

“A Scandal in Bohemia”
Literature Guide - Chapter 1

Name: _____

Directions: Explain the **significance** of each of the following quotes from Chapter 1 of “A Scandal in Bohemia.” How do these quotes fit within the story to drive the plot? How do these quotes develop character?

1. “His rooms were brilliantly lit, and, even as I looked up, I saw his tall, spare figure pass twice in a dark silhouette against the blind. He was pacing the room swiftly, eagerly, with his head sunk upon his chest and his hands clasped behind him. To me, who knew his every mood and habit, his attitude and manner told their own story. He was at work again. He had risen out of his drug-created dreams and was hot upon the scent of some new problem.” (239)

2. “I could not help laughing at the ease with which he explained his process of deduction. “When I hear you give your reasons,” I remarked, “the thing always appears to me to be so ridiculously simple that I could easily do it myself, though at each successive instance of your reasoning I am baffled until you explain your process. And yet I believe that my eyes ppare as good as yours.” (241)

3. “Quite so,” he answered, lighting a cigarette, and throwing himself down into an armchair. “You see, but you do not observe. The distinction is clear. For example, you have frequently seen the steps which lead up from the hall to this room.” “Frequently.” “How often?” “Well, some hundreds of times.” “Then how many are there?” “How many? I don’t know.” “Quite so! You have not observed. And yet you have seen. That is just my point. Now, I know that there are seventeen steps, because I have both seen and observed.” (241)

4. "A man entered who could hardly have been less than six feet six inches in height, with the chest and limbs of a Hercules. His dress was rich with a richness which would, in England, be looked upon as akin to bad taste. Heavy bands of astrakhan were slashed across the sleeves and fronts of his doublebreasted coat, while the deep blue cloak which was thrown over his shoulders was lined with flamecoloured silk and secured at the neck with a brooch which consisted of a single flaming beryl. Boots which extended halfway up his calves, and which were trimmed at the tops with rich brown fur, completed the impression of barbaric opulence which was suggested by his whole appearance. He carried a broad-brimmed hat in his hand, while he wore across the upper part of his face, extending down past the cheekbones, a black vizard mask, which he had apparently adjusted that very moment, for his hand was still raised to it as he entered. From the lower part of the face he appeared to be a man of strong character, with a thick, hanging lip, and a long, straight chin suggestive of resolution pushed to the length of obstinacy. "You had my note?" he asked. (244)

5. "I rose to go, but Holmes caught me by the wrist and pushed me back into my chair. "It is both, or none," said he. "You may say before this gentleman anything which you may say to me." (244)

6. "You are right," he cried; "I am the King. Why should I attempt to conceal it?" (245)

7. Your Majesty, as I understand, became entangled with this young person, wrote her some compromising letters, and is now desirous of getting those letters back." (246)

8. "I am about to be married." "So I have heard." "To Clotilde Lothman von Saxe-Meningen, second daughter of the King of Scandinavia. You may know the strict principles of her family. She is herself the very soul of delicacy. A shadow of a doubt as to my conduct would bring the matter to an end." "And Irene Adler?" "Threatens to send them the photograph. And she will do it. I know that she will do it. You do not know her, but she has a soul of steel. She has the face of the most beautiful of women, and the mind of the most resolute of men. Rather than I should marry another woman, there are no lengths to which she would not go—none." (247-248)

9. "Because she has said that she would send it on the day when the betrothal was publicly proclaimed. That will be next Monday." (248)

10. **Summarize** the events in Chapter 1 of "A Scandal in Bohemia." Make sure to provide events in chronological order and use transition words.

“A Scandal in Bohemia”

Name: _____

Observation & Deduction Activity

Directions: The passage below is Watson’s description of Sherlock’s visitor who arrives at 221B Baker Street seeking his help. Read the description, identify and underline the observations that Watson makes, then, make deductions about this mysterious person using the chart on the back of this page. You should use a dictionary to look up any unfamiliar words to help you fully understand the description.

"A man entered who could hardly have been less than six feet six inches in height, with the chest and limbs of a Hercules. His dress was rich with a richness which would, in England, be looked upon as akin to bad taste. Heavy bands of astrakhan were slashed across the sleeves and fronts of his double-breasted coat, while the deep blue cloak which was thrown over his shoulders was lined with flame-colored silk and secured at the neck with a brooch which so resembled a single flaming beryl. Boots which extended halfway up his calves, and which were trimmed at the tops with rich brown fur completed the the impression of barbaric opulence which was suggested by his whole appearance. He carried a broad brimmed hat in his hand, while he wore across the upper part of his face, extending down least the cheekbones, a black vizard mask, which he had apparently adjusted that very moment, for his hand was still raised as he entered. From the lower part of the face he appeared to be a man of strong character, with a

thick, hanging lip, and a long, straight chin suggestive of resolution pushed to the length of obstinacy."

Observation	Deduction

--	--

"A Scandal in Bohemia"

Name: _____

Chapter 2 Literature Guide (Part 1: pg. 249-253)

1. TONE in literature is the author's attitude towards a subject. Tone comes through in description or dialogue. Based on the following quote, what is the TONE that is created? Why?

"Indeed, apart from the nature of the investigation which my friend had on hand, there was something in his masterly grasp of a situation, and his keen, incisive reasoning, which made it a pleasure to me to study his system if works and to follow the quick, subtle methods by which he disentangled the most inextricable mysteries." (249)

2. Use a dictionary or an online dictionary to look up the word "groom." (p. 249)

What had Sherlock disguised himself as?

3. What was Sherlock able to learn about Irene Adler?

4. What is the significance of Mr. Godfrey Norton?

5. What does Sherlock observe Mr. Godfrey Norton do when he arrives at Briony Lodge?

6. After Godfrey leaves, who comes out of the lodge? In what manner?

7. Where do they go? What does Sherlock find himself doing?

8. What does Watson's response to Holmes show about his desire to be involved with the investigation? What quote shows/proves that?

"A Scandal in Bohemia"


Name: _____

Chapter 2 Literature Guide (Part 2: pg. 254-259)

1. What does Sherlock ask Watson to do when Sherlock is in the house and raises his hand?

2. What is Sherlock's second disguise? _____

Draw a picture of Sherlock and label the description that Watson gives on page 254.



3. Explain how Sherlock knew where NOT to look for the picture of Irene Adler and the King.

The picture could not be carried around with	
--	--

Irene Adler.	
The picture could not be in the possession of her banker or her lawyer.	

4. Identify the MOOD of the following passage. Underline the words/phrases that contribute to the mood.

“As he spoke the gleam of the side-lights of a carriage came up round the curve of the avenue. It was a smart little landau which rattled up to the door of Briony Lodge. As it pulled up, one of the loafing men at the corner dashed forward to open the door in the hope of earning a copper, but was elbowed away by another loafer, who had rushed up with the same intention. A fierce quarrel broke out, which was increased by the two gaurdsmen, who took sides with one of the loungers, and by two the sissors-grindter who was equally hot upon the other side. A blow was struck, and in an instant the lady who had stepped from her carriage was the centre of a little knot of flushed and struggling me, who struck savagely at each other with their fists and sticks.” (256)

Mood: _____

5. What happened to Sherlock as he ran into the quarrel? How did this help his plans?

6. What does the following quote reveal about Watson’s character?

“...but I know that I never felt more heartily ashamed of myself in my life than when I saw the beautiful creature against whom I was conspiring, or the grace and kindness with whom she waited upon the injured man....I hardened my heart, and took the smoke-rocket from under my ulster. After all, I thought, we are not injuring her. We are but preventing her from injuring another.” (257)

7. What did Sherlock reveal about the townspeople's involvement in the scene at Briony Lodge? How did Sherlock trick Irene Adler?

8. What was the purpose of the "fire"? How did Sherlock find out where the photograph was?

9. Who can you predict was the person who said "Good-night, Mister Sherlock Holmes,"?

"A Scandal in Bohemia"

Name: _____

Chapter 3 Literature Guide

1. Why does Sherlock say that he hopes that Irene Adler loves her husband?

2. What bad news does Sherlock arrive to when he, Watson and the King arrive at Briony Lodge?

3. What does Sherlock find where he had supposed the photograph was being hidden?

4. What has Irene Adler done to Sherlock? What does the letter say about the photograph?

5. “From what I have seen of the lady she seems indeed to be on a very different level to your Majesty,’ said holmes coldly.”

Interpret what Holmes means when he says this.

6. Why do you think Sherlock refers to Irene Adler as “the woman,”?

R.A.F.T. Assignment

Name: _____

For this writing assignment, you will assume the role of Irene Adler, and will write Sherlock Holmes a letter that explains why and how you were able to outsmart the world’s most famous detective. You will want to use the details from the story in your letter, but put it into your own words.

Role: Irene Adler

Audience: Sherlock Holmes

Format: Friendly letter

Task: Explain how you were able to defeat and trick Sherlock Holmes.

First, use the text to gather information that Irene gives in her original letter.

Think about the information that Irene Adler gives in her letter about...

a. Sherlock’s reputation?

b. Her ability to see through Holmes’ disguise?

c. The stranger who said “Good-Night” to Holmes?

d. Her marriage to Norton?

e. The photograph?

Your letter must be typed and printed, and should be about 1 page in length. You may choose to use a creative font, and/or appropriately decorate the page to make it look like a letter from the Victorian Era.

"Women are naturally secretive, and they like to do their own secreting." (255)

"Irene Adler, as I will still call her, had hurried up the steps; but she stood at the top with her superb figure outlined against the lights of the hall, looking back into the street," (256).

"...but I know that I never felt more heartily ashamed of myself in my life than when I saw the beautiful creature against whom I was conspiring, or the grace and kindness with whom she waited upon the injured man....I hardened my heart, and took the smoke-rocket from under my ulster. After all, I thought, we are not injuring her. We are but preventing her from injuring another." (257)

"It is true. And yet - Well! I wish she had been of my own station! What a queen she would have made!" (260)

"And that was how a great scandal threatened to affect the kingdom of Bohemia, and how the best plans of Mr. Sherlock Holmes were beaten by a woman's wit. He used to make merry over the cleverness of women, but I have not heard him do it of late. And when he speaks of Irene Adler, or when he refers to her photograph, it is always under the honourable title of *the* woman," (263)