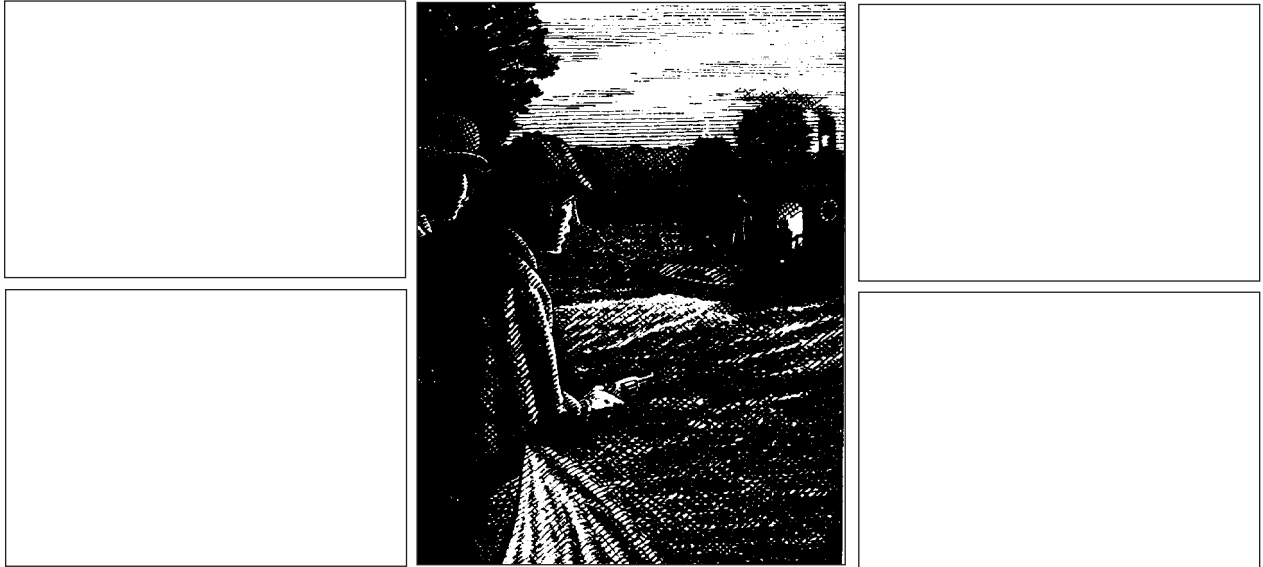


INTERMEDIATE LEVEL

The Sign of Four by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

A Before Reading

- 1 Look at the cover of the book. Ask five questions about the picture. Perhaps the story will give the answers to your questions.



- 2 What do you know about Sherlock Holmes?
(a) Explain what you know.
or (b) Ask three questions about Sherlock Holmes.

B While Reading

- 3 Read to the end of Chapter 2. What do you think is going to happen at the Lyceum Theatre in Chapter 3?
- 4 Read to the end of Chapter 8. Inspector Jones and Sherlock Holmes do not think the same things about the death of Bartholomew Sholto. What does each man write in his notebook?

| <i>Sherlock Holmes - Notes</i> |
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| <i>Inspector Jones - Notes</i> |
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5 Read to the end of Chapter 12. Now finish the story! What is going to happen next? Is the story going to have a happy ending or a sad ending? Write an exciting ending – write one more chapter.

C After Reading

6 Who are these? Draw a line between the description and the character.

- | | |
|--|---------------------------|
| (a) He was about fifty years old. He had black, curly hair and a black beard. | Toby |
| (b) ... a fat man in a grey suit. His face was red and his eyes were small and bright. | Miss Morstan |
| (c) He was wearing a bright yellow turban on his head. | Jonathan Small |
| (d) ... a small dark man. ... his head was large ... His face was hard and cruel. | Tonga |
| (e) ... an old man with grey hair and a beard. | The Indian Servant |
| (f) ... young and not very tall, with blonde hair and blue eyes. | Inspector Jones |
| (g) ... a strange little man with a bald head. | |
| (h) ... very long ears and very short legs. | Mr Sherman |

7 Choose one section of the book that you like. Re-write this section as a play. You can use the words people say in the book and make up words for them to say. You could make a tape recording of your play too.

8 You can ask any actor in the world (alive or dead!) to appear in your play. Who is going to be in your play?

| List of Characters | Actor's Names | Reason for Choosing Each Actor |
|--------------------|---------------|--------------------------------|
| | | |

*There is a cassette recording of **The Sign of Four**. And have you read the other Sherlock Holmes story at Intermediate Level – **The Speckled Band and Other Stories**?*