

A STUDY GUIDE TO SHERLOCK HOLMES

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**The Return of Sherlock Holmes
Adventure XXXVI -- The
Adventure of the Three
Students**

**THE THREE STUDENTS
DATE OF THE ADVENTURE***
(Date when Holmes entered the case)

CLUES:

1. Watson says “It was in the year ‘95 ...” (596)
2. Holmes says “This young fellow (Gilchrist) had employed his afternoon at the athletic grounds ... “ (606)
3. Soames says “At four-thirty .. I left (my room). I was absent rather more than an hour.” (597)
4. After inspecting his rooms, Soames says “...I came straight round to put the matter into your hands” (598)
5. Watson says “... our visitor (Soames) in hurried words ... poured forth his story.” (596)
6. Holmes and Watson walked to Soames’s rooms.
7. Watson says “ ... it was already twilight” when they reached Soames’s rooms (598)
8. In 1895 the sun set later than 6:30 pm on all days after April 1.
9. Watson says it was “ .. in one of our great university towns.” (596)
10. Soames says “ ... to-morrow is the first day of the examination for the Fortesque Scholarship.” (596)
11. Such an examination would start on the first day after the end of the Lent term.
12. In 1895 the Lent term ended at Cambridge University on March 27 and at Oxford University on April 6.

*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 that it was 1895
- B. A and 2 imply that it was Spring of 1895
- C. 3, 4, 5, and 6 imply that they arrived at Soames's rooms about 6:30 pm
- D. C and 7 imply that the sun was setting at 6:30 pm
- E. D and 8 imply that it was before April 1
- F. 9 implies that it was Cambridge or Oxford
- G. 10 and 11 imply that it was the last day of Lent term
- H. F, G, and 12 imply that it was March 27 and the university was Cambridge

Holmes entered the case on Wednesday, March 27, 1895

THE THREE STUDENTS VOCABULARY WORDS

baize (597) – **green cotton or woolen material imitating felt**

his Blue (600) – **equivalent of an athletic letter in the United States**

grizzly-haired (601) – **hair flecked with gray**

flaxen-haired (602) – **light, blond hair**

THE THREE STUDENTS SOME OPEN QUESTIONS

1. If the examination was the next day, why were the examination papers still only in proof form?

Perhaps the printer would have printed the examination over night. After all, only three copies were needed.

2. Thucydides is well read by all serious students of Greek. The chapters of Thucydides are rather short, a few paragraphs in general. How then could a scholarship examination consist of half a chapter of Thucydides? And why would Gilchrist need to copy it? Couldn't he simply note the chapter and look it up later?

There must have been more to the examination than a few chapters of Thucydides.

THE THREE STUDENTS SIMPLE QUIZ*

1. The Fortesque Examination required the students to translate from
 - a. French
 - b. German
 - c. Greek
 - d. Latin
 - e. None of the above

2. The wood shavings found in Soames's room were from
 - a. a wooden pencil
 - b. a wooden carving
 - c. a cricket bat
 - d. none of the above

3. The guilty student was
 - a. Daulat Ras
 - b. Bannister
 - c. McLaren
 - d. Gilchrist
 - e. 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 THREE STUDENTS INTERMEDIATE QUIZ[#]

1. In which one of the following athletic activities did Gilchrist NOT participate?
 - a. football (soccer)
 - b. hurdles
 - c. long jump
 - d. rugby

2. Who had Bannister worked for previously?
 - a. Soames' bankers
 - b. Gilchrist's father
 - c. the rival university
 - d. none of the above

3. Which of the three students said, "I don't care who you are. You can go to blazes!" when Soames knocked on his door?
 - a. Gilchrist
 - b. Daulat Ras
 - c. Miles McLaren
 - d. none of the above

4. What was on the top of the red-leather writing-table in Soames' rooms when he returned to find the examination papers scattered about?
 - a. a pair of gloves
 - b. a ball of black dough
 - c. a writing pen
 - 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 THREE STUDENTS ADVANCED QUIZ [&]

1. What color were Gilchrist's gloves?
 - a. black
 - b. tan
 - c. black
 - d. none of the above

2. In which college of the university were the three students enrolled?
 - a. St. Anne's
 - b. St. George's
 - c. St. Luke's
 - d. none of the above

3. What was Gilchrist's father's name?
 - a. Jabez Gilchrist
 - b. Hilton Gilchrist
 - c. Geoffrey Gilchrist
 - d. none of the above

4. How old was Bannister?
 - a. 43
 - b. 50
 - c. 57
 - 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 RETURN

QUESTION	1	2	3	4
Empty House				
Simple	c	c	c	xx
Intermediate	a	b	c	c
Advanced	c	a	a	b
Norwood Builder				
Simple	c	a	b	xx
Intermediate	a	a	b	c
Advanced	a	a	a	b
Dancing Men				
Simple	b	b	a	xx
Intermediate	b	c	a	a
Advanced	b	b	a	b
Solitary Cyclist				
Simple	a	c	c	xx
Intermediate	b	c	c	b
Advanced	b	c	a	c
Priory School				
Simple	b	a	c	xx
Intermediate	c	b	a	b
Advanced	d	a	c	b
Black Peter				
Simple	b	a	c	xx
Intermediate	b	c	b	c
Advanced	b	c	b	d
Charles Augustus Milverton				
Simple	b	a	a	xx
Intermediate	c	c	a	b
Advanced	b	c	b	a

QUESTION	1	2	3	4
Six Napoleons				
Simple	a	c	c	xx
Intermediate	b	b	c	b
Advanced	c	a	a	b
Three Students				
Simple	c	a	d	xx
Intermediate	a	b	c	b
Advanced	b	c	a	b
Golden Pince-Nez				
Simple	a	b	a	xx
Intermediate	c	c	c	a
Advanced	b	b	c	c
Missing Three-Quarter				
Simple	b	c	b	xx
Intermediate	b	a	b	c
Advanced	a	c	b	a
Abbey Grange				
Simple	a	c	c	xx
Intermediate	c	b	b	c
Advanced	b	b	a	b
Second Stain				
Simple	a	a	b	xx
Intermediate	c	a	b	c
Advanced	a	b	a	c