

A STUDY GUIDE TO SHERLOCK HOLMES

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**The Return of Sherlock Holmes
Adventure XXXIX -- The
Adventure of the Abbey
Grange**

THE ABBEY GRANGE DATE OF THE ADVENTURE*

(Date when Holmes confronted Captain James Crocker)

CLUES:

1. Watson says, “ It was on a bitter cold night and frosty morning, towards the end of the winter of '97 ...” (635)
2. Lady Brackenstall says, “ ... when we first met him (Sir Eustace Brackenstall) – only eighteen months ago ... it was July” (645)
3. Hopkins says, “The crime was committed before twelve last night.” (636)
4. Theresa Wright says, “I saw three men in the moonlight[#] ... It was more than an hour after that I heard my mistress scream ...” (639)
5. In January 1897 the moon rose before 11 pm from January 23 to the end of the month.
6. January 1897 was cloudy on all nights in January up to and including January 21.
7. Holmes entered the case on the day following the murder.
8. Watson says, “ ... we could dimly see the occasional figure of an early workman as he passed us, ...” (636) on the day Holmes entered the case.
9. January 24, 1897 was on Sunday.
10. Holmes confronted Captain Crocker on the evening of the day he (Holmes) entered the case.

*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.

[#] While Theresa Wright lied and did not see any men, her lie would have been discovered by the police if there has not been any moonlight on the night in question.

CONCLUSIONS:

- A. 1 and 2 imply it was January of 1897.
- B. 3 and 4 imply that the moon was visible before 11 pm on the night of the murder.
- C. B and 5 imply that the murder was committed in 1897 on January 23 or earlier.
- D. B and 6 imply the murder was in 1897 on January 22 or later.
- E. C and D imply the murder was on January 22 or 23, 1897.
- F. E and 7 imply Holmes entered the case on either January 23 or 24, 1897.
- G. 8 implies the date Holmes entered the case was not Sunday.
- H. 9 and G imply the date Holmes entered the case was not January 24, 1897.
- I. F and H imply the date Holmes entered the case was Saturday, January 23, 1897.
- J. I and 9 imply Holmes confronted Captain Crocker on Saturday, January 23, 1897.

**Holmes confronted Captain Crocker on
Saturday, January 23, 1897**

THE ABBEY GRANGE VOCABULARY WORDS

- opalescent (636) – **having a milky iridescence like that of an opal**
- fashion of Palladio (637) – **style of architecture characterized by arches supported by small columns which are framed between larger columns and named after the Italian architect, Andrea Palladio (1518 – 1580)**
- fortnight (637, 642) – **two weeks**
- assiduously (637) – **diligently**
- French window (638, 639, 641, 646) – **pair of windows extending to the floor and opening in the middle**
- blackthorn cudgel (638) – **short, heavy stick made from the branch of a thorny, deciduous shrub that sprouts white flowers and small, bluish-black, plumlike fruits**
- sideboard (639, 641) – **piece of dining room furniture having drawers and shelves for linens and Tableware; a buffet**
- abstruse (639) – **difficult to understand**
- hearthrug (640) – **rug laid on a floor in front of a fireplace**
- aquiline (640) – **eagle-like**
- foppish (640) – **like a man who is preoccupied about his clothes and manners**
- decanter (640, 641, 644) – **vessel into which wine is poured into so that the sediment is not disturbed**
- plate (641) – **household articles covered with a precious metal such as silver or gold**

beeswing (641, 643) – **shining, filmy crust formed in port and some other wines and named for its resemblance to bees' wings**

de novo (642) – **anew**

edifices (643) – **buildings of imposing appearance or size**

baronet (643) – **hereditary knight, title invented by James I to pay for the settlement of Ulster: lowest hereditary British title**

Waterloo (644) – **battle in which Napoleon was defeated (June 18, 1815) and which led to Napoleon's downfall**

Marengo (644) – **battle in which Napoleon soundly defeated the Austrians (June 14, 1800)**

taciturn (644) – **almost always silent**

amiability (644) – **friendliness; easy to get along with**

morning-room (645) – **room used as a sitting room in the early part of the day**

foment (645) – **apply warm liquids to**

impudent (645) – **impertinent**

pith (646) – **essential or central part**

welted (649) – **lashed or struck in a way that produced a ridge or bump on the skin**

Vox populi, vox Dei (650) – **The voice of the people is the voice of God**

THE ABBEY GRANGE OPEN QUESTIONS

1. Holmes says, "Hopkins has called me in seven times, ..."
" (636) Watson has recorded only three of those cases.
What are they?

"The Adventure of Black Peter"

"The Adventure of the Golden Pince-Nez"

"The Adventure of the Missing Three-Quarter"

2. On page 644 Holmes give us two clues about his own height.
What height was Sherlock Holmes?

**Holmes says the killer was, "Six foot three in height, ... ".
Later Holmes says, " ... he (the killer) is at least three inches
a bigger man than I." Therefore, Holmes was at most six
feet tall.**

3. After Holmes has accused Watson of sensationalizing his
(Holmes's) cases, Watson replies, "Why do you not write
them yourself?" To which Holmes responds, "I will, my dear
Watson, I will." (636) What are the cases that Holmes him-
self wrote?

"The Adventure of the Blanched Soldier"

"The Adventure of the Lion's Mane"

4. Holmes allowed Captain Jack Crocker to go free. In addition to Captain Crocker, there were three other offenders that Holmes allowed to go free. Can you name these three men or the three adventures in which they appeared?

James Ryder in “The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle”

James Wilder in “The Adventure of the Priory School”

Dr. Leon Sterndale in “The Adventure of the Devil’s Foot”

THE ABBEY GRANGE SIMPLE QUIZ*

1. Who killed Sir Eustace Brackenstall?
 - a. James Crocker
 - b. the Randall gang
 - c. Theresa Wright, Lady Brackenstall's maid
 - d. none of the above

2. What was the Abbey Grange?
 - a. an organization
 - b. a town
 - c. a residence
 - d. none of the above

3. What happened to Captain James Crocker at the end of the story?
 - a. he was arrested for murder
 - b. he married Lady Brackenstall
 - c. he was acquitted by Holmes
 - 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 ABBEY GRANGE INTERMEDIATE QUIZ[#]

1. How was Sir Eustace Brackenstall killed?
 - a. he fell against an iron fireplace fender
 - b. he was shot at close range
 - c. he was hit on the head with a poker
 - d. none of the above

2. How many wine glasses were found in the dining room?
 - a. two
 - b. three
 - c. four
 - d. none of the above

3. What was Lady Brackenstall's maiden name?
 - a. Mary Hunter
 - b. Mary Fraser
 - c. Theresa Wright
 - d. none of the above

4. What was the name of Lady Brackenstall's maid?
 - a. Mary Hunter
 - b. Mary Fraser
 - c. Theresa Wright
 - 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 ABBEY GRANGE ADVANCED QUIZ [&]

1. Where was the Abbey Grange?
 - a. Farnham, Surrey
 - b. Marsham, Kent
 - c. Donnithorpe, Norfolk
 - d. none of the above

2. What monogram appeared on the letter Stanley Hopkins wrote to Holmes?
 - a. S. H.
 - b. E. B.
 - c. A. G.
 - d. none of the above

3. At the time of the story, how long had the Brackenstalls been married?
 - a. about a year
 - b. a year and one-half
 - c. a little more than two years
 - d. none of the above

4. What did Sir Eustace Brackenstall do to his wife's dog?
 - a. beat it to death
 - b. set it on fire
 - c. tortured it by sticking needles into its ears
 - 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