

# A STUDY GUIDE TO SHERLOCK HOLMES

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Adventure I -- A Study in Scarlet

**A STUDY IN SCARLET**  
**DATE OF THE ADVENTURE\***  
(Date of Drebber's Murder)

**CLUES:**

1. Watson was wounded at the Battle of Maiwand (15)
2. Battle of Maiwand was July 27, 1880
3. Watson sailed back to England on the Orontes (15)
4. The Orontes sailed from October 31, 1880 to November 26, 1880
5. Watson says the request from Gregson was on 4th of March, as I have good reason to remember (22)
6. Rance says "At one o'clock it began to rain,..." (34)
7. In 1881 there was a long dry spell in England but rain fell on March 3
8. March 1, 1881 was on Tuesday

**CONCLUSIONS:**

- A. 1, 2, 3, and 4 imply that it was after November 1880
- B. A and 5 imply the request from Gregson arrived on March 4, 1881
- C. B, 6, and 7 imply Drebber was murdered on March 3, 1881
- D. C and 8 imply the murder was on Thursday, March 3, 1881

**Drebber was murdered on Thursday, March 3, 1881**

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\*The story may contain other clues to the date of the adventure. However, use only the clues shown here. Your only goal should be to use logical reasoning to find a date based on the clues shown here.

## A STUDY IN SCARLET VOCABULARY WORDS

- Fusiliers (15) – **infantry soldiers who originally carried a fusil which was a type of flintlock rifle**
- passes (15) – **routes through the mountains**
- Jezail bullet (15) – **bullet fired from a heavy longbarrelled musket made by Asiatic natives**
- subclavian artery (15) – **principal artery of the root of the neck; found under the collar bone**
- orderly (15) – **soldier who attends to a superior officer by carrying orders or messages**
- veranda (15) – **partly enclosed porch extending along the outside of a building**
- enteric fever (15) - **typhoid**
- jetty (15) – **a structure that projects into the water to protect a harbor from storms or erosion**
- kith nor kin (15) – **friends nor relatives**
- shilling (15, 42) – **1/20th of a pound**
- private hotel (15) – **hotel not licensed to sell wine or beer**
- rusticate (16) – **live in the country**
- dresser (16) – **intern, one who dresses wounds**
- lath (16) – **thin strip of wood**
- desultory (16, 20) – **disconnected; random**
- vegetable alkaloid (17, 80, 81) – **a compound such as morphine, quinine or caffeine and derived from plants**
- malevolence (17) – **wishing harm to others**
- dun-coloured (17) – **dull, dingy grayish-brown**
- retort (17) – **laboratory vessel with an outlet tube, used for distillation, sublimation, or decomposition by heat**
- Bunsen lamp (17) – **small laboratory burner consisting of a vertical metal tube connected to a gas source**

bodkin (18) – **sharp-pointed, needle-like instrument,**  
guaiacum test (18) – **uses resin of the guaiacum tree, alcohol,  
hydrogen peroxide, and ether to test for  
the presence of haemoglobin**

linen (18) – **shirt**

score (18) – **twenty**

piece of plaster (18) – **band aid**

diggings (19) – **lodgings**

enigmatical (18) – **inexplicable; a riddle**

piquant (19) – **appealingly provocative**

portmanteau (20, 51) – **belted suitcase**

torpor (20) – **mental inactivity; lethargy; apathy**

Copernican Theory (21) – **theory that the earth and other planets  
revolve about the sun, first proposed  
by Nicholas Copernicus (1473 – 1543)**

belladonna (21) – **extract of deadly nightshade, contains atro-  
pine and is used to enlarge the pupil of the eye**

singlestick (22) – **34” long wooden stick with a basket to  
protect the user’s hand; used as a battering  
weapon and for saber training**

sonorous (22) – **full, deep, rich sound**

sallow (22) – **sickly yellowish complexion**

Euclid (23) – **Greek mathematician who developed a system  
of geometry (circa 300 B.C.)**

necromancer (23) – **sorcerer, conjures up spirits of the dead**

puerile (23) – **immature; childish**

callosities (23) – **calluses**

ineffable twaddle (23) – **indescribable foolish talk**

paradoxes (23) – **seemingly contradictory statements that  
nonetheless are true**

Underground (23) – **London subway system**

chimerical (23) – **unreal, imaginary**

sardonically (25, 28) – **in a scornfully or cynically mocking  
way**

- cavalier (25) – **carefree and nonchalant**  
querulously (25) – **in a complaining way**  
bumptious (25) – **loudly assertive; pushy**  
commissionaire (25) – **former non-commissioned soldiers  
employed in jobs that require trust; for  
example, messengers, watchmen, etc.**
- brusquely (26) – **abruptly; bluntly**  
side whiskers (26) – **side burns**  
*in statu quo* (26) – **Latin for ‘in the condition in which it was  
before’**
- hansom (27, 79) – **two-wheeled, one horse carriage seating two  
with the driver mounted behind and reins  
going over the roof of the hood; invented by  
J. A. Hansom, a Yorkshire architect who  
patented the cab in 1834**
- disquisition (27) – **formal discourse on a subject**  
minatory (27) – **menacing; threatening**  
cataract (27) – **blurring the sight**  
footsteps (28, 84) – **foot prints**  
flaxen (28) – **pale grayish-yellow color**  
frock coat (29) – **close-fitting double-breasted, knee-length coat**  
waistcoat (29) – **vest**  
prognathous jaw (29) – **protruding jaw**  
Albert chain (30) – **a watch-chain made of heavy links, named  
for Queen Victoria’s husband,  
Prince Albert, who wore such a chain**
- depreciatory (31) – **disparaging; belittling**  
Trichinopoly cigar (32, 33, 85) – **cigar made of dark tobacco  
grown near Trichinopoly in  
southern India**
- off fore-leg (32) – **right front leg**  
florid (32, 33, 38) – **flushed with rosy color**  
Parthian shot (32) – **comment thrown backward over the  
shoulder; so named because the ancient  
cavalry of Parthia shot arrows backward  
behind themselves as they fled**
- sere and yellow (33) – **old age**

- surmise (34, 36, 85) – **to infer something without sufficiently conclusive evidence**
- conjecture (34, 49) – **judgment based on inconclusive or incomplete evidence**
- half-sovereign (34, 35) – **a coin worth one-half of one pound**
- white hart (34) – **white, male deer**
- four of gin hot (34) – **4 pence of gin with hot water and lemon**
- cove (35) – **slang for a person or fellow**
- crone (39) – **ugly, withered old woman; a hag**
- Union boat (39) – **steamship of the Union Line that sailed to South Africa**
- circus (39) – **a show performed by acrobats, clowns, and trained animals**
- steward (39) – **ship's employee who attends to passengers' wants**
- ulster (39) – **long, loose fitting, rough overcoat usually belted**
- cravat (39) – **scarf**
- stolidly (39) – **showing little emotion; impassively**
- vent (40) – **speaking forcefully**
- leaders (41) – **leading editorials in a newspaper**
- despotism (41, 70) – **rule by absolute power**
- acuteness (41) – **perceptiveness**
- Un sot trouve toujours un plus sot qui l'admire* (42) – **French for "A fool can always find a greater fool to admire him"**
- beatitude (42) – **supreme happiness**
- paroxysm (43) – **sudden outburst of emotion**
- antecedents (43, 44) – **ancestors**
- sententiously (43) – **tersely and energetically expressed**
- cudgel (45, 80) – **short, thick stick used as a weapon**
- demeanour (46, 49) – **behavior**
- the boots (47) – **a servant who performs odd jobs including the cleaning and polishing of footwear**
- skirting (47) – **edging along the wall next to the floor**
- mews (47) – **stable yard; back lane; alley**

The Novels

- joiner (48) – **someone who makes doors, windows, etc.**  
draught (49) – **drink**  
derisively (49) – **mockingly; jeeringly**  
inert (49) – **inactive**  
*outré* (50) – **unusual, weird**  
irresolution (50) – **being unsure of how to act or proceed**  
deprecating (50) – **disparaging; belittling**  
forelock (51) – **lock of hair that falls on the forehead**  
staghound (51) – **a variety of foxhound; used in hunting**  
neckcloth (51) – **collar**  
pinioned (51) – **immobilized by grasping with hands and arms**  
alkali (52) – **mineral salts found in natural water and arid soils**  
Pawnees (52, 56) – **large tribe of American Indians living  
in Nebraska and Kansas**  
Blackfeet (52) – **confederation of three Indian tribes:  
Blackfoot, Blood, and Piegan**  
chapparal (51) – **low scrub bushes growing in arid parts of the  
western United States**  
gaunt (53, 56, 66, 73) – **emaciated and haggard**  
senile (53) – **with impaired memory; unable to perform  
simple mental tasks**  
decrepit (53) – **worn out**  
crag (53, 56, 70, 71) – **steeply projecting mass of rock**  
tousy (53) – **rumpled; disheveled**  
bullier (53) – **better**  
mica (54) – **igneous or metamorphic rocks**  
visage (54, 55) – **face**  
diffidently (54) – **shyly**  
grizzly (55) – **flecked with gray**  
precipitous (56) – **extremely steep**  
placid (56, 77, 83) – **calm; quiet**  
sinewy (56, 60) – **lean and muscular**  
tunic (56, 69) – **long, plain, close-fitting jacket**

- skirt (56) – **part of a coat that hangs freely from the waist down**
- Angel Moroni (57) – **son of the ancient prophet Mormon; the Angel Moroni showed the golden tablets to Joseph Smith (see next entry); Smith returned the tablets to the Angel Moroni**
- Joseph Smith (57) – **(1805 – 1844) had a vision in 1823 that revealed the hiding place of the golden tablets that were the basis for the foundation of the Church of the Latter Day Saints (the Mormons); after Smith translated the tablets, they were returned to the Angel Moroni and have not been seen again**
- commiseration (57) – **feeling of pity**
- waifs (58) – **homeless or forsaken persons**
- tenacity (58) – **holding on persistently**
- resolute (58, 59, 62, 68, 69) – **determined; unwavering**
- artisan (58) – **craftsperson**
- villa (59) – **a substantial house**
- tilling (59) – **cultivating**
- celibate (59) – **unmarried**
- heralded (59) – **announced; proclaimed**
- defiled (59, 70, 71, 72, 73) – **marched in single file**
- bullocks (60) – **castrated bulls; steers**
- motley (60) – **incongruous; lacking in harmony**
- peltries (60) – **undressed animal skins with the fur still on them**
- stoicism (60) – **indifference to pleasure or pain**
- cavalcade (60) – **procession of riders**
- curb (60) – **strap attached to the bit of a bridle**
- roan (60) – **chestnut, bay, or sorrel coat thickly sprinkled with white or gray**
- demurely (60) – **shyly, modestly**
- sombrero (61) – **Spanish for 'hat'**
- taciturn (61) – **inclined towards silence**



- lodes (61) – **veins of mineral ore deposited between layers of rock**  
imperious (61) – **regal; imperial**  
halcyon (61) – **calm and peaceful; tranquil**  
on that head (62) – **on that score; on those grounds**  
bated (62, 69) – **with reduced intensity; moderate**  
Inquisition of Seville (62) – **the Spanish Inquisition**  
German Vehmgericht (62) – **14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> century German secret society that provided some protection from lawbreakers**  
omniscient (62) – **having complete and infinite knowledge**  
omnipotent (62) – **almighty; having unlimited power or authority**  
polygamy (63) – **state of having more than one wife**  
trepidation (63) – **apprehension**  
wax (63) – **increase gradually in strength**  
fain (64, 71) – **gladly, willingly**  
heifers (64) – **wives**  
shingly (64) – **pebbly**  
shin out (65) – **clear out; get away**  
tanning yard (66) – **place where leather is made from rawhide**  
sardonically (66) – **bitterly or scornfully derisive; sneeringly**  
canting (66) – **moralizing**  
outhouse (67) – **small building adjacent to the main house**  
haggard (67) – **worn and exhausted**  
insidious (68) – **subtle or stealthy in a harmful way**  
asprawl (68) – **spread out**  
voraciously (68) – **ravenously; in an extremely hungry way**  
basaltic (70) – **dark volcanic rock having a glassy appearance**  
Indian file (70) – **single file; one after another**  
larch (71) – **deciduous trees having needlelike leaves clustered on short shoots**  
inexorable (71) – **relentless; not easily dissuaded**  
beetling crag (71) – **overhanging broken rock**  
tethered (71) – **restrained with a short distance to move about**  
lethargy (73) – **sluggishness; apathy**  
conjure (74) – **solemnly call upon or entreat**

- baleful (74) – **portending evil; ominous**  
sottish (74) – **drunken**  
incessant (75) – **continuing without interruption**  
privation (75) – **lack of the basic necessities of life**  
malcontents (75) – **chronically dissatisfied persons**  
sureties (76) – **promises made to secure against default; bail**  
affable (76) – **gentle and gracious**  
was a caution (77) – **slang for ‘something extraordinary’**  
aortic aneurism (77, 80) – **localized enlargement of the aorta  
caused by the blood acting upon a  
part weakened by accident or disease**  
remonstrated (79) – **pleaded in protest**  
billets (80) – **positions; jobs**  
livid (81) – **deathly pale; ashen**  
jocosely (83) – **jokingly**  
warders (83) – **prison guards**  
ejaculated (83) – **exclaimed**  
synthetically (83) – **reasoning from the general to the particular**  
analytically (83) – **starting from given truths and reasoning to a  
logical conclusion**  
growler (84) – **four-wheeled, horse-drawn cab**  
brougham (84) – **one-horse, enclosed carriage with four wheels  
and an open driver’s seat in front, named for  
the Scottish-born jurist, Henry Peter  
Brougham, First Baron Brougham and Vaux  
(1778-1868)**  
nocturnal (84) – **night-time**  
toxicologist (84) – **person who studies poisons and their treatment**  
jarveys (85) – **Cockney slang for coachmen or cab drivers**  
ferreted (85) – **uncovered; brought to light by searching**  
*Populus me sibilat, at mihi plaudo Ipse domi simul ac nummos contem-  
plar in arca* (86) – **Latin for “People hiss at me, but I am  
satisfied with myself; I stay at home and contemplate  
the money in my strongbox” However, Watson mis-  
spelled *contemplor* as *contemplar*, and the quotation  
is about a rich Athenian not a Roman miser.**

## A STUDY IN SCARLET OPEN QUESTIONS

1. What was the 'single real clue' to which Holmes referred on the bottom of page 49?

### **The poison and the ring**

2. Why did Jefferson Hope return for the ring? It was the only momento he had of Lucy (82) but it was a momento of her marriage to his hated enemy.

**He wanted the ring to taunt Drebber. Unfortunately, he didn't get a chance to use it a second time.**

3. Why wasn't Hope suspicious when he was summoned to Baker Street (82)?

**Perhaps he wanted to be captured so he could tell his story.**

4. Who was Hope's 'friend' (83), that is, who was the old lady who claimed the ring?

**Hope was a stranger in London and a murderer. He would go to the head of crime in London for help. So his 'friend' must have been an employee of Professor Moriarty.**

5. Why did Holmes say that he didn't know who Carlyle was (21) and then quote him (31)?

**All of us at sometime know a quotation but do not know its source. On the other hand, there are several occasions where Holmes pulled Watson's leg. This may have been one of them.**

6. Where did Watson get the story of the Avenging Angels?

**Hope may have appended it to his written account.**

## A STUDY IN SCARLET SIMPLE QUIZ\*

1. What was the name of the murderer?
  - a. Enoch Drebber
  - b. Jefferson Hope
  - c. John Rance
  - d. none of the above
  
2. The two murders were carried out using
  - a. poison
  - b. a knife
  - c. one with each of poison and a knife
  - d. none of the above
  
3. The murderer was employed in London as
  - a. a worker in a shipyard
  - b. a taxi driver
  - c. a waiter
  - d. none of the above

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\* The Simple Quiz is designed to determine if the student has read the story. Anyone who has read the story through should have no trouble in completing this quiz. The Intermediate and Advanced Quizzes are more challenging.

## A STUDY IN SCARLET INTERMEDIATE QUIZ<sup>#</sup>

1. At what number in Lauritson Gardens was Enoch Drebbler's body found?
  - a. No. 3
  - b. No. 13
  - c. No. 31
  - d. none of the above
  
2. What was the name of one of the three constables who responded to John Rance's whistle?
  - a. William Whyte
  - b. Harry Murcher
  - c. Jim Browner
  - d. none of the above
  
3. What was the cause of Jefferson Hope's death?
  - a. an aortic aneurism
  - b. a heart attack
  - c. a ruptured appendix
  - d. none of the above
  
4. Watson says, "(The house) at Lauritson Gardens wore an ill-omened and minatory look." What does 'minatory' mean in that sentence?
  - a. dark
  - b. menacing
  - c. terrifying
  - d. none of the above

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<sup>#</sup> The Intermediate Quiz is designed to test whether the student has read the story with reasonable attention to detail. The Simple Quiz is an easier test while the Advanced Quiz is much more challenging.

## A STUDY IN SCARLET ADVANCED QUIZ<sup>&</sup>

1. Which of the following cases did Holmes cite as having circumstances similar to the ones at No. 3 Lauriston Gardens?
  - a. The Camberwell Poisoning Case
  - b. The murder at 46, Audley Court
  - c. The death of Van Jansen in Utrecht
  - d. none of the above
  
2. Where was Harry Murcher's beat?
  - a. Duncan Street
  - b. Holland Grove
  - c. Kennington Park Gate
  - d. none of the above
  
3. Where had Drebber and Stangerson been prior to taking rooms at Madame Charpentier's boarding house?
  - a. Berlin
  - b. Copenhagen
  - c. Liverpool
  - d. none of the above
  
4. Where was Stangerson murdered?
  - a. Halliday's Private Hotel
  - b. Charing Cross Hotel
  - c. Kensington Hotel
  - d. none of the above

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<sup>&</sup> The Advanced Quiz is designed for aficionados of the Canon. The questions are quite challenging. The Intermediate and Simple Quizzes are designed for the more casual reader of the stories.

**ANSWERS TO QUIZZES**

QUESTION	1	2	3	4
<b>Study in Scarlet</b>				
Simple	b	c	b	xx
Intermediate	a	b	a	b
Advanced	c	b	b	a
<b>Sign of Four</b>				
Simple	a	c	c	xx
Intermediate	b	c	b	a
Advanced	a	c	a	c
<b>Hound of the Baskervilles</b>				
Simple	c	c	a	xx
Intermediate	b	b	c	c
Advanced	b	a	b	d
<b>Valley of Fear</b>				
Simple	c	b	c	xx
Intermediate	b	a	b	c
Advanced	a	c	b	a