CLASSICS LIBRARY · STORY MAP

A Study in Scarlet

Arthur Conan Doyle · *1887 · original English text*

In the year 1878 I took my degree of Doctor of Medicine of the University of London, and proceeded to Netley to go through the course prescribed for surgeons in the army. A Study in Scarlet is the first Sherlock Holmes novel, complete in two parts.

THE CENTRAL QUESTION

What kind of friendship begins in a London lodging, and how should a first detective novel be read when its second part leaves Baker Street for another country and another time?

"In the year 1878 I took my degree of Doctor of Medicine of the University of London, and proceeded to Netley to go through the course prescribed for surgeons in the army."
Part I, Chapter I, the opening

The hosted text is A Study in Scarlet (1887, PG #244), complete in two parts: the London investigation, and Part II, The Country of the Saints. The opening is exact. Map the whole book; do not treat Part II as an extra. Do not name the murderer or the solution on the map. Part II's picture of Mormon Utah is a Victorian fiction, with the religious and racial attitudes of 1887; teach the problem, and do not put slurs on the map. For a wide older band. Quote this typography.

KEY CHARACTERS

Dr. John H. Watson
The teller, who in 1878 takes his degree and proceeds to Netley, and who will share the lodging.

Sherlock Holmes
The fellow-lodger whose method the first novel introduces.

the officers of the case
Gregson, Lestrade, and the other London men of Part I.

the people of Part II
The earlier lives that the second part tells; do not name the murderer here.

A DEGREE, AND NETLEY

> *"In the year 1878 I took my degree of Doctor of Medicine of the University of London, and proceeded to Netley to go through the course prescribed for surgeons in the army."*
> Part I, Chapter I

Grades 7–12
Read the full text free at classicslaunch.org.

01

A Degree, and Netley

PART I, CHAPTER I, THE OPENING

In the year 1878 Watson takes his degree and proceeds to Netley. The first Holmes novel begins as a wounded doctor's memory, not as a puzzle already solved.

- The opening is exact in both witnesses.
- This is the first meeting of Holmes and Watson, and the first of the novels.
- Do not name the solution on the map.

> *"In the year 1878 I took my degree of Doctor of Medicine of the University of London, and proceeded to Netley to go through the course prescribed for surgeons in the army."*
> Part I, Chapter I

02

A Study in a London House

PART I, THE LAURISTON GARDENS MYSTERY

A lodging, a science of deduction, and a word written in a room: the first part is a London case, told by a friend who is still learning the method.

- Keep Part I distinct as the London investigation.
- Do not name the murderer on the map.
- A wide older band can read this with help.

03

The Country of the Saints

PART II

The second part leaves Baker Street for another country and another time. It is part of this novel, not a leftover. Teach its picture of Mormon Utah as a Victorian fiction, with the attitudes of 1887.

- The hosted file is complete through Part II and the conclusion.
- Teach the religious and racial attitudes as a problem; do not put slurs on the map.
- Do not flatten Part II out of the map, and do not treat it as history.

04

The First Novel, Complete

THE HOSTED FILE

PG #244 and the site EPUB are this complete 1887 novel. Quote stretches that appear in both. Later Holmes novels and the short-story collections are other books on this site.

- Complete in two parts.
- For a wide older band.
- Do not name the solution on the map.

A First Friendship | A Method of Seeing | Two Parts, One Novel | A Word in a Room | Another Country, Another Time

What to watch for as you read

GRADES 7–12

1. The hosted text is A Study in Scarlet (1887, Project Gutenberg #244), complete in two parts: the London investigation, and Part II, The Country of the Saints. The opening is exact: "In the year 1878 I took my degree of Doctor of Medicine of the University of London, and proceeded to Netley to go through the course prescribed for surgeons in the army."
2. Map the whole book; do not treat Part II as an extra. Do not name the murderer or the solution on the map. Part II's picture of Mormon Utah is a Victorian fiction, with the religious and racial attitudes of 1887; teach the problem, and do not put slurs on the map. For a wide older band.
3. Quote stretches that appear in both the Gutenberg text and the site EPUB. Later Holmes novels and the short-story collections are other books on this site.

Quotations are verbatim from the original English text, Project Gutenberg #244, the public-domain text hosted at classicslaunch.org/works/a-study-in-scarlet/. Citations give book and chapter (or canto and line) so every line can be checked.