

Sherlock Holmes

Aim: **Background to character, textual inferences, expectations.**

Insert the famous silhouette drawing of Sherlock Holmes here (plenty of images available on the internet).

1. In pairs write down anything you know about Sherlock Holmes.

Some background information

The character of Sherlock Holmes was originally created by Arthur Conan Doyle (a doctor by profession) for a story entitled 'A Study in Scarlet' for the 1887 *Beeton's Christmas Annual*.

There followed 56 short stories and 4 novels about the detective. The popularity of the **sleuth** was so great that when Doyle attempted to kill him off in order to attempt more literary writing there was such an outcry that he had to **resurrect** his character for some more stories.

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1. Who created Sherlock Holmes?
 2. When and where did Sherlock Holmes first appear?
 3. What did readers think of the stories?
 4. What was the reaction when Conan Doyle tried to "kill off" Sherlock Holmes?
 5. From this information, what expectations do you have of the stories?
 6. Write a definition for sleuth, pursue and resurrect.
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What does Sherlock Holmes look like?

"His very person and appearance were such as to strike the most casual observer. In height he was **rather over six feet**, and so excessively **lean** that he seemed to be considerably taller. His **eyes were sharp and piercing**, and his **thin, hawk-like nose** gave his whole expression an air of alertness and decision. His chin, too, had the **prominence** and **squareness**, which mark the man of determination. His hands were **blotted with ink and stained with chemicals**, yet he was possessed of extraordinary **delicacy of touch**, and I frequently had occasion to observe."

1. What makes Holmes appear even taller than he is?
2. What impact do Holmes's eyes have?
3. How does his nose make him appear alert?
4. His hands are "blotted with ink and stained with chemicals", what impression does this give of Holmes?
5. Why does Conan Doyle explain that Holmes has a "delicacy of touch"?
6. From the description explain what sort of person you expect Holmes to be. Make sure you give reasons for your ideas.
7. Write a list of 10 words to describe the character of Holmes.
8. Draw and label a picture of Holmes.