waistcoat (543) – **a vest**
incisive (543) – **penetrating, clear, and sharp**
sonorous (544) – **producing a full, deep, or rich sound**
plover (546) – **a wading bird with a rounded body, short tail, and short bill**
curlew (546) – **a brownish, long-legged shore bird**
watercourse (547) – **natural or artificial channel through which water flows**
pallid (547) – **abnormally pale**
morass (547, 548, 550, 551) – **area of low-lying, soggy ground**
gorse (548) – **spiny shrub with fragrant yellow flowers and black pods; also called furze**
squalid (550, 551) – **dirty and wretched**
sovereign (550) – **a gold coin worth one pound**
corn-chandler (550) – **retail dealer in corn**
publican (551) – **keeper of a public house or pub**
dog-cart (553) – **a cart with two seats placed back-to-back; name is derived from box under rear seat originally used to carry dogs**
inexorable (554) – **not capable of being persuaded by entreaty; relentless**
cadaverous (554) – **emaciated; gaunt**
niggardly (554) – **scantily or meagerly**

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avidity (554) – **eagerness**

cross [as a check] (554) – **draw two vertical, parallel lines on the face of the check to signify that the check must be paid into the recipient's bank account as opposed to being cashed**

entail (557) – **specified succession of heirs**

circumlocution (557) – **unnecessarily wordy and indirect language**

culpable (557) – **deserving of blame or censure**

cloven foot (558) – **divided or cleft hoof**

THE PRIORY SCHOOL OPEN QUESTIONS

1. On page 554, Watson says, “After an hour’s delay, the great nobleman appeared.” Why did Holmes not become impatient?

The Duke, after all, was nobility, and it was not unusual for most people to be kept waiting by the nobility. Moreover, Holmes knew that the Duke was under a severe emotional strain right at that time.

2. The original reward was to be £6,000 (540). Yet on page 555 the Duke of Holderness says to Holmes, “I think twelve thousand pounds is the sum I owe you, is it not?” How can you explain this discrepancy?

It might have been a less than subtle bribe attempt. Or it might have meant that the Duke intended to reward both Holmes and Watson £6,000 each.

3. On page 558 Holmes says, “What he (Reuben Hayes) will divulge I cannot tell, but I have no doubt that your Grace could make him understand that it is to his interest to be silent.” Hayes would undoubtedly have been charged with the murder of Heidigger, the German master, and be sentenced to be hanged. What could the Duke have possibly done to dissuade a man under sentence of death from revealing the entire sordid story? After all, Hayes has said earlier, “I’ve less reason to wish the Dook well than most men for I was his head coachman once, and cruel bad he treated me. It was him that sacked me without a character on the word of a lying corn-chandler.” (551)

The Duke could offer Hayes a large sum of money that he (Hayes) could then give to his family. However, Hayes does not appear to be the sort of man who would put his family ahead of his own revenge.

THE PRIORY SCHOOL SIMPLE QUIZ*

1. What did Thorneycroft Huxtable do upon entering the sitting room at 221B Baker Street?
 - a. slump into a chair
 - b. faint
 - c. pace back and forth
 - d. none of the above

2. What was the relationship between the Duke of Holderness and James Wilder?
 - a. father and son
 - b. uncle and nephew
 - c. grandfather and grandson
 - d. none of the above

3. What happened to Heidegger?
 - a. he was asked to leave the Priory School
 - b. he was severely injured
 - c. he was killed
 - 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 PRIORY SCHOOL INTERMEDIATE QUIZ[#]

1. What did Thorneycroft Huxtable ask for when he had been revived in the sitting room at 221B Baker Street?
 - a. a glass of brandy
 - b. some water
 - c. a glass of milk and a biscuit
 - d. none of the above

2. What was the name of the Duke of Holderness's secretary?
 - a. Henry Wilder
 - b. James Wilder
 - c. John Wilder
 - d. none of the above

3. What was the name of the place where Lord Saltire was held captive?
 - a. Fighting Cock Inn
 - b. Red Bull Inn
 - c. Lower Gill Pub
 - d. none of the above

4. For how much money was the check that the Duke of Holderness wrote to Holmes?
 - a. six thousand pounds
 - b. twelve thousand pounds
 - c. twenty thousand pounds
 - 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 PRIORY SCHOOL ADVANCED QUIZ[&]

1. Which one of the following titles did the Duke of Holderness NOT hold?
 - a. Baron Beverley
 - b. Earl of Carston
 - c. Lord Lieutenant of Hallamshire
 - d. Earl of Maynooth
2. What was the architecture of the door at Holderness Hall?
 - a. Elizabethan
 - b. Georgian
 - c. Jacobean
 - d. none of the above
3. How far from the Priory School was Heidegger when he met his death?
 - a. nearly a mile
 - b. two miles
 - c. five miles
 - d. none of the above
4. What type of tires were on Heidegger's bicycle?
 - a. Dunlops
 - b. Palmers
 - c. Turners
 - 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 RETURN

QUESTION	1	2	3	4
Empty House				
Simple	c	c	c	xx
Intermediate	a	b	c	c
Advanced	c	a	a	b
Norwood Builder				
Simple	c	a	b	xx
Intermediate	a	a	b	c
Advanced	a	a	a	b
Dancing Men				
Simple	b	b	a	xx
Intermediate	b	c	a	a
Advanced	b	b	a	b
Solitary Cyclist				
Simple	a	c	c	xx
Intermediate	b	c	c	b
Advanced	b	c	a	c
Priory School				
Simple	b	a	c	xx
Intermediate	c	b	a	b
Advanced	d	a	c	b
Black Peter				
Simple	b	a	c	xx
Intermediate	b	c	b	c
Advanced	b	c	b	d
Charles Augustus Milverton				
Simple	b	a	a	xx
Intermediate	c	c	a	b
Advanced	b	c	b	a

QUESTION	1	2	3	4
Six Napoleons				
Simple	a	c	c	xx
Intermediate	b	b	c	b
Advanced	c	a	a	b
Three Students				
Simple	c	a	d	xx
Intermediate	a	b	c	b
Advanced	b	c	a	b
Golden Pince-Nez				
Simple	a	b	a	xx
Intermediate	c	c	c	a
Advanced	b	b	c	c
Missing Three-Quarter				
Simple	b	c	b	xx
Intermediate	b	a	b	c
Advanced	a	c	b	a
Abbey Grange				
Simple	a	c	c	xx
Intermediate	c	b	b	c
Advanced	b	b	a	b
Second Stain				
Simple	a	a	b	xx
Intermediate	c	a	b	c
Advanced	a	b	a	c