

Before Reading

TALKING ABOUT THE COVER

- What can you see in the cover picture? (*Somebody in a hat, smoking a pipe; some wheels; somebody riding a horse; a magnifying glass*)
- What kind of wheels do you think they are? (*Bicycle wheels*)
- Who is the person in the hat? (*Sherlock Holmes*)
- What do you know about him? (*He's a detective*)
- So what do you think this story will be about? (*It will be a mystery, with people on bicycles or riding horses, and with Sherlock Holmes as the detective*)

BEFORE READING ACTIVITIES (PAGE 44)

ACTIVITY 1 BEFORE READING

- 1 No 2 Yes 3 Yes 4 Yes 5 No 6 No 7 Yes

ACTIVITY 2 BEFORE READING

Encourage students to speculate and to make guesses, but do not tell them the answers. They will find out as they read that the relevant things and people are: cow tracks, bicycles, horses, mud, a hat, shoes, the German teacher, the Duke's secretary.

While Reading

CHAPTERS 1, 2 AND 3 WHILE READING

Encourage students to discuss which statements are facts and which assumptions, and to offer alternative theories for the assumptions. Some suggestions are given below.

- 1 True.
- 2 Possible (but perhaps he ran away to his mother).
- 3 True.
- 4 True (although you could argue that nobody actually saw Heidegger take the bicycle).
- 5 Possible (or perhaps Arthur ran away and Heidegger followed him).
- 6 Possible (but we don't know what the letter said).
- 7 Possible (but this is only what James Wilder said, and he may not be a reliable witness).
- 8 Possible (again, we don't know if the Duke is a reliable witness yet).
- 9 True (Arthur got the letter, because Dr Huxtable saw it).
- 10 True (lots of witnesses).
- 11 Possible (but perhaps he left it behind a tree).

- 12 True (because his hat was found north of Ragged Shaw).

BEFORE READING CHAPTER 4

Encourage students to speculate and to make guesses, but do not tell them the answers. They will find out as they read that the answers are 1b and 2c.

CHAPTERS 4 AND 5 WHILE READING

- 1 Heidegger, the German teacher.
- 2 Heidegger's.
- 3 Someone hit him very hard on the head.
- 4 *Don't know yet.*
- 5 Yes, he did. We know because he didn't have time to put his socks or his shirt on.
- 6 *Don't know yet.*
- 7 Because he wanted to go to Holderness Hall and he couldn't put his foot to the ground. / Because he wanted to find out if the bicycle had Dunlop or Palmer tyres.
- 8 The tracks were interesting because there were a lot of tracks, but they didn't see any cows. And the tracks were strange, because cows don't move like that.
- 9 *Don't know yet.*
- 10 James Wilder.
- 11 *Don't know yet.*

BEFORE READING CHAPTER 6

Encourage students to make guesses, but do not tell them the answers. They will find out as they read that the answers are 1 Reuben Hayes, 2 the Duke, and 3 Arthur, the Duke, and probably James Wilder.

CHAPTER 6 WHILE READING

- 1 The Duke.
- 2 Because he didn't want Holmes or Dr Watson to talk about his 'little family mystery', so £6000 was for Holmes and £6000 was for Watson.
- 3 Reuben Hayes.
- 4 Because Holmes told them to. / To arrest Reuben Hayes.
- 5 James Wilder is the Duke's son.

BEFORE READING CHAPTER 7

Encourage students to speculate and to make guesses, but do not tell them the answers. They will find out as they read that the true sentences are 1, 4, 6, and 9.

After Reading

ACTIVITY 1 AFTER READING

- | | | |
|-------------|----------------|-----------------|
| 1 Arthur | 6 Heidegger | 11 Reuben Hayes |
| 2 Heidegger | 7 James Wilder | 12 Arthur |
| 3 The Duke | 8 Arthur | 13 James Wilder |

4 Reuben Hayes 9 Reuben Hayes 14 The Duke
5 James Wilder 10 The Duke 15 Heidegger

Possible descriptions:

1+8+12

Arthur was the Duke's younger son. *He* met Reuben Hayes in Ragged Shaw one night *because he* wanted to see his mother.

2+6+15

Heidegger taught German at Dr Huxtable's school. *He* saw Arthur from his bedroom window, *so he* got his bicycle and followed *him* to the moor.

3+10+14

The Duke did not want people to know about his love-child, *but he* wanted to have James near him, *so he* gave *him* a job as his secretary.

4+9+11

Reuben Hayes worked for the Duke once. *He* did not like the Duke *and he* was happy to help with the kidnapping.

5+7+13

James Wilder knew that the Duke was his father. *He* hated Arthur *because he* wanted to be the Duke's number one son.

ACTIVITY 2 AFTER READING

The picture goes on page 29.

- At the Green Man Inn, by the back door.
- Because he wants to look into the upstairs room.
- The Duke of Holderness and his two sons – James Wilder, and Arthur, Lord Saltire.

Lines from the story would make suitable captions, for example:

- 'I must look through that upstairs window, so I need your back, Watson.'
- Holmes stood on Watson's back, but only for a second.

Or students might like to think of ideas of their own, for example:

- Who did Holmes see in that upstairs room?
- 'Hurry up, Holmes!' I said. 'You're heavy, and my back hurts!'

ACTIVITY 3 AFTER READING

If students need help with this, encourage them to look at links in the language.

- JAMES: Oh sir, they found the German teacher on the moor – he's dead! What shall I do? Please help me!
- THE DUKE: Dead! But what happened? Was it an accident?
- JAMES: No, it wasn't. Someone . . . killed him.
- THE DUKE: Who? Do you know, James?
- JAMES: Yes, I do. It – it was Reuben Hayes.
- THE DUKE: How do you know it was Hayes?
- JAMES: Because Hayes helped me kidnap Arthur. The German teacher saw them, and Hayes killed him.

- THE DUKE: Helped you kidnap Arthur? You mean, *you* kidnapped Arthur? Why? In God's name, *why*?
- JAMES: Because I hate him. I'm your first son, not him!
- THE DUKE: But you can't be my first son – you know that.
- JAMES: But why not? Why can't I have your name and call you 'father'?
- THE DUKE: Because I wasn't married to your mother! This is the end, James. You must go away – for ever.

ACTIVITY 4 AFTER READING

'Well, Dr Huxtable, the story has a *happy* ending for Arthur. He is now back at *home*, the *police* have Reuben Hayes, and the Duke's *secretary* is going to *Australia*. James Wilder wanted *money* from the Duke, you see, so he *kidnapped* Arthur, with the *help* of Reuben Hayes. But Wilder did not want to *kill* anyone, and when Hayes *murdered* poor Heidegger, Wilder was very *unhappy* and *told* the Duke everything. So there we are. I *learnt* something very interesting about *horse-shoes*, and the Duke *gave* me a large *cheque*.

Encourage students to discuss the missing information. Possible answers:

- Holmes did not tell Dr Huxtable that James Wilder was the Duke's son. This was because the Duke did not want anyone to know about his family mystery, and he asked Holmes and Watson not to talk about it.
- Holmes said that James Wilder wanted money, but this was not really true. Wilder wanted his father's name, and to be the Duke's first son, and one day to be the Duke of Holderness himself.

ACTIVITY 5 AFTER READING

Open answers.