

The Adventure of the Speckled Band - Part 3 (pages 417- 421)
Literature Guide

I: Mood Practice

Directions: Circle the BEST word that describes the mood in the following passages. Then, underline the descriptive words and phrases that created the mood.

1. "A moment later we were out on the dark road, a chill wind blowing in our faces, and one yellow light twinkling in front of us through the gloom to guide us on our sombre errand." (418)

- a. calm b. spooky c. sickly

2. "How shall I forget that dreadful vigil? I could not hear a sound, not even the drawing of a breath, and yet I knew that my companion sat open-eyed, within a few feet of me, in the same state of nervous tension which I was myself. The shutters cut off the least ray of light, and we waited in absolute darkness. (419)

- a. tense b. confused c. violent

3. "He had ceased to strike and was gazing up at the ventilator when suddenly there broke from the silence of the night the most horrible cry to which I have ever listened. It swelled up louder and louder, a hoarse yell of pain and fear and anger all mingled in the one dreadful shriek. They say that away down in the village, and even in the distant parsonage. that cry raised the sleepers from their beds. It struck cold to our hearts, and I stood gazing at Holmes, and he at me, until the last echoes of it had died away into the silence from which it rose." (420)

- a. gloomy b. lonely c. terrifying

II.) Inferencing

Infer how Watson must feel waiting in the darkness based on the following quote:

"From outside came the occasional cry of a nightbird, and once at our very window a long drawn catlike whine, we could hear the deep tones of the parish clock, which boomed out every quarter of an hour. How long they seemed, those quarters! Twelve struck, and one and two and three, and still we sat waiting silently for whatever might befall"

III.) Explain "Do not go to sleep; your very life may depend upon it. Have your pistol ready in case we should need it." (419)

Explain how this quote builds suspense.

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IV.) Identify

The climax is the emotional highpoint and usually the most suspenseful part of a story. Usually, the climax is the turning point for a story where the outcome of the conflict is revealed.

Identify the climax of *The Adventure of the Speckled Band* and explain how you know.

V.) Comprehension

What was the speckled band?
