

A STUDY GUIDE TO SHERLOCK HOLMES

By William S. Dorn



The Casebook of Sherlock
Holmes
Adventure LI -- The
Adventure of the
Creeping Man

THE CREEPING MAN
DATE OF THE ADVENTURE*
(Date of final attack on Professor Presbury
by his wolfhound, Roy)

CLUES:

1. Watson says, “ ... It was one Sunday evening early in September of the year 1903 ... “ (1071)
2. The Sundays in September 1903 were the 6th, 13th, 20th, and 27th.
3. When he visited 221B Baker Street, Trevor Bennett says that he saw the professor creeping down the hallway “...night before last – that is, September 4th.” (1074)
4. Watson says, “Monday morning found us on our way to (Camford) ... “ (1076)
5. Watson says, “ ... on the following Monday evening I had a short note asking me to meet him (Holmes) next day at the train.” (1079)
6. Upon arrival Holmes says, “ ... we shall, I think, come to some conclusion to-night” (1080)

*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 it was early in September 1903
- B. A, 2, and 3 imply that Bennett saw the professor creeping down the hallway on Friday, September 4, 1903
- C. B and 4 imply that Watson and Holmes first visited Camford on Monday, September 7, 1903
- D. C and 5 imply that Watson and Holmes next visited Camford on Monday, September 14, 1903
- E. D and 6 imply that the attack by Roy took place the night of Monday, September 14, 1903

The final attack on Professor Presbury by his wolfhound, Roy, was on Monday, September 14, 1903

THE CREEPING MAN VOCABULARY WORDS

- whetstone (1071) – **a hard, fine-grained stone for honing tools**
- bedstead (1071) – **frame supporting a bed**
- staid (1972) – **sedate dignity**
- furtive (1073) – **stealthily; surreptitiously**
- E.C. (1073) – **abbreviation for 'Eastern Central', the post office district where most stock brokering offices were located**
- canula (1073) – **flexible tube that is inserted into a bodily cavity to drain fluid or administer a substance such as a medication**
- lumbago (1074) – **painful condition of the lower back resulting from muscle strain or a slipped disk**
- irascible (1076) – **prone to outbursts of temper; easily angered**
- wistaria (1076) – **also spelled 'wisteria'; climbing woody vine with purplish or white flowers**
- grizzled (1076) – **streaked with or partly gray**
- horn glasses (1076) – **also horn-rimmed glasses; eye glasses with frames that are amber or dark in color**
- sanctum (1076) – **private place where one is free from intrusion**
- asperity (1077) – **toughness or harshness**
- ignoble (1078) – **not noble in quality, character, or purpose; base or mean**
- ken (1080) – **perception; understanding**
- scudding (1080) – **running or skimming along swiftly and easily**
- falsetto (1081) – **voice marked by artificially produced tones in an upper register beyond the normal range especially of a tenor**

carotid artery (1081) – **one of the two large arteries which carry blood from the aorta to the head and brain**

phial (1082) – **vial**

langur (1082) – **slender, long-tailed Asian monkeys of the genus *Presbytis* that eat leaves, fruits, and seeds and have a chin tuft and bushy eyebrows; note the similarity between the professor's name, Presbury, and the genus of the langur, *Presbytis*, note also that the professor had shaggy brows (1076)**

cesspool (1083) – **a covered hole or pit for receiving drainage or sewage**

THE CREEPING MAN SOME OPEN QUESTIONS

1. Holmes tells us that Bennett's given name is Trevor (1072). Yet his fiancée, Edith Presbury, refers to him as 'Jack' (1075). How can you reconcile these two conflicting statements?

Recall that while Dr. Watson's name was John H. Watson, in "The Man with the Twisted Lip" his wife refers to him as James. (230) It often is the case that wives, and fiancées, have pet names for their husbands, and fiancés, and that those pet names are connected with the man's middle name. Perhaps Bennett's name was Trevor John Bennett and his fiancée preferred to use Jack. Or it may be that Bennett's father's name was also Trevor Bennett so his family resorted to calling him Jack because his middle name was John.

2. Holmes tells Watson, "A dog reflects the family life" and then goes on to give several examples. Do you accept the claim made by Holmes about dogs and the families with which they live?

There are people who claim that dogs and their masters look alike which is less likely than Holmes's claim. After all, some behavior – some would claim all behavior – is learned.

THE CREEPING MAN SIMPLE QUIZ*

1. Trevor Bennett was Professor Presbury's
 - a. butler
 - b. secretary
 - c. son-in-law
 - d. none of the above

2. On occasion Trevor Bennett was called
 - a. Benny
 - b. Jack
 - c. Tom
 - d. none of the above

3. Professor Presbury was trying to act and feel younger by taking
 - a. extract of bee pollen
 - b. illegal drugs
 - c. serum from a monkey-like animal
 - 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 CREEPING MAN INTERMEDIATE QUIZ[#]

1. Holmes observed that Professor Presbury's knuckles were
 - a. bandaged
 - b. scraped sore
 - c. thick and horny
 - d. none of the above

2. What was the name of the university where Professor Presbury lectured?
 - a. Camford
 - b. Oxbridge
 - c. Cambridge
 - d. Oxford
 - e. none of the above

3. What was the name of Professor Presbury's dog?
 - a. Jack
 - b. Pablo
 - c. Roy
 - d. none of the above

4. Watson says, "A moment later we were actually in his (Professor Presbury's) sanctum ... ". What is the meaning of 'sanctum' in this sentence?
 - a. holy place
 - b. private place
 - c. library
 - 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 CREEPING MAN ADVANCED QUIZ[&]

1. Which one of the following was NOT one of the types of dogs mentioned in this story?
 - a. dangerous dog
 - b. sad dog
 - c. snarling dog
 - d. vicious dog

2. How old was Professor Presbury at the time the adventure took place?
 - a. 61
 - b. 67
 - c. 75
 - d. 82

3. At what time of day did Professor Presbury deliver his lectures?
 - a. 10 am
 - b. 11 am
 - c. 2 pm
 - d. whenever he happened to arrive at the university

4. What was the name of the person in Prague who sent the serum of the black-faced langur to Professor Presbury?
 - a. Dorak
 - b. Grafensberg
 - c. Lowenstein
 - 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 CASEBOOK

QUESTION	1	2	3	4
Illustrious Client				
Simple	c	a	b	xx
Intermediate	b	c	b	a
Advanced	c	a	b	c
Blanched Soldier				
Simple	a	a	b	xx
Intermediate	b	c	b	a
Advanced	b	a	b	c
Mazarin Stone				
Simple	c	a	c	xx
Intermediate	c	c	b	a
Advanced	a	b	b	c
Three Gables				
Simple	b	b	c	xx
Intermediate	b	b	c	b
Advanced	b	c	a	b
Sussex Vampire				
Simple	b	c	b	xx
Intermediate	b	b	c	c
Advanced	a	b	c	c
Three Garridebs				
Simple	a	a	b	xx
Intermediate	b	b	a	a
Advanced	b	a	a	c

QUESTION	1	2	3	4
Thor Bridge				
Simple	b	a	b	xx
Intermediate	a	a	c	c
Advanced	a	b	a	b
Creeping Man				
Simple	b	b	c	xx
Intermediate	c	a	c	b
Advanced	d	a	b	c
Lion's Mane				
Simple	b	c	b	xx
Intermediate	b	b	c	a
Advanced	c	a	a	a
Veiled Lodger				
Simple	a	a	c	xx
Intermediate	c	b	b	c
Advanced	c	b	b	a
Shoscombe Old Place				
Simple	c	a	c	xx
Intermediate	b	c	a	a
Advanced	b	a	a	a
Retired Colourman				
Simple	a	a	a	xx
Intermediate	a	c	b	b
Advanced	b	c	a	b