

ETC

ENGLISH THEATRE
COMPANY

Sherlock Holmes: The Very First Case

Play Packs 2025-2026



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Activity I: Who is Sherlock Holmes?

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- Sherlock Holmes is...
- Sherlock Holmes does...
- Sherlock Holmes usually...
- Sherlock Holmes never...
- What makes Sherlock Holmes unique as a detective?
- Why do you think his stories are still popular today?
- What do you expect from a modern stage adaptation?



Activity 2: Holmes & Doyle

Sherlock Holmes is a fictional detective [REDACTED] by Scottish author and physician Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. A [REDACTED] London-based "consulting detective", Holmes is famous [REDACTED] his astute logical reasoning, his ability [REDACTED] take almost any disguise, and [REDACTED] forensic science skills to solve difficult cases.

Holmes, [REDACTED] first appeared in publication in 1887, [REDACTED] featured in four novels and 56 short stories. The first story, A Study in Scarlet, appeared [REDACTED] Beeton's Christmas Annual in 1887. The character grew [REDACTED] in popularity with the beginning of [REDACTED] first series of short stories in Strand Magazine in 1891. The stories cover a period from [REDACTED] 1880 up to 1914.

04

All but four stories are narrated [REDACTED] Holmes's friend and biographer, Dr. John H. Watson.

WHO TREMENDOUSLY CREATED HIS
WAS THE BRILLIANT BY
TO IN FOR AROUND

Activity 3: Are These Right?



1. Sherlock Holmes' first novel was a huge success and was printed in a magazine called The Strand.
2. There would be no Sherlock Holmes books if Oscar Wilde hadn't been a fan and encouraged Doyle to continue with him.
- 05** 3. Sherlock Holmes even made the ridiculous hat, the Deerstalker", popular.
4. He is the most filmed fictional character in the world.
5. Holmes didn't deduct, he observed.
6. The Sherlock Holmes Museum is at his fictional address in 221B Baker Street in London.
7. There probably wouldn't have been the Jurassic Park films without Conan Doyle.

Activity 4: The Main Characters

06



SHERLOCK HOLMES

DR. JOHN WATSON

ANGUS

MCMACKENZIE

MORIARTY

07

MW VAN DAMNED

MRS HUDSON

MW GOOSSENS

EILIDH

MCMACKENZIE

MARY HARDY

The Scottish co-owner of the McMackenzie and Todd Hotel – Restaurant – Butchers shop

A socialite from Belgium who is Holmes first real case.

A major threat to Sherlock Holmes who reminds him of someone else.

The Scottish co-owner of the McMackenzie and Todd Hotel – Restaurant – Butchers shop.

Sherlock Holmes' dangerous antagonist who is as intelligent as Sherlock is.

The landlady of Sherlock and Watson; an opinionated but loyal friend.

The world's first consulting detective: great powers of observation.

Mw Van Damned's partner in the incident.

The friend and colleague of Sherlock Holmes. He writes about their adventures for a magazine.

- “Restaurant isn't open yet. I've brought you a wee whisky. Just need to mix in our...special herbs”.
- “I'm not their servant...who do they think they are? Tea. They want it, they don't ...”
- “Well, it all started a month ago. We were at our house in the country. It was a beautiful evening; I was wearing my new spring outfit; it had some gorgeous, green ribbands with two bows...here...”
- “I'm just a simple Belfast girl at bottom”.
- “Not quite yet, Sherlock. Remind me. What are we looking for again?”.
 - “You! Who are you looking at? Well? What? Want me to do something really clever? A deduction?”
 - “Of course. It's been years and years now since we had... an overnight visitor. Now it's just the restaurant and the shop...and our special pies. You should try a pie. Really... tasty they are”.
 - “We must strike quickly. There is no time to lose. We must go and find this brewery. And the house. That's where our adventure begins.”
 - “No, it isn't fair. Thing is I don't want to play. I want to win. So, bye -bye Sherlock. So sorry. Such a pity”
 - “Mevrouw Goossens, I'm Godelieve's sister. Her twin sister. You can probably see the resemblance”.

Activity 5: Out Of Curiosity



08

Jan 12th - A long-distance radio message is sent from the Eiffel Tower for the first time.

Jan 13th - French pilot Henry Farman is 1st European to fly roundtrip

Jan 21st - New York City regulation makes it illegal for a woman to smoke in public

Jan 24th - General Baden-Powell starts Boy-Scouts

Feb 1st - King Carlos I of Portugal and his son, Prince Luis Filipe are killed in Terreiro do Paco, Lisbon.

Feb 12th - New York to Paris car race (via Alaska & Siberia) begins in New York City. George Schuster wins after 88 days behind the wheel

Feb 27th - Oklahoma became the 46th star on the USA flag

Feb 29th - Dutch scientists produce solid helium

Mar 9th - Inter Milan is founded.

Apr 20th - 12th Boston Marathon won by Tom Morrissey of NY in 2:25:43.2

Apr 24th - Mr & Mrs Jacob Murdock become 1st to travel across US by car, they leave Los Angeles in a Packard & arrive in New York City in 32days - 5hours -25minutes

Apr 27th - 4th modern Olympic games opens in London

May 10th - 1st Mother's Day observed (Philadelphia)

May 12th - Wireless Radio Broadcasting is patented by Nathan B. Stubblefield

May 14th - 1st passenger flight in an airplane

May 21st - 1st horror movie (Dr Jekyll & Mr Hyde) premieres in Chicago

May 31st - Miss Pottelsberghe de la Pottery is 1st airplane passenger (Belgium)

09



Jun 10th - 1st flying club, Aeronautical Society of New York, opens

Jun 12th - Lusitania crosses Atlantic in record 4 days 15 hours

Jun 15th - World congress for Woman's rights opens in Amsterdam

Jul 9th - CHU (Christian Historic Union) Dutch political party forms

Jul 10th - H Kamerlingh Onnes makes helium liquid (-269°C)

Jul 19th - Feyenoord soccer team forms in Rotterdam

Jul 26th - Predecessor of the FBI is created by the Department of Justice

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Jul 30th - Around the World Automobile Race ends in Paris

Aug 12th - Ford builds the first Model T.

Aug 14th - The first beauty contest is held in Folkestone, England.

Aug 17th - Projection in Paris of the very first cartoon, *Fantasmagorie* realized by Émile Cohl.

Aug 22nd - Henri Cartier-Bresson, France, photographer born.

Sep 16th - Carriage-maker, William Durant, founded General Motors Corp



Sep 19th - Gustav Mahler's 7th Symphony, premieres in Prague

Oct 1st - 1st Dutch electric railway in use (Rotterdam-The Hague)

Oct 3rd - The Pravda newspaper founded by Leon Trotsky, Adolph Joffe, Matvey Skobelev in Vienna.

Oct 6th - Austria annexes Bosnia & Herzegovina

Oct 18th - Belgium annexes Congo Free State

Oct 20th - King Leopold II sells Congo to Belgium

Nov 14th - Albert Einstein presents quantum theory of light

Dec 5th - 1st football uniform numerals used (University of Pittsburgh)

Dec 28th - Earthquake strikes Messina, Italy (nearly 80,000 died)

Dec 29th - Patent granted for a 4-wheel automobile brake, Clintonville, Wisconsin



Which event surprises you most? Why?

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What were the 3 main news stories in your country; area; town in 1908?

Activity 6: Sherlock and Watson have “lost” some of their lines.



SHERLOCK:

1

I didn't even solve it. It wasn't interesting.

Why?

WATSON:

2

SHERLOCK:

Do you think I want to be popular?

WATSON:

3

Don't deny it!

SHERLOCK:

And this?

WATSON:

Now I didn't do that.

4

SHERLOCK:

Once! I put it on one time because it was so cold. And now there are drawings in every single story!

5

WATSON:

The people like the coat.

6

It's...dashing.

SHERLOCK:

7

Oh, hang it up, John.
Out of my sight.

It's hot, it's uncomfortable, it's ridiculous!



This is the most popular story yet, Holmes!

And anyway. It makes you look romantic.

Yes! Because you like all the work it brings with it.

Of me. Always in this coat!

And that last case you wrote about.

You wore it yourself!

Activity 7: Word Soups

Sherlock Holmes Word Soup – CEFR B1 (Intermediate)

DETECTIVE
MYSTERY
LONDON
WATSON
CLUE
SUSPECT
EVIDENCE
HAT
STREET
SOLVE
FOGGY
POLICE
SMART
CASE
FRIEND

D E T E C T I V E R M Y
L O N D O N W A T S O N
F O G G Y C L U E F R I
S T R E E T P O L I C E
S M A R T V S O L V E Q
E V I D E N C E S U S P
H A T F R I E N D C A S

• Sherlock Holmes Word Soup – CEFR B2 (Upper Intermediate)

DEDUCTION
EVIDENCE
INVESTIGATION
CULPRIT
DISGUISE
MOTIVE
CRIME
GENIUS
VIOLIN
BAKER STREET
CLUE
LOGIC
MYSTERY
PARTNER
ADVENTURE
OBSERVATION

BAKER STREET
DEDUCTION OBS
ADVENTURE LOG
VIOLIN MOTIVE
EVIDENCE GENI
SCRIMEDISGUI
INVESTIGATION
PARTNER CLUE R

• Sherlock Holmes Word Soup – CEFR C1 (Advanced)

DEDUCTION
OBSERVATION
ANALYSIS
HYPOTHESIS
INTELLECT
FORENSIC
DISGUISE
NARRATIVE
SCOTLANDYARD
INTUITION
CHEMISTRY
DECEPTION
RESOLUTION
ADVERSARY
ENIGMA
RATIOCINATION

R A T I O C I N A T I O
D E D U C T I O N H Y P
I N T U I T I O N C H E
S C O T L A N D Y A R D
A N A L Y S I S F O R E
N A R R A T I V E D E C
E N I G M A R E S O L U
I N T E L L E C T A D V

Activity 8: You Are One Of Sherlock's Client

18



It's London, 1895. You are standing nervously at 221B Baker Street. You have come to ask the world's greatest detective, Sherlock Holmes, to help you with a strange and worrying mystery.

What is your name?	
What is your occupation?	
Where do you live?	
What strange or suspicious event has happened?	
What clues have you noticed?	
Who do you suspect, and why?	
What are you afraid might happen?	
What do you want Holmes to do?	



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