CLASSICS LIBRARY · STORY MAP

His Last Bow

Arthur Conan Doyle · *1917 (stories 1908–17) · Doyle's English*

The friends of Mr. Sherlock Holmes will be glad to learn that he is still alive and well, though somewhat crippled by occasional attacks of rheumatism. He has, for many years, lived in a small farm upon the Downs. So Doyle's 1917 preface begins this collection, Project Gutenberg #2350. The first story, Wisteria Lodge, opens in Watson's notebook, at the end of March 1892. For grades 8–12. Quote the preface as Doyle's, and the stories as stories. One map cannot teach every case.

THE CENTRAL QUESTION

How should a school read His Last Bow as a 1917 collection—opened by Doyle's preface that Holmes is still alive, on a small farm upon the Downs—and then as particular later stories, beginning with Wisteria Lodge in March 1892, rather than as a single novel or a later film?

"The friends of Mr. Sherlock Holmes will be glad to learn that he is still alive and well, though somewhat crippled by occasional attacks of rheumatism. He has"

Preface

The book is a collection of later Holmes stories, 1908–17, published in 1917, Project Gutenberg #2350. Doyle's preface comes first: the friends of Mr. Sherlock Holmes will be glad to learn that he is still alive and well, though somewhat crippled by occasional attacks of rheumatism, and has for many years lived in a small farm upon the Downs. Then the first story, The Adventure of Wisteria Lodge: Watson finds it recorded in his notebook that it was a bleak and windy day towards the end of March in the year 1892; Holmes had received a telegram at lunch. Teach the preface as Doyle's, and the stories as stories, for grades 8–12. The title story, His Last Bow: The War Service of Sherlock Holmes, stands later in the file; do not treat the preface as that story. One map cannot teach every case. Quote this English, not a later film.

KEY CHARACTERS

Sherlock Holmes
Who, in the preface, is still alive, somewhat crippled by rheumatism, on a small farm upon the Downs, and who, in the first story, receives a telegram at lunch

Dr. Watson
Who records, in his notebook, a bleak and windy day at the end of March 1892

Arthur Conan Doyle
Who writes the preface, and the stories, in this 1917 collection

HOW TO BEGIN THIS COLLECTION

> *"The friends of Mr. Sherlock Holmes will be glad to learn that he is still alive and well, though somewhat crippled by occasional attacks of rheumatism. He has"*
>
> Preface

> *"I find it recorded in my notebook that it was a bleak and windy day towards the end of March in the year 1892. Holmes"*
>
> Wisteria Lodge

Grades 8–12
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01

Still Alive and Well

PREFACE

The friends of Mr. Sherlock Holmes will be glad to learn that he is still alive and well, though somewhat crippled by occasional attacks of rheumatism. The collection opens with a word from Doyle, not with a case.

- Keep "still alive and well" and "rheumatism."
- 8–12.
- Quote the preface as Doyle's, not as a story.
- The title story comes later in the file.

> *"The friends of Mr. Sherlock Holmes will be glad to learn that he is still alive and well, though somewhat crippled by occasional attacks of rheumatism. He has"*
>
> Preface

02

A Small Farm upon the Downs

PREFACE

He has, for many years, lived in a small farm upon the Downs. The later years are named as a retirement, before the cases that follow are told.

- Keep "small farm upon the Downs."
- 8–12.
- The preface is not the war-service story.
- Quote this English.

> *"He has, for many years, lived in a small farm upon the Downs five"*
>
> Preface

03

Wisteria Lodge, March 1892

THE ADVENTURE OF WISTERIA LODGE

I find it recorded in my notebook that it was a bleak and windy day towards the end of March in the year 1892. The first story begins in Watson's notebook, on a dated day.

- Keep the notebook, the bleak and windy day, and 1892.
- 8–12.
- This is the first story, not the title story.
- Quote Watson, as Doyle writes him.

> *"I find it recorded in my notebook that it was a bleak and windy day towards the end of March in the year 1892. Holmes"*
>
> The Adventure of Wisteria Lodge

04

A Telegram at Lunch

THE ADVENTURE OF WISTERIA LODGE

Holmes had received a telegram while they sat at their lunch, and he had scribbled a reply. The case begins with a message, and a lunch not yet finished.

- Keep the telegram, and the lunch.
- 8–12.
- A particular case, not a later film.
- The later stories in the file each have their own openings.

> *"Holmes had received a telegram while we sat at our lunch, and he had scribbled a reply. He"*
>
> The Adventure of Wisteria Lodge

05

A 1917 Collection, Not a Single Novel

THE EDITION

Project Gutenberg #2350 is His Last Bow, 1917, a collection of later stories (1908–17). The title story stands later. Quote the preface and the stories in this English. For grades 8–12. One map cannot teach every case. Not a later film or a complete life of Holmes.

- Name 1917, and a collection.
- The Adventures and the Memoirs, if already mapped, are other books.
- Quote Doyle.
- Tact in later cases; no spectacle.

> *"The friends of Mr. Sherlock Holmes will be glad to learn that he is still alive and well, though somewhat crippled by occasional attacks of rheumatism. He has"*
>
> Preface

A preface, and a living Holmes | A farm upon the Downs | A notebook, and a dated day | A telegram at lunch | A collection of later cases

What to watch for as you read

GRADES 8–12

1. The preface is Doyle's: Holmes is still alive and well, on a small farm upon the Downs. It is not the title story.
2. The first story is The Adventure of Wisteria Lodge, from Watson's notebook, a bleak and windy day towards the end of March 1892.
3. This is a 1917 collection of later stories (1908–17), PG #2350, for grades 8–12. One map cannot teach every case.
4. Quote this English, not a later film. The title story, the war service, stands later in the file.

Quotations are verbatim from the Doyle's English, Project Gutenberg #2350, the public-domain text hosted at classicslaunch.org/works/his-last-bow/. Citations give book and chapter (or canto and line) so every line can be checked.