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The Case-Book of Sherlock Holmes

Arthur Conan Doyle · *1927 (stories 1921–27)* · *Doyle's English*

I fear that Mr. Sherlock Holmes may become like one of those popular tenors who, having outlived their time, are still tempted to make repeated farewell bows to their indulgent audiences. This must cease and he must go the way of all flesh, material or imaginary. So the 1927 preface begins. The first story, the Illustrious Client, opens: "It can't hurt now." Project Gutenberg #69700, public domain in the United States as of 1 January 2023. For grades 9–12. A collection; tact.

THE CENTRAL QUESTION

How should a school read the Case-Book as Doyle's last Holmes collection—opened by a preface that farewell bows must cease—and then as particular later stories, beginning with the Illustrious Client, rather than as a later film or as the earlier books already in this library?

"I fear that Mr. Sherlock Holmes may become like one of those popular tenors who, having outlived their time, are still tempted to make repeated farewell bows to their indulgent audiences. This must"

Preface

The Case-Book is a collection of later stories, 1921–27, published in 1927, Project Gutenberg #69700, public domain in the United States as of 1 January 2023. Doyle's preface comes first: he fears that Holmes may become like a tenor who makes repeated farewell bows; this must cease, and he must go the way of all flesh, material or imaginary. Then The Adventure of the Illustrious Client: "It can't hurt now," was Holmes's comment when, for the tenth time in as many years, Watson asked his leave to reveal the narrative. Teach the preface as Doyle's, and the stories as stories, for grades 9–12, with tact. The Sussex Vampire and other later titles in the contents are Holmes stories, not gore-books; do not make a spectacle. One map cannot teach every case. This is not His Last Bow or the earlier collections; name the book you are in. Quote this English, not a later film.

KEY CHARACTERS

Arthur Conan Doyle
Who, in the 1927 preface, says the farewell bows must cease

Sherlock Holmes
Who at last gives leave, in the first story, to tell what "can't hurt now"

Dr. Watson
Who has asked, for the tenth time in as many years, and now puts the narrative on record

HOW TO BEGIN THIS CASE-BOOK

> *"I fear that Mr. Sherlock Holmes may become like one of those popular tenors who, having outlived their time, are still tempted to make repeated farewell bows to their indulgent audiences. This must"*
>
> Preface

> *"'It can't hurt now,' was Mr. Sherlock Holmes's comment when, for the tenth time in as many years, I asked his leave to reveal the following narrative. So it was"*
>
> The Illustrious Client

Grades 9–12
Read the full text free at classicslaunch.org.

01
Repeated Farewell Bows
PREFACE

I fear that Mr. Sherlock Holmes may become like one of those popular tenors who, having outlived their time, are still tempted to make repeated farewell bows to their indulgent audiences. The last collection opens with a warning about farewells.

- Keep "popular tenors" and "repeated farewell bows."
- 9–12.
- Quote the preface as Doyle's.
- 1927; public domain in the United States as of 1 January 2023.

> *"I fear that Mr. Sherlock Holmes may become like one of those popular tenors who, having outlived their time, are still tempted to make repeated farewell bows to their indulgent audiences. This must"*
>
> Preface

02
The Way of All Flesh
PREFACE

This must cease and he must go the way of all flesh, material or imaginary. The preface already names an end, and a kind of making.

- Keep "material or imaginary."
- 9–12.
- The cases that follow are still told.
- Quote this English.

> *"This must cease and he must go the way of all flesh, material or imaginary. One"*
>
> Preface

03
It Can't Hurt Now
THE ADVENTURE OF THE ILLUSTRIOUS CLIENT

"It can't hurt now," was Mr. Sherlock Holmes's comment when, for the tenth time in as many years, I asked his leave to reveal the following narrative. The first story begins with permission, long delayed.

- Keep "It can't hurt now" and "the tenth time in as many years."
- 9–12. Tact.
- This is the first story, not the whole book.
- Quote Watson, as Doyle writes him.

> *"'It can't hurt now,' was Mr. Sherlock Holmes's comment when, for the tenth time in as many years, I asked his leave to reveal the following narrative. So it was"*
>
> The Adventure of the Illustrious Client

04
Permission, at Last
THE ADVENTURE OF THE ILLUSTRIOUS CLIENT

So it was that at last I obtained permission to put on record what was, in some ways, the supreme moment of my friend's career. The telling is framed as a record, under leave.

- Keep "at last" and "supreme moment," as his claim for this case.
- 9–12. Tact.
- The later cases each have their own openings.
- Not a later film.

> *"So it was that at last I obtained permission to put on record what was, in some ways, the supreme moment of my friend's career."*
>
> The Adventure of the Illustrious Client

05
The 1927 Case-Book, a Last Collection
THE EDITION

Project Gutenberg #69700 is The Case-Book of Sherlock Holmes, 1927. Public domain in the United States as of 1 January 2023. A collection of later stories (1921–27). His Last Bow and the earlier books are other hosted work; name the one you are in. For grades 9–12. Tact in later cases (including one titled the Sussex Vampire): they are Holmes stories, not gore-books. One map cannot teach every case. Quote this English, not a later film.

- Name 1927, and the public-domain date if you describe the rights.
- Quote the preface and the stories.
- Tact; no spectacle.
- A last collection, not a complete life.

> *"I fear that Mr. Sherlock Holmes may become like one of those popular tenors who, having outlived their time, are still tempted to make repeated farewell bows to their indulgent audiences. This must"*
>
> Preface

A last preface, and a farewell

Leave to tell, long delayed

A record of a case

A 1927 collection, honestly dated

Tact in later titles

What to watch for as you read

GRADES 9–12

1. The 1927 preface: Holmes must not become a tenor of repeated farewell bows; he must go the way of all flesh, material or imaginary.
2. The first story, the Illustrious Client, opens: "It can't hurt now," after ten years of asking leave.
3. A 1927 collection (stories 1921–27), PG #69700, public domain in the United States as of 1 January 2023. For grades 9–12. Not His Last Bow or the earlier books.
4. Tact: later titles in the contents, including the Sussex Vampire, are Holmes stories, not gore-books. One map cannot teach every case. Quote this English, not a later film.

Quotations are verbatim from the Doyle's English, Project Gutenberg #69700, the public-domain text hosted at classicslaunch.org/works/the-case-book-of-sherlock-holmes/. Citations give book and chapter (or canto and line) so every line can be checked.