Year 8 English 1: Sherlock Holmes

Scandal in Bohemia – plot overview

- The King of Bohemia plans to marry a Norwegian princess. However, he previously had a relationship with a woman called Irene Adler. Adler is threatening to ruin his engagement with a picture she has of herself and the king together.
- Holmes tricks Adler into revealing where she keeps the photograph, but she outsmarts Holmes and escapes with it. Adler decides not to use the picture against the king. She leaves a picture of herself in its place, which Holmes keeps as a reminder of her.

The Read-Headed League – plot overview

- Jabez Wilson gets a job with the mysterious 'Red- Headed League' because of his 'flame' coloured hair.
- One day, he is mysteriously told that he is no longer needed by the league so visits Holmes to ask him to investigate.
- Holmes discovers that his story reveals a plot to steal from a bank vault which is successfully prevented.

The Blue Carbuncle – plot overview

- A policeman named Peterson is left with a man's hat and Christmas goose.
- He takes the goose home to eat and discovers a blue carbuncle (a rare, and very valuable jewel) inside the goose!
- Holmes recognises the jewel as the one that was stolen from The Countess of Morcar. Using the hat as a clue, Holmes and Watson set off to discover how the blue carbuncle was stolen and how it ended up in a goose.

Key words

enlighten – to provide someone with information and understanding. People come to Holmes so that they can be enlightened on a crime.

deduction – the process of reaching a decision by looking at the facts that are known. Holmes is able to use his skills of deduction to solve crimes.

scandal – a scandal is something that shocks people because they think it is morally wrong. The King of Bohemia fears that scandal of his relationship with Irene Adler being exposed.

periodical/serial – books, magazines or other entertainment that are released on a regular basis. *The Strand Magazine* was a periodical that published the Sherlock Holmes stores.

introspective – when you examine your own thoughts, ideas, and feelings. Sherlock Holmes can be **introspective.** This makes him a better detective.

dual nature – Holmes has a dual nature: his quiet introspective side, and his manic detecting side.

Background information

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle was the author of the Sherlock Holmes stories.

Sherlock Holmes' fictional home was 221B Baker Street, which is now a museum of Doyle's life and work.

Doyle's short stories were published individually in *The Strand Magazine* periodical and then collected to form *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* short story collection in 1892.

Before he became a writer, Doyle studied medicine.

Characters

Sherlock Holmes – a fictional consulting detective created by Arthur Conan Doyle. He is known for his intelligence, introspection and dual nature. He is described as an 'observing machine' because of his ability to capture the essence of people with seemingly very little evidence.

Dr Watson – Holmes' former flatmate, a doctor and his closest companion. The stories are told from his perspective, working as Holmes' assistant.

Irene Adler – a famous American opera singer who had a relationship with the future King of Bohemia. To Holmes, she is '*the* woman' who outsmarted him.

King of Bohemia – in the Victorian era, Bohemia was an area of central Europe; today it is a region of the Czech Republic. The King is engaged to a Scandinavian princess but five years previously was madly in love with Irene Adler. Because of his status, he was unable to marry her at the time, which he regrets. The King still respects Adler.

James Ryder – head attendant of the hotel where the Blue Carbuncle goes missing. He works with his accomplice **Catherine Cusack** (the countess' maid) to steal the jewel and frame **John Horner** for the crime. He is racked with guilt and confesses when Holmes questions him.

Jabez Wilson – a London pawnbroker who has distinctively red hair. His business is struggling so he takes the job working for The Red-Headed League. Wilson was tricked by his assistant Vincent Spaulding who worked alongside another criminal to use his shop to rob the bank next door.

Vincent Spaulding/John Clay – Jabez Wilson's assistant. This is actually a disguise for John Clay who attempts a bank robbery using Wilson's shop as an easy passage.

Year 8 English 2: The Tempest

Plot Summary

The Tempest (I.I)
Alonso, the King of Naples, is on a ship with his son Ferdinand and his companions Sebastian, Antonio, Stephano and Trinculo. They are struck by a terrifying, howling storm. They abandon ship and swim to a nearby island but are washed ashore in different places. The island seems to be abandoned.

After the Storm (I.II)
From a nearby island, Miranda watches the huge tempest. She lives with her father Prospero and has little memory of her life before the island. Prospero tells his daughter of their past: he was the Duke of Milan twelve years ago, but he was so involved with his books and secret studies that he did not realise his brother Antonio was stealing power from him. One night, Antonio ordered soldiers to take Prospero and Miranda and put them on a boat to their death. But they were washed ashore this island safely and have lived there ever since. Prospero has been ruler of the island. Prospero has created the storm to bring his brother to the island.

Ariel and Caliban (I.II. cont./II.I)
Prospero is a powerful magician who controls the spirit Ariel who completes tasks for him. Prospero has agreed to release Ariel after this last mission. Caliban is a deformed savage slave who is also under Prospero's control. He is the son of an old witch, Sycorax, and is a native of the island. Prospero taught Caliban how to speak but Caliban resents the control Prospero has over him.

Kind Alonso (II.I)
King Alonso and his younger brother Sebastian, as well as Antonio (the usurping Duke of Milan), wander around the island. King Alonso weeps as he believes his son Ferdinand is dead. Sebastian and Antonio plot to kill Alonso so that Sebastian can be king. They are stopped by Ariel's magical intervention.

Caliban, Stephano and Trinculo (II.II, III.II)
The monster Caliban is found by Stephano and Trinculo. They give him alcohol to drink and he gets drunk. Caliban offers to serve Stephano because he believes he is a god because of the heavenly drink! Caliban explains to them how Prospero has treated him and that he will be their guide on the island if they overthrow him. The three drunks go to find and kill Prospero.

Ferdinand and Miranda (I.ii, III.i)
Ferdinand has survived the storm. He is safely on the island and is found by Miranda. They fall instantly in love. Prospero wants to test that the love is real. Ferdinand has to endure hard labour to prove his intentions are honourable. Miranda pities Ferdinand and wants to marry him. Prospero blesses their marriage.

The End (IV.I, V.I)
A marriage for Ferdinand and Miranda is arranged and celebrated with a masque attended by spirits. It is interrupted when Prospero recalls the threat from Trinculo, Stephano and Caliban. Prospero and Ariel send spirit dogs to scare them away. King Alonso, Sebastian and Antonio meet Prospero. He explains what has been happening on the island. He shows them Ferdinand and Miranda who are now married. King Alonso is filled with regret and asks for forgiveness from Prospero which he grants.

Epilogue
Prospero declares that he will be giving up his magic. Ariel is released from his service. The party travel back to Milan. We do not know what has happened to Caliban.

Characters

- Alonso – King of Naples
- Sebastian – Alonso's brother
- Ferdinand – Alonso's son
- Antonio – Prospero's brother. Antonio stole Prospero's title as Duke of Milan.
- Gonzalo – the old counsellor to the King of Naples
- Trinculo – a jester
- Stephano – a drunken butler
- Prospero – the rightful Duke of Milan
- Miranda – Prospero's daughter
- Ariel – an airy spirit; a slave of Prospero's who earns his freedom
- Caliban – a savage and deformed slave of Prospero's; a native of the island

Keywords

- colonialism – when one country establishes itself in another country. When someone **colonises** a new country, they are called a **coloniser**. The original inhabitants of the land are called **natives**.
- usurp – to take control of someone else's power when you do not have the right to. Someone who usurps is called a **usurper**.
- tempest – a violent storm.
- treason – a crime that harms your country or government. Someone who commits treason is a **traitor**.
- callous – when someone is cruel and does not care about other people.
- pathos – a situation that makes us feel sympathy or sorrow.
- dual nature – having two sides.
- nurture – to encourage or support the development of someone or something.
- Tragicomedy – a play that has some features of a tragedy and some features of a comedy.

Background Information

Shakespeare was born in the Elizabethan era, named after Elizabeth I. After she died, James I became king. This period of history is called the **Jacobean** era, because Jacob is the Latin for James. Shakespeare lived and worked in both eras.

Italian city states - A city-state is an area that is ruled by a major city. During the Elizabethan and Jacobean era, Italy wasn't one unified country, but a number of small independent city-states.

Sea exploration was booming in the Elizabethan era as people 'discovered' new parts of the world. Queen Elizabeth I was obsessed with their discoveries and was happy to pay for their travels. Led by her example, the rest of the country were also fascinated by their stories and goods.

Year 8 English 3: Animal Farm

Chapter breakdown	
1	The animals gather to listen to old Major. He gives them a vision of a life without man.
2	The animals rebel and overthrow Jones. The commandments are written.
3	The animals' first harvest is a success. The pigs keep the milk and apples to themselves.
4	The Battle of the Cowshed: Jones attempts to reclaim the farm.
5	Snowball and Napoleon debate the windmill. Napoleon uses dogs to chase Snowball from the farm. Napoleon makes himself leader.
6	Work begins on the windmill. The pigs move into the farmhouse. Winds destroy the windmill.
7	Work on the windmill starts again. Napoleon demands eggs from the hens. Napoleon slaughters animals at the show trials.
8	Napoleon betrays Mr. Pilkington and sells timber to Mr. Frederick. Frederick pays with counterfeit money. Frederick attacks the farm. The animals suffer losses in the Battle of the Windmill. The windmill is destroyed.
9	Boxer is sold to the knacker's yard.
10	The pigs are leaders on the farm. They start walking on two legs and carrying whips. There is no difference between the pigs and the humans they sought to overthrow at the start of the novel.

The seven commandments	
1	Whatever goes upon two legs is an enemy.
2	Whatever goes upon four legs, or has wings, is a friend.
3	No animal shall wear clothes.
4	No animal shall sleep in a bed.
5	No animal shall drink alcohol.
6	No animal shall kill any other animal.
7	All animals are equal.

Characters

Napoleon
'a large, rather fierce-looking Berkshire boar, the only Berkshire on the farm, not much of a talker, but with a reputation for getting his own way.'

Snowball
'a more vivacious pig than Napoleon, quicker in speech and more inventive, but was not considered to have the same depth of character.'

Squealer
'with very round cheeks, twinkling eyes, nimble movements, and a shrill voice. He was a brilliant talker, and when he was arguing some difficult point he had a way of skipping from side to side and whisking his tail which was somehow very persuasive. The others said of Squealer that he could turn black into white.'

Boxer
'an enormous beast, nearly eighteen hands high, and as strong as any two ordinary horses put together... in fact he was not of first-rate intelligence, but he was universally respected for his steadiness of character and tremendous powers of work.'

Key words

allegory – a story with two meanings. It has a literal meaning, which is what actually happens in the story. But it also has a deeper meaning. The deeper meaning is often a moral. It teaches you a lesson about life.

tyrant – someone who has total power and uses it in a cruel and unfair way. A **tyranny** is a situation in which a leader or government has too much power and uses that power in a cruel and unfair way.

rebellion – a rebellion is a situation in which people fight against those who are in charge of them.

harvest – the time when crops are cut and collected from fields.

corrupt – when people use their power in a dishonest way order to make life better for themselves.

propaganda – Information that is meant to make people think a certain way. The information may not be true.

cult of personality – a cult of personality is where a leader convinces people to worship him or her, and treat them like a god.

treacherous – If you betray someone who trusts you, you could be described as **treacherous.**

Biographical information	
1	'Animal Farm' was written in 1945.
2	It was written by George Orwell.
3	Orwell was born in 1903.
4	'Animal Farm' was influenced by the events of World War II.
5	Orwell wanted to write about the cruel leaders of Europe during World War II.
6	'Animal Farm' is an allegory for the events of the Russian Revolution.

Year 8 English 4: Poetry

Poetic Devices

A **metaphor** is a way of describing something. It is not a literal description. You compare it to something it is not.
A metaphor is made up of three things:

Tenor : The thing you want to try and describe to your audience.
Vehicle: The imaginative idea you compare it with to help your audience understand it. This is the 'made up' bit.
Ground: The things the tenor and the vehicle have in common.

An **extended metaphor** is a version of metaphor that extends over the course of multiple lines, paragraphs, or stanzas of prose or poetry. Extended metaphors build upon simple metaphors with figurative language and more varied, descriptive comparisons.

Personification is a type of metaphor used by writers to make something seem like it is alive, with a human personality.

Imagery is the use of figurative language to evoke a sensory experience in the reader.

Poems

- **Hope is the thing with feathers', Emily Dickinson (1830 – 1886)**
  A lyric poem in ballad meter written by American poet Emily Dickinson, The manuscript of this poem appears in Fascicle 13, which Dickinson compiled around 1861.
- **'For Forest', Grace Nichols (1950 -)**
  On a visit to her homeland of Guyana, Grace Nichols explains how the sights and sounds of the rainforest were the inspiration for her poem 'For Forest'.
- **'The Kraken', Lord Tennyson (1809 – 1892)**
  The Kraken is a sonnet by Alfred Tennyson that describes the Kraken, a mythical creature. It was published in Tennyson's Poems, Chiefly Lyrical. **'The Grauballe Man' (extract), Seamus Heaney (1939 – 2013)**
  "The Grauballe Man" is an allegorical poem that conveys the political crisis and regional warfare happened in Northern Ireland.
- **'A Poison Tree', William Blake (1757 - 1827)**
  A short and deceptively simple poem about repressing anger and the consequences of doing so. The speaker tells of how they fail to communicate their wrath and how this continues to grow until it develops into poisonous hatred.
- **'Echo and Narcissus' (extract), Ted Hughes (1930 – 1998)**

Similarities

- 'Hope' and 'For Forest' use prominent women writers to introduce extended metaphor and personification.
- 'The Kraken' and 'The Grauballe Man' look at strange creatures that can be found beneath the surface.
- 'A Poison Tree' and 'Echo and Narcissus' look at the monster within