

A STUDY GUIDE TO SHERLOCK HOLMES

By William S. Dorn



The Adventures of Sherlock
Holmes
Adventure VIII -- The Man with the
Twisted Lip

THE MAN WITH THE TWISTED LIP DATE OF THE ADVENTURE*

(Date Hugh Boone was unmasked)

CLUES:

1. Watson says, ‘One night – it was in June, ‘89 – ...’ (229)
2. When Isa Whitney asks Watson what day it is, Watson answers “... Friday, June 19th.” and later, when Whitney challenges him, Watson says, “I tell you that it is Friday, man.” (231)
3. June 19, 1889 was Wednesday
4. Hugh Boone was unmasked the day after the case started.

CONCLUSIONS:

- A. 1 and 2 imply the case started on Friday, June 19, 1889
- B. 3 contradicts A. It is not likely that Watson did not know what day of the week it was, but he could have forgotten the precise date. So Watson must have meant Friday, June 21.
- C. A and B imply the case started Friday, June 21, 1889.
- D. C and 4 imply that Hugh Boone was unmasked on Saturday, June 22, 1889

Hugh Boone was unmasked on Saturday, June 22, 1889

*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.

THE MAN WITH THE TWISTED LIP VOCABULARY WORDS

- De Quincey (229) – **Thomas de Quincey (1785 – 1859), English essayist and critic, author of confessions of an English Opium-Eater, published in the London Magazine in 1821**
- laudanum (229) – **any preparation of opium**
- the City (230, 234, 235) – **the financial district of London**
- hansom (230) – **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**
- slop-shop (230) – **shop selling clothing and other articles for sailors**
- gin-shop (230) – **shop selling whisky for sailors**
- forecastle (231) – **forward part of ship where sailors live**
- waxed or waned (231) – **gradually increased or decreased in intensity**
- sallow (231) – **sickly yellowish hue or complexion**
- off colour (231) – **not in complete health**
- brazier (231) – **a pan for holding burning coals**
- skirt (231) – **coat-tail**
- lassitude (231) – **weariness; diminished energy; listlessness**
- doddering (232) – **infirm; feeble**
- senility (232) – **mental and physical deterioration from old age**
- sottish (232) – **habitually drunk**
- singular (232, 234, 235, 237, 241) – **beyond what is ordinary or usual; remarkable**
- decrepit (232) – **worn out or broken down by old age or illness**
- lascar (232, 234, 236, 239, 243, 244) – **an East Indian native sailor**
- dog-cart (232) – **light one-horse, two-wheeled carriage with two seats back-to-back**

- half a crown (232) – **coin worth 2 ½ shillings, that is, one-eighth of a pound**
- balustraded (233) – **with a row of vertical railings**
- wrack (233) – **clouds driven before the wind in the upper air**
- villa (233, 237, 241) – **detached suburban house**
- ascertain (233) – **discover with certainty**
- ejaculation (234, 240) – **sudden, short exclamation**
- antecedents (235) – **ancestors**
- vestas (235) – **short wooden or wax matches**
- mendicants (235) – **beggars**
- chaff (235) – **husks of grains separated from the seeds**
- mousseline de soie (237) – **soft, thin silk fabric with a weave similar to muslin**
- chiffon (237) – **fabric of sheer silk or rayon**
- campaigner (237) – **veteran of military operations**
- basket-chair (238) – **wicker armchair**
- galvanized (238) – **shocked with an electric current**
- blotting-paper (238) – **absorbent paper used to soaking up excess ink**
- signet-ring (238) – **finger ring with a raised emblem**
- rectify (238) – **set right; correct**
- fly-leaf (239) – **blank page at the beginning or end of a book**
- octavo size (239) – **a printer's sheet folded into 8 leaves each about 5" by 8"**
- corroborate (239) – **support**
- inarticulate (239) – **incomprehensible as speech**
- waistcoat (240) – **vest**
- dressing-gown (240) – **robe worn for lounging or before dressing**
- Eastern divan (240) – **bench covered with cushions**
- shag tobacco (240, 244) – **coarse shredded tobacco**
- aquiline (240) – **eagle-like**
- trap (240) – **one-horse, two-wheeled, open carriage**
- Gladstone bag (240, 242) – **traveling bag with flexible sides, hinged to open flat**

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flicking (241) – **light, quick jerk**

stone-flagged (241) – **floor made of flagstone**

frogged-jacket (241) – **jacket that fastens by passing a button through a loop**

tinker (241) - **someone who repairs pans or kettles**

rent (241) – **rip**

wheel (241) – **raised blemish**

green-room (243) – **common waiting room for performers in a theater**

bill (243) – **formal promise made to secure against loss**

writ (243) – **written order issued by a court commanding the party to whom it is addressed to perform a specified act**

fortnight (243) – **two weeks**

arduous (243) – **demanding great effort or labor; difficult**

dollar (243) – **a crown or 5 shilling piece (worth one-fourth of a pound = \$1.25)**

coppers (243, 244) – **pennies**

repartee (243) – **clever or witty reply**

confidant (243) – **someone to whom secrets or private matters are disclosed**

THE MAN WITH THE TWISTED LIP OPEN QUESTIONS

1. Sherlock Holmes said he was conducting his investigation from Lee “Because there are many inquiries which must be made out here (Lee).” What inquiries did Holmes make in Lee?

Perhaps he wanted to question members of the St. Clair household staff and, of course, Mrs. St. Clair.

2. The St. Clairs both traveled to town by train. However, Mrs. St. Clair put a dog-cart at Holmes’s disposal. Where did she get the dog-cart?

It is possible that Mrs. St. Clair borrowed or rented the dogcart from a nearby hotel.

3. Where did Neville St. Clair find the notebook from which he tore a sheet of paper to write the letter to his wife?

It might have been something he kept in the room for notes and either was overlooked as insignificant by the police or was destroyed by the lascar.

4. When did Neville St. Clair find time to pass the note he had written to the lascar?

There was a lot of confusion during Mrs. St. Clair’s visit to the room.

5. Why was no makeup box found on the premises where Hugh Boone was arrested?

That too may have found its way into the Thames.

6. If Hugh Boone was wearing theatrical makeup, how could Holmes wash it off with plain water? Makeup usually requires the use of considerable cold cream or a similar substance.

Boone must have used some special type of theatrical makeup.

THE MAN WITH THE TWISTED LIP SIMPLE QUIZ*

1. Hugh Boone was
 - a. a thief
 - b. a beggar
 - c. an opium dealer
 - d. none of the above

2. Hugh Boone's real name was
 - a. Neville St. Clair
 - b. Jonathan Small
 - c. Jefferson Hope
 - d. none of the above

3. At the beginning of the story Watson is asked
 - a. to go out to attend a patient
 - b. rescue a friend from an opium den
 - c. join Holmes at a railroad station on his way to a new case
 - d. none of the above

* 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.

THE MAN WITH THE TWISTED LIP INTERMEDIATE QUIZ[#]

1. What was the name of the Scotland Yard inspector in the case?
 - a. Barton
 - b. Bradstreet
 - c. Winchester
 - d. none of the above

2. Where was Isa Whitney when Watson found him?
 - a. in a gambling establishment
 - b. in a pub
 - c. in an opium den
 - d. none of the above

3. What was Neville St. Clair's occupation before he became a professional beggar?
 - a. banker
 - b. newspaper reporter
 - c. stock broker
 - d. none of the above

4. What was the name of the place where Neville St. Clair changed clothes and became Hugh Boone?
 - a. The Bar of Gold
 - b. The House of Sand
 - c. The Den of Swandam Lane
 - d. none of the above

[#]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.

THE MAN WITH THE TWISTED LIP ADVANCED QUIZ &

1. How old was Neville St. Clair when the adventure took place?
 - a. 32
 - b. 37
 - c. 41
 - d. none of the above

2. What color was Holmes's dressing gown in this story?
 - a. blue
 - b. mouse-coloured
 - c. purple
 - d. none of the above

3. What was Mrs. Watson doing when Isa Whitney's wife rang the doorbell?
 - a. on her way to bed
 - b. conversing with her husband
 - c. needle-work
 - d. none of the above

4. What was Isa Whitney's wife's first name?
 - a. Alice
 - b. Kate
 - c. Violet
 - d. none of the above

& 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 FOR THE ADVENTURES

QUESTION	1	2	3	4
A Scandal in Bohemia				
Simple	a	b	c	xx
Intermediate	c	b	b	c
Advanced	b	a	b	b
The Red-Headed League				
Simple	b	b	a	xx
Intermediate	b	b	a	b
Advanced	b	c	b	a
A Case of Identity				
Simple	b	b	b	xx
Intermediate	b	c	c	b
Advanced	c	b	d	c
The Boscombe Valley Mystery				
Simple	a	b	b	xx
Intermediate	c	b	b	b
Advanced	b	a	c	a
The Five Orange Pips				
Simple	b	b	a	xx
Intermediate	b	b	b	c
Advanced	c	a	b	a
The Man with the Twisted Lip				
Simple	b	a	b	xx
Intermediate	a	c	b	a
Advanced	b	a	c	b
The Blue Carbuncle				
Simple	a	b	c	xx
Intermediate	c	b	a	a
Advanced	b	b	c	c
The Speckled Band				
Simple	c	c	b	xx
Intermediate	c	a	a	b
Advanced	a	c	c	c

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QUESTION	1	2	3	4
The Engineer's Thumb				
Simple	b	a	c	xx
Intermediate	a	b	c	b
Advanced	b	c	c	a
The Noble Bachelor				
Simple	b	b	c	xx
Intermediate	a	b	b	c
Advanced	a	a	c	c
The Beryl Coronet				
Simple	b	b	b	xx
Intermediate	b	c	b	a
Advanced	b	c	b	c
The Copper Beeches				
Simple	a	a	b	xx
Intermediate	a	a	c	b
Advanced	a	b	c	c