

A STUDY GUIDE TO SHERLOCK HOLMES

By William S. Dorn



The Adventures of Sherlock
Holmes
Adventure XIV -- The Adventure of
the Copper Beeches

THE ADVENTURE OF THE COPPER BEECHES

DATE OF THE ADVENTURE*

(Date Violet Hunter visited Baker Street)

CLUES:

1. Watson says, "It was... early spring ... " (317)
2. Holmes refers to, "The ... experience of Miss Mary Sutherland ... " (317)
3. *A Case of Identity* took place in June 1889
4. *The Copper Beeches* was published in June 1892
5. The only case in 1891 was *The Final Problem*
6. Holmes was missing and presumed dead from May 1891 until April 1894
7. Violet Hunter says, "... two nights later ... It was a beautiful moonlight night ... " (326)
8. There was no moon in the sky in England from April 11 to April 25, 1890
9. Watson says, "A fortnight went by ... The telegram (from Violet Hunter) ... came late one night ... " (322)
10. Holmes and Watson went to Winchester on the day following the telegram's arrival (322)
11. During her visit to Baker Street, Violet Hunter says, "I shall ... start for Winchester to-morrow ... " (321-322)
12. Watson says, "... it was just before seven when we reached the Copper Beeches ... in the light of the setting sun ... " (330) when he and Holmes arrived in Winchester
13. The sun set before 7 pm on April 19 and the days preceding.
14. On the day Violet Hunter first visited Holmes, Watson says, "... Sherlock Holmes, tossing aside ... the *Daily Telegraph* ... " (316)
15. The *Daily Telegraph* was not delivered on Sunday
16. April 6, 1890 was on Sunday
17. Watson says, "Holmes had been buried in the morning papers all the way down..." (322)
18. April 20, 1890 was on Sunday.

*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.

CONCLUSIONS:

- A. 1 implies it was late March or early April
- B. A, 2, and 3 imply it was late March or early April of 1890 or some later year
- C. A and 4 imply it was late March or early April of 1892 or some earlier year
- D. 5 implies it was not 1891
- E. 6 implies it was not 1892
- F. B, C, D, and E imply it was late March or early April of 1890
- G. F, 7, and 8 imply Violet Hunter arrived in Winchester before April 9, 1890
- H. 9 and 10 imply Holmes and Watson arrived in Winchester 15 days after Violet Hunter visited Baker Street
- I. H and 11 imply Holmes and Watson arrived in Winchester 14 days after Violet Hunter arrived there
- J. 12 and 13 imply Holmes and Watson arrived in Winchester April 20, 1890 or later in the year
- K. I and J imply Violet Hunter arrived in Winchester after April 6, 1890 or later
- L. G and K imply Violet Hunter arrived in Winchester on April 6, 7 or 8, 1890
- M. L and 11 imply Violet Hunter visited Baker Street on April 5, 6, or 7, 1890
- N. 14, 15, and 16 imply Violet Hunter did not visit Baker Street on April 6, 1890
- O. 15, 17, and 18 imply Holmes and Watson did not arrive in Winchester on April 20, 1890
- P. O and H imply Violet Hunter did not visit Baker Street on April 5, 1890
- Q. M, N, and P imply Violet Hunter visited Baker Street on April 7, 1890

Violet Hunter visited Baker Street on Monday, April 7, 1890

THE ADVENTURE OF THE COPPER BEECHES VOCABULARY WORDS

causes célèbres (316) - **celebrated cases**

synthesis (317) – **combining separate elements to form a coherent whole**

singular (217) – **beyond what is ordinary or usual; remarkable**

wont (317) – **used to, accustomed to**

disputatious (317) – **argumentative**

compositor (317) – **typesetter**

governess (318) – **woman employed to educate the children of a private household**

plover's egg (318) – **egg of a short-billed bird that lives on the shore**

anteroom (318) - **entrance room**

deportment (319) – **personal conduct; behavior**

propriety (319) – **quality of being proper**

page (320) – **boy employed to attend to the door, go on errands, etc.**

dog-cart (321, 324) – **a cart with two seats placed back-to-back; name is derived from box under rear seat originally used to carry dogs**

fortnight (322) – **two weeks**

philanthropist (322) – **person who makes charitable donations**

retort (322) – **vessel with glass bulb and long nose; used for distillation, sublimation or decomposition**

impunity (323) – **exemption from punishment, penalty, or harm**

homesteads (323) – **farmhouse with adjoining buildings and land**

dock (323) – **place where prisoner stands in the courtroom**

whitewashed (324) – **covered with a mixture of lime and water to whiten it**

preserves (324) - **places where game or fish are kept for sport or food**

conjecture (324) – **inference or judgment based on inconclusive or incomplete evidence**

aversion (324) – **intense dislike**

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grizzled (324) – **flecked with gray**

drawing-room (324, 331) – **large room in which guests are entertained**

yellow-backed novel (325) – **cheap, popular novel usually bound in illustrated yellow boards and intended for railway travelers**

outhouse (326) – **building separated from the main building**

groom (326) – **man or boy employed to take care of horses**

obtruded (327) – **was thrust out**

personate (329) – **impersonate**

public-house (330) – **pub, drinking establishment**

transverse (330) – **crosswise**

pallet bed (330) - **flat bed**

worrying sound (331) – **sound of pulling or tearing at something with the teeth**

brain-fever (331) – **meningitis or encephalitis**

locus standi (332) – **rightful position**

THE ADVENTURE OF THE COPPER BEECHES OPEN QUESTIONS

1. On page 321 Violet Hunter says, "... my mind is made up that I will accept it (Rucastle's offer)" before she even asks Holmes's opinion. Why didn't she at least wait for Holmes's opinion before making up her mind?

Violet Hunter was a very head strong and confident woman. She would have accepted even in the face of Holmes's advice to the contrary and wanted Holmes to know that.

2. On page 331 Watson says "... we heard the baying of a hound, and then a scream of agony ...". He was referring to Carlo, the mastiff. What is unusual about that?

A mastiff is not a hound and is unlikely to bay. It might growl or roar or bark but now howl.

THE ADVENTURE OF THE COPPER BEECHES SIMPLE QUIZ*

1. Violet Hunter was employed by Jephro Rucastle as
 - a. a governess
 - b. a housekeeper
 - c. a secretary
 - d. none of the above

2. Jephro Rucastle was attacked and injured by
 - a. his own dog
 - b. his butler
 - c. Violet Hunter's fiancé
 - d. none of the above

3. The person Rucastle was hiding in the blocked off rooms was
 - a. his son
 - b. his daughter
 - c. his first wife
 - 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 ADVENTURE OF THE COPPER BEECHES INTERMEDIATE QUIZ[#]

1. What was the name of Jephro Rucastle's dog?
 - a. Carlo
 - b. Pompey
 - c. Toby
 - d. none of the above

2. What was the first name of Jephro Rucastle's daughter?
 - a. Alice
 - b. Mary
 - c. Violet
 - d. none of the above

3. Where was Mrs. Toller detained while Holmes searched the premises?
 - a. in her bedroom
 - b. in the kitchen
 - c. in the cellar
 - d. none of the above

4. Which one of the following creatures did young Rucastle NOT try to capture?
 - a. birds
 - b. cats
 - c. insects
 - d. mice

[#]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 ADVENTURE OF THE COPPER BEECHES ADVANCED QUIZ &

1. At the time of the attack on Jephro Rucastle, how long had it been since Carlo had been fed?
 - a. two days
 - b. three days
 - c. almost a week
 - d. none of the above

2. According to Watson, what occupation did Violet Hunter eventually take?
 - a. governess
 - b. head of a private school
 - c. teacher
 - d. none of the above

3. What salary did Colonel Spence Munro pay Violet Hunter?
 - a. £4 a week
 - b. £4 every two weeks
 - c. £4 a month
 - d. none of the above

4. What was the name of the road that ran in front of the Copper Beeches?
 - a. the Bristol highroad
 - b. the Berkshire highroad
 - c. the Southampton highroad
 - 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