

21L481 Victorian Literature and Culture

Sherlock Holmes readings (stories read in entirety appear in **bold**):

1. Excerpt from *A Study in Scarlet* (novel), 1887

Watson's situation when he first meets Holmes (15)
Stamford: Holmes is "too scientific" (17)
Holmes's knowledge and ignorance (21)
"The Book of Life" [cf. "The Five Orange Pips"]

2. Excerpt from *The Sign of Four* (novel), 1889 (beginning and end)

Holmes's use of cocaine: "mental exaltation"
Watson and Holmes as authors (90-91)
Watson had a brother (92)
Watson's engagement and Holmes's opposition to marriage (157-58)

3. **"The Red-Headed League," 1891**

Holmes reads Jabez Wilson's history from his appearance (177)
Copying out the *Encyclopedia Britannica*: an image of writing and knowledge
Holmes memorizes city blocks, "to have an exact knowledge of London"
Watson on Holmes's doubleness (185)
John Clay as warm-up for Moriarty?

4. Excerpt from "A Case of Identity," 1891

Fantasy of flying over London (191) [cf. Dickens, *Dombey and Son*]
Selection and discretion required for literary realism

5. Excerpt from "The Five Orange Pips," 1891

Holmes on the ideal reasoner (224-25) [link to *Study in Scarlet*]
The mind and the encyclopedia [link to "Red-Headed League"]

6. **"The Man with the Twisted Lip," 1891**

Opium addiction (vs. Holmes's cocaine)
Sinister Orientals ("Malay," "Lascar") in E. London: reverse colonization
Holmes working undercover (participant observation)
City vs. suburb
Mrs. St. Clair's form of knowledge ("sympathy") vs. Holmes's (239)
Neville St. Clair's journalism (participant observation and "going native")

7. **“The Adventure of the Speckled Band,” 1892**

Decline of an ancient family; Dr. Roylott’s resentment
Roylott’s bond with gypsies (260): mobility and criminality [cf. Mayhew]
Snake: deadly thing brought back from empire, recoils on its user

8. Excerpt from “The Resident Patient,” 1893

Holmes’s love for London: spider in web (423; cf. Moriarty, 471)
Reading Watson’s mind [link to *Study in Scarlet*, “Five Orange Pips”]

9. Excerpt from “The Final Problem,” 1893

Professor Moriarty (470-71; cf. Holmes, “filaments,” 423)
Holmes’s sense of public duty [contrast with end of “Red-Headed” (190);
also with Holmes’s complaints about there not being enough good crime]
Holmes and Moriarty face to face: *Doppelgänger* (472)

10. Excerpt from “The Adventure of the Norwood Builder,” 1903

Holmes’s lament for Moriarty (496)
Watson back at 221B Baker St. (what happened to his wife?)
Holmes’s need for Watson

11. Excerpt from “The Adventure of the Solitary Cyclist,” 1904

Watson’s and Holmes’s different reactions to Miss Smith
Holmes reads her

12. Excerpt from “The Adventure of the Bruce-Partington Plans,” 1908

London fog: opportunity for criminals, wasted
Holmes’s brother Mycroft, “the most indispensable man in the country” (914)

13. Excerpt from “His Last Bow,” 1917

[subtitled “The War Service of Sherlock Holmes”]

Not narrated by Watson (detached 3rd person)
Holmes as patriot, Christian: counter-espionage

14. **“The Adventure of the Creeping Man,” 1923**

Crime against nature; Holmes as defender of natural order (1082-83)