

Family  
and  
Friends 4

# Sherlock Holmes The Blue Diamond



By Sir Arthur Conan Doyle  
Illustrated by Susan Scott

OXFORD



# Sherlock Holmes

# The Blue Diamond

**Sir Arthur Conan Doyle**

Text adaptation by Bill Bowler

Illustrated by Susan Scott



**Original Dominoes Series Editor: Bill Bowler**

این مجموعه با لوگوی مرجع زبان ایرانیان

به صورت نشر برخط و حامل به ثبت رسیده است.

کپی برداری از آن خلاف قانون، شرع و اخلاق است و شامل پیگرد خواهد شد.

# Activities

## Before reading

- 1 Here are some of the people in *The Blue Diamond*. What work do they do? Use a dictionary to help you.



Name: Mr Peterson

Work: doorman



Name: Mr Baker

Work: \_\_\_\_\_



Name: James Ryder

Work: \_\_\_\_\_



Name: John Horner

Work: \_\_\_\_\_



Name: Catherine Cusack

Work: \_\_\_\_\_



Name: Mrs Hudson

Work: \_\_\_\_\_



Name: Mr Windigate

Work: \_\_\_\_\_



Name: Mr Breckinridge

Work: \_\_\_\_\_



Name: Mrs Oakshott

Work: \_\_\_\_\_

- 2 Which of these people do you think help to steal the diamond?

## CHAPTER 1 An old hat

**M**y name's Dr Watson, and I'm a good friend of the famous detective Sherlock Holmes. Two days after Christmas last year I went to his house – 221B Baker Street. I wanted to say 'Happy Christmas!' to him. When I arrived, I found him in the sitting room. He was by the window with some newspapers next to him. There was an old hat on a chair near him, and he had a magnifying glass in his hand.

'You're working on something,' I said. 'What is it?'

'A hat,' said Holmes. 'Sit down and look at that interesting old hat over there.'

**Holmes** /həʊmz/

**street** road

**sitting room**  
the room in a house where people sit and talk

**newspaper** people read about things that happen every day in this

**magnifying glass**  
when you look through this, small things are big



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I sat down. It was cold out in the street, but it was nice and warm in Holmes's sitting room.

'Why are you interested in that old hat? Is it from a crime?' I asked.

Holmes laughed. 'Not a crime, no,' he said. 'I got it from Peterson, the doorman at the Baker Street Hotel.

'He found it in the street on Christmas Day. He also found a dead bird – a good fat Christmas goose – at the same time. He gave them to me to look at.

'I gave the goose back to him this morning. He's cooking it at his house now and he's going to eat it for dinner tonight.'

'First it was a hat, and now you're talking about a goose!' I said. 'I don't understand.'

'Then let's start when it all started,' said Holmes.

'At about four o'clock in the morning of Christmas Day, Peterson went home after work. When he got to Tottenham Court Road he saw, in the street in front of him, a tall man with a goose over his shoulder. Peterson walked behind him for some time.

'There were some young men in the street in front of them. Suddenly one of them hit the tall man's hat off his head and it fell into the road. Then the tall man tried to hit the young man with his walking stick, but by accident he broke the window of a shop behind him.

'At that moment Peterson ran to the man to help him, but the tall man ran away. Perhaps he felt bad about breaking the shop window. Perhaps he thought that Peterson – in his doorman's coat and hat – was a policeman.

'When he ran, he left his Christmas bird in the street next to his hat. The young men ran away at the same

**crime** killing someone, or taking money from someone

**doorman** a man working at a hotel; he opens the front door for visitors

**goose (plural geese)** a large, usually white bird; people sometimes eat it at Christmas

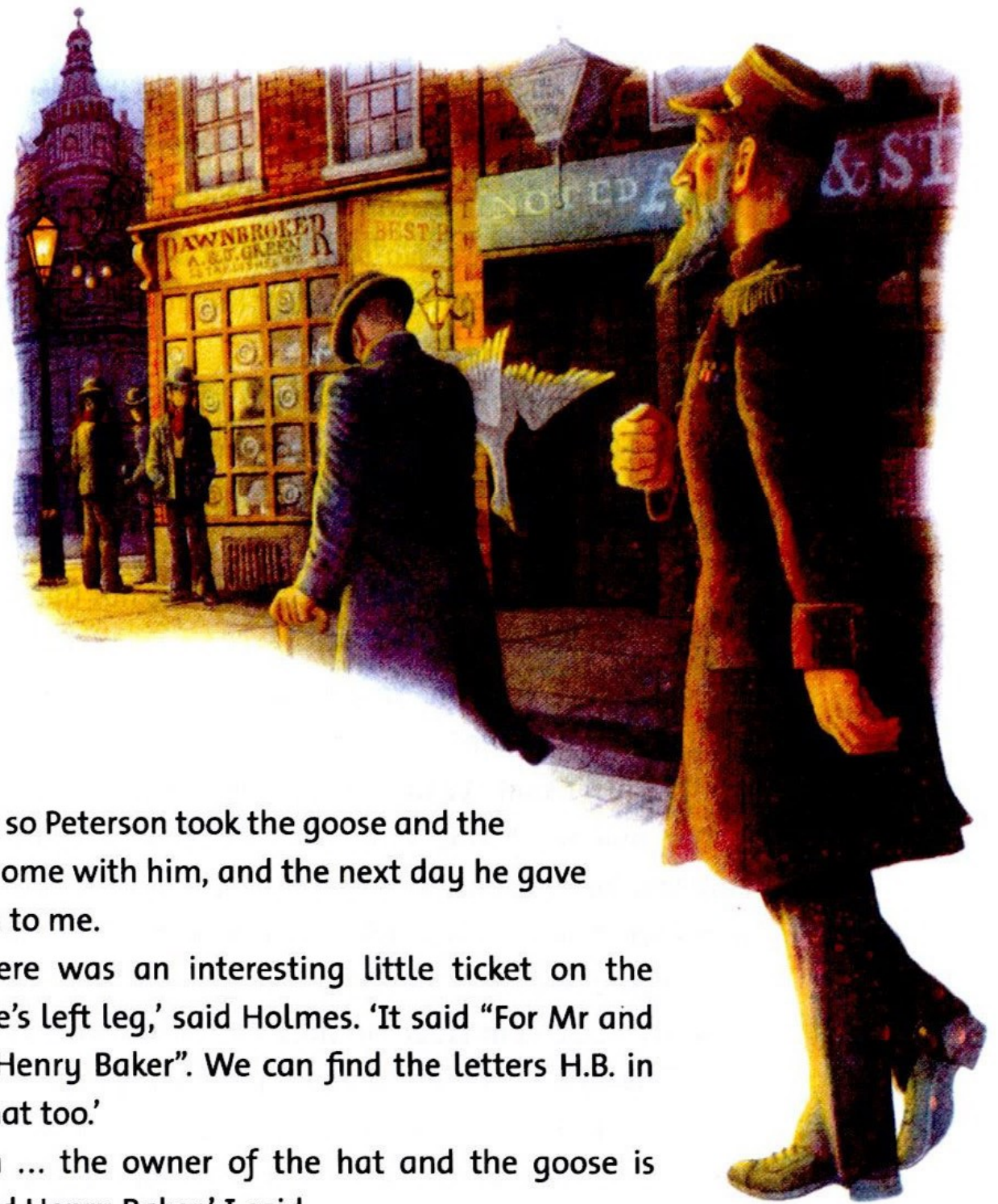
**shoulder** this is between your arm and your neck

**hit (past hit)** to push strongly, to move or hurt someone

**try** to want to do something but not to do it well

**walking stick** a long, thin piece of wood; you use this to help you to walk

**leave (past left)** not to take; to go away from something or someone



time, so Peterson took the goose and the hat home with him, and the next day he gave them to me.

'There was an interesting little ticket on the goose's left leg,' said Holmes. 'It said "For Mr and Mrs Henry Baker". We can find the letters H.B. in the hat too.'

'Oh ... the owner of the hat and the goose is called Henry Baker,' I said.

'Yes,' answered Holmes. 'But my dear Watson this doesn't help us very much. There are hundreds of Henry Bakers in London. I gave the goose back to Peterson this morning,' he went on, 'and I said to him: "Have this for your dinner!" I didn't want it to go bad, you know.'

'Did Mr Baker put an advertisement in the newspaper about his hat and goose?' I asked.

**owner** the person that something belongs to

**advertisement** you pay to put this in a newspaper

'No,' answered Holmes.

'Then how can we find him?'

'Well, maybe his hat can help us,' said Holmes. 'Here's my magnifying glass, Watson. Now, you be a detective for a minute or two. What can you tell me about the owner of this hat?'

I took the magnifying glass and looked at the hat. It was black but old, and very, very dirty. I saw the letters H.B. in it. For me it was no different from any other old black hat.

'I can see nothing,' I said, and I gave the hat back to my friend.

'Excuse me, Watson. You *do* see, but you don't think about what you see.'

'All right!' I said. 'What can *you* see in this hat?'

'The owner of this hat is an intelligent man,' said Holmes. 'He was once rich and is now poor. His wife loved him once, but she doesn't love him now. And he's thirty or forty years old.'

'Well, maybe I'm slow, Holmes, but I don't understand,' I said. 'Why is he an intelligent man, do you think?'

Holmes put the hat on his head. It came down to his nose. 'This is a big hat. A man with a big hat has a big head, and a man with a big head has a big brain. A man with a big brain thinks a lot.'

'But you say he was once rich and is now poor. Why?'

'The hat is three years old. I remember these hats were in all the shops then. They were very expensive too.'

'Three years ago this man bought a good hat and he was rich then. But he hasn't got any money to buy a new hat now, so these days he is poor.'

'All right,' I said. 'But you say he is in his thirties or

**intelligent**  
quick-thinking

**poor** not rich

**brain** this is in your  
head and you think  
with it

**buy (past bought)**  
to give money for  
something

forties. How does the hat tell you this?’

‘Well, when I looked carefully at the hat with my magnifying glass, I could see some grey hairs in it. People usually get grey hair in their thirties or forties.’

‘I see. But what about his wife? You say she doesn’t love him.’

‘Because the hat is very dirty. When a woman loves her husband, she cleans his hat for him.’

‘Maybe he hasn’t got a wife.’

‘Yes, he has. Remember the ticket on the goose’s leg.’



‘Ah yes,’ I said. ‘You have an answer for everything.’

At that moment the door opened and Peterson the hotel doorman ran into the room. He was very excited.

‘The goose, Mr Holmes. The goose!’ he said.

‘What about the goose?’ asked Holmes. ‘Did it fly off through the kitchen window?’

‘No, Mr Holmes. My wife found this in the bird!’ Peterson opened his hand. There was a beautiful blue diamond in it.

**grey** the colour between white and black

**diamond** a very expensive stone that usually has no colour



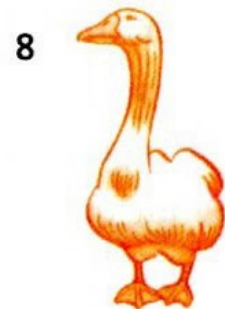
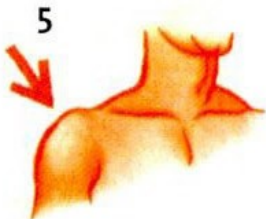
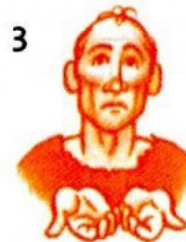
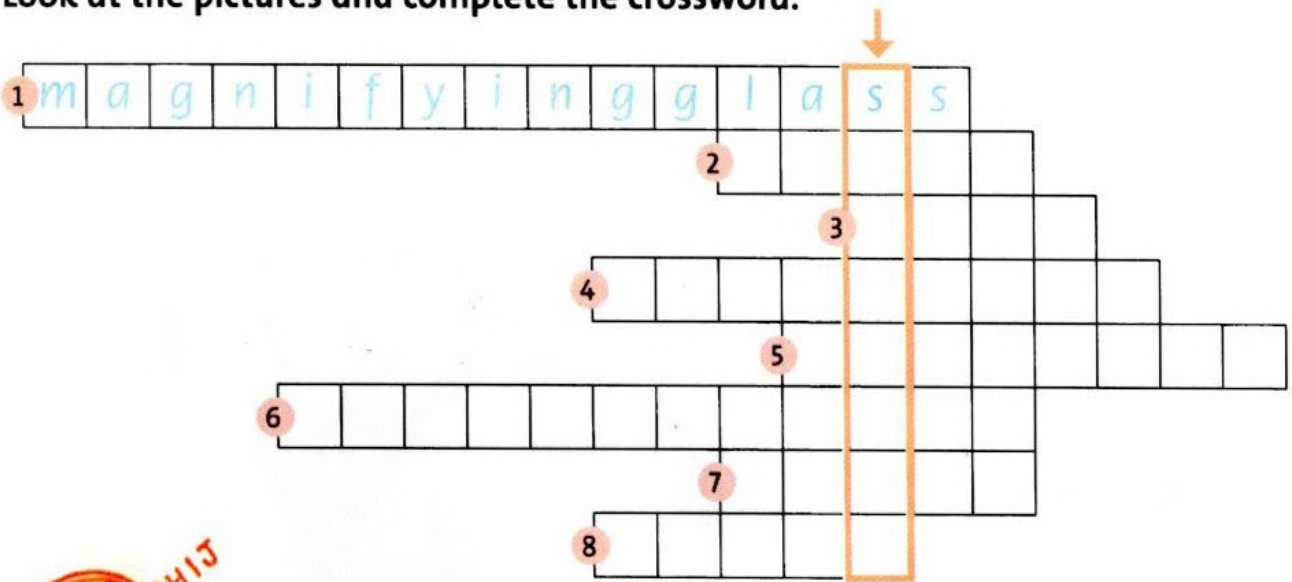
# Activities

## 1 Are these sentences true (T) or false (F)?

- 1 The story starts in December.
- 2 Holmes tells his friend Watson about a tall man with an old hat.
- 3 The tall man left a yellow bird in the street.
- 4 A hotel doorman – Peterson – gave the hat and the bird to Holmes.
- 5 Holmes gave the bird to Watson.
- 6 Peterson's wife found a green diamond in the bird.

T

## 2 Look at the pictures and complete the crossword.



## 3 Read the word (↓) and write the name of another blue jewel. S \_\_\_\_\_

## 4 Find the words from Chapter 1 and write the sentences.

1 She's cooking it in the **kitchen** now.

She's cooking it in the kitchen now.

2 ADVERTISEMENT – Do you want to **buy** a new **hat** ?

\_\_\_\_\_

3 He's an **intelligent** man, with a red **nose** and **grey** hair.

\_\_\_\_\_

4 The **crime** didn't happen in the **sitting room** .

\_\_\_\_\_

5 He **tried** to catch it before it **fell** .

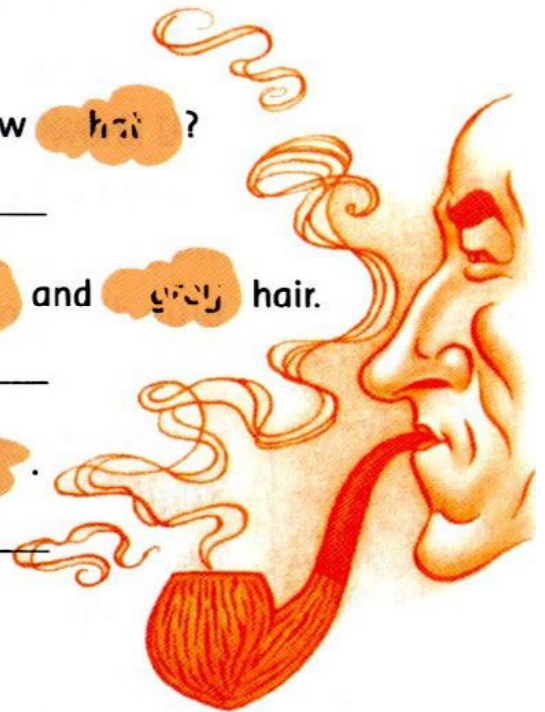
\_\_\_\_\_

6 The **doorman** isn't the owner of the **hat** .

\_\_\_\_\_

7 The story of the blue **diamond** is very interesting.

\_\_\_\_\_



## 5 What do you think happens next?

Write *Holmes*, *Watson*, *Peterson* or *Nobody* in each sentence.

1 \_\_\_\_\_ calls the police.

2 \_\_\_\_\_ knows about the owner of the diamond.

3 \_\_\_\_\_ takes Peterson to the police.

4 \_\_\_\_\_ keeps the diamond.

5 \_\_\_\_\_ writes to the Countess.

6 \_\_\_\_\_ puts an advertisement in the newspaper.



'A thousand pounds!' cried Peterson excitedly. Then, without saying more, he sat down in the chair between us. First he looked at Holmes and then he looked at me.

'The diamond disappeared five days ago, I think,' I said.

'Yes,' answered Holmes. 'They say a young man, John Horner, took it. Here's a newspaper report about the case.'

Holmes gave an old newspaper to me and I read the report.

## A DIAMOND DISAPPEARS FROM THE COSMOPOLITAN HOTEL

The Countess of Morcar's blue diamond disappeared from her room at the Cosmopolitan Hotel on the 22nd of this month. The police think John Horner, 26 years old, took the diamond from a jewel box when he went to repair the window in the room.

James Ryder, the assistant manager of the hotel, told the court: 'I took Horner to the Countess's room but then I went away for some time. When I came back,

Horner wasn't there, and I found the open box, without the jewel in it, on the table next to the bed.'

Catherine Cusack, the countess's maid, spoke next: 'I heard Mr Ryder call and I ran to the Countess's room. There I found Ryder with the jewel box in front of him.'

The police found Horner at his home later that day, but they couldn't find the diamond.

Later, Detective Bradstreet spoke to the court: 'When

I said "You're a diamond thief!" Horner hit me.'

Soon after that Horner told the court angrily: 'I didn't take the Countess's diamond. I'm not a thief.'

Bradstreet then told the court: 'Horner went to prison once before for being a thief. I say he took the diamond.'

The case goes to the High Court next week.

**report** some writing in a newspaper

**repair** to make something that is broken work again

**assistant manager** an important job in a hotel

**Cusack** /'kju:sæk/

**maid** a woman who works in a rich person's house, or in a hotel

**court** the police take someone here when they think he or she did something wrong

**thief** a person who takes things without asking

**prison** a place where people must stay when they do something wrong

**case** when the police work to find answers

**High Court** the most important court in the country

'Well, that's the newspaper report about the diamond,' said Holmes. 'Now we need to find out how the jewel left the Countess of Morcar's room in the Cosmopolitan Hotel and arrived in Tottenham Court Road in a goose.'

'You see, Watson, there *is* a crime in this case. Here's the diamond. The diamond came from the goose, and the goose came from Mr Henry Baker – the man with the old hat.'

'I know you weren't very interested when I told you all about Mr Baker, but now we must find him. Where and how does he come into the case of the blue diamond? The answer to these two questions is very important.'

'But how can we find him?' I asked.

'Through a newspaper advertisement,' answered Holmes.

He took a pen and began to write.

*Did you leave a goose and a black hat some days ago in Tottenham Court Road?*

*Are you called Henry Baker?*

*Please come to 221B Baker Street this evening at 6.30 to get your things.*

'There. That says it all, I think,' said Holmes.

'Yes, but is he going to read it?' I asked.

'Yes, Watson, I think he is. He's a poor man, remember. At the time he was scared because of his accident with the shop window, but now I believe he feels very sorry about running away and thinks: "Why did I leave that bird in the street?"

'Maybe he looked for a newspaper advertisement about it yesterday. I think he's going to look again today, too.

'What's more, we've got his name in the advertisement. His friends are going to see it and they will tell him about it.'

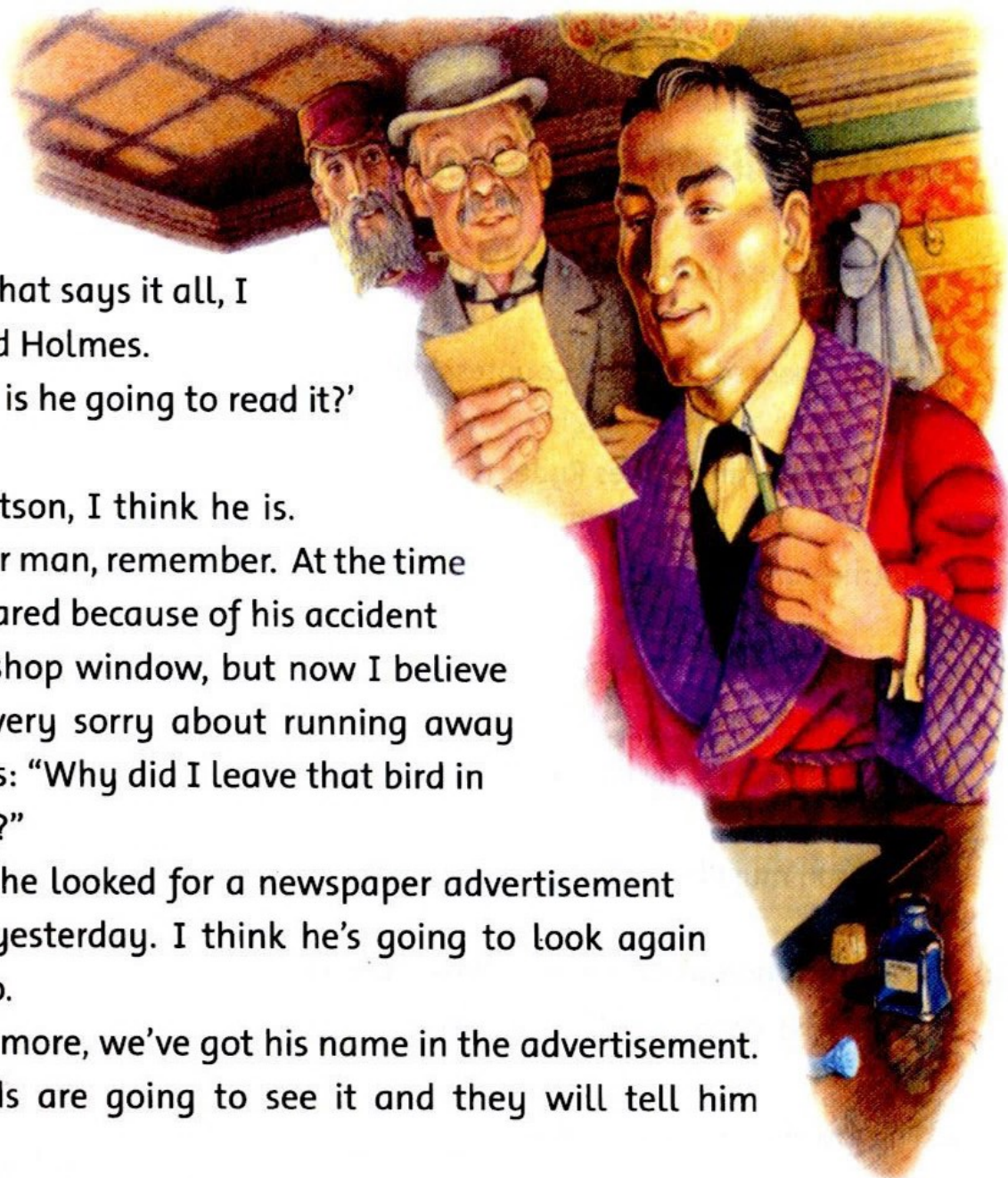
'Yes, I see,' I said.

Holmes gave some money to the doorman and said: 'Peterson, please go down to the newspaper offices and put this advertisement in all the evening newspapers.'

'Very good, sir. And do you want to keep the diamond here, sir?'

'Yes, Peterson. And, I say, Peterson, after you leave the newspaper offices, can you buy a goose for me? I want a new bird for Mr Henry Baker when he comes. Your family is eating the old one for dinner today, so he can't have that.'

The doorman went out of the door and down the street.



**believe** to think that something is true

**sir** you say this when you talk to a rich or important man

## Activities

### 1 Correct the mistakes in these sentences.

- 1 The Countess paid ~~£2,000~~ <sup>20,000</sup> for the diamond.
- 2 It disappeared from the Countess's house.
- 3 The police think James Ryder took it.
- 4 Holmes understands how the diamond got into the goose.
- 5 Holmes wants to find John Horner.
- 6 Peterson leaves the diamond with his wife.
- 7 Peterson must buy a hat for Henry Baker.

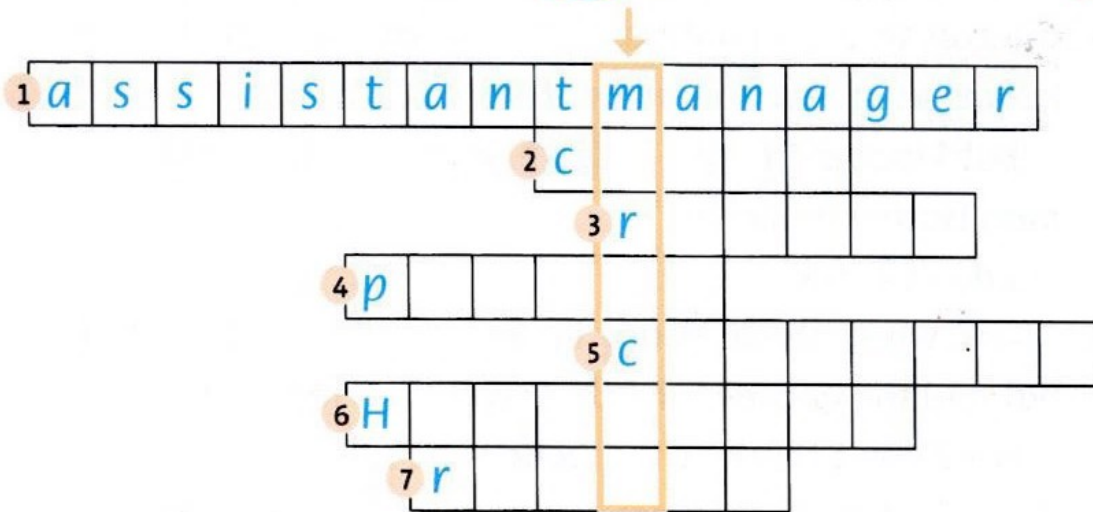
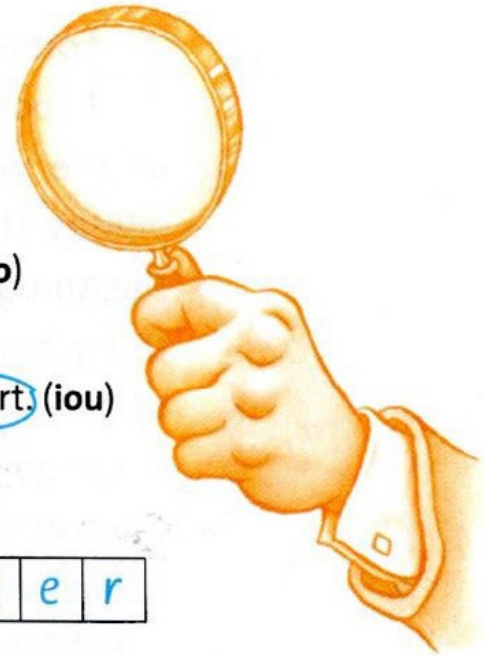
### 2 Correct the underlined words in these sentences.

- 1 Their paid, Catherine, is only sixteen. maid
- 2 The jowel is very expensive. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 You are Sherlock Holmes, I relieve. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 When did the diamond disapprove, sit?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 5 You took that without asking. You're a chief.  
\_\_\_\_\_



3 Use the letters in brackets to complete the last words in these sentences. Write the words in the crossword.

- 1 I work at the hotel. I'm the ssstnt mngr (aiaaae)
- 2 Detective Bradstreet saw Horner in crt. (ou)
- 3 I brought this here for you to rpr. (eai)
- 4 You are a very bad man and you must go to prsn. (io)
- 5 Would you like to be a cntss? (oue)
- 6 This case is very important. It must go to the Hgh Crt. (iou)
- 7 Have you read the newspaper rprt? (eo)



4 Read the word (↓) and write the name of the country where the Countess's jewel box came from.

M \_\_\_\_\_

5 What do you think happens next? Tick the boxes.

- 1 Mr Baker comes to see Holmes.
- 2 Baker knows about the diamond in the goose.
- 3 Holmes gives Mr Baker the new goose and his old hat.
- 4 Holmes takes Mr Baker to the police.
- 5 Holmes gives Mr Baker the diamond.

Yes	No
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



## CHAPTER 3 Mr Henry Baker

**H**olmes took the blue diamond in his hand and looked at it. ‘What a beautiful thing!’ he said. ‘Look at the wonderful colours in it – dark blues and cold whites. This diamond comes from the south of China, near the Amoy river. It’s only twenty years old, and it’s a young thing, but already there are many terrible crimes because of it.’

‘I’m going to put it in my safe now, and then let’s write a letter to the Countess of Morcar and say we have her beautiful blue diamond here with us.’

‘But Holmes,’ I said, ‘I don’t understand. Is that young man Horner innocent?’

‘I don’t know.’

‘And what about Henry Baker – the tall man with the hat and the goose? Is he the jewel thief maybe?’

‘No, I don’t think he is. I believe he’s an innocent man. I don’t think he knew there was an expensive diamond in his goose – a jewel worth more than £20,000. But let’s wait and see. Maybe Mr Baker will answer our advertisement this evening and then we can learn something more about him.’

‘All right,’ I said. ‘I can come back after work this evening. I’m very interested in the answer to this case.’

‘Good,’ replied Holmes. ‘Dinner is at 7 o’clock.’

I got to Baker Street at 6.30 that evening. There was a tall man already at Sherlock Holmes’s front door when I came down the street. He was wearing a long winter coat and had a Scottish hat on his head. When I arrived next to him the door opened. Mrs Hudson, Holmes’s housekeeper, said ‘Good evening’ to the two of us, and we went in and

**Amoy** /ə'mɔɪ/

**already**  
happening earlier  
than you think

**terrible** very bad

**safe** a box  
that people put  
expensive things in  
so thieves can't get  
them

**innocent** doing  
nothing wrong

**housekeeper** a  
woman who looks  
after a rich person's  
house

upstairs to Holmes's room.

'Mr Henry Baker, I believe!' said Holmes to the man when he came in. 'Please sit down.'

Holmes looked at me and smiled.

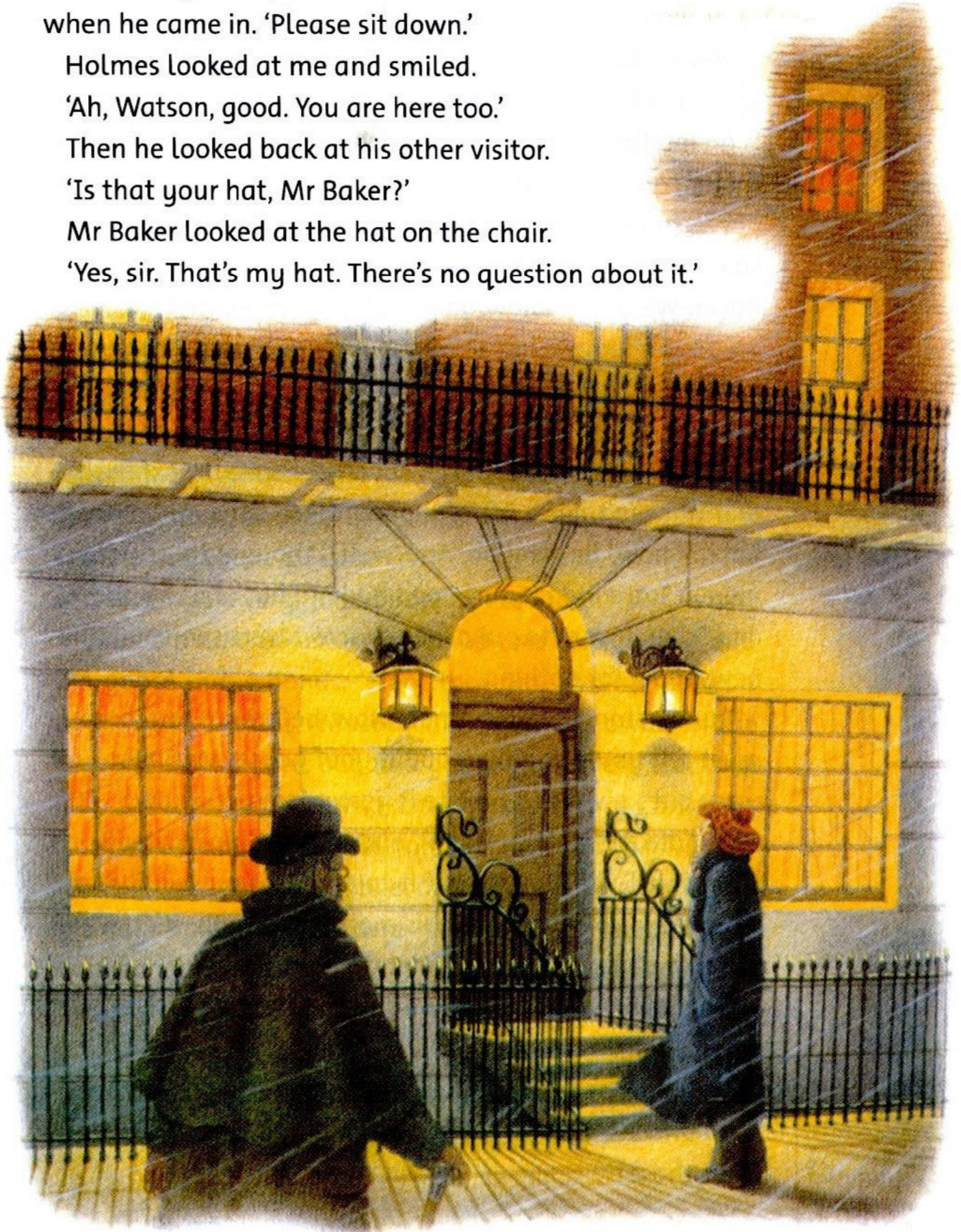
'Ah, Watson, good. You are here too.'

Then he looked back at his other visitor.

'Is that your hat, Mr Baker?'

Mr Baker looked at the hat on the chair.

'Yes, sir. That's my hat. There's no question about it.'



He was a big man with a big head, an intelligent face, and grey hair. I remembered Holmes's words about him.

He was wearing a dirty old black coat with no shirt under it, but he spoke slowly, quietly and carefully. I looked at him and listened to him and I thought: 'Yes, this is an intelligent man. He was rich once but now he has no money and things aren't easy for him.'

'We found your hat and your goose some days ago,' said Holmes, 'But we couldn't find *you* very easily, Mr Baker. We didn't know your address. Why didn't you put an advertisement in the newspaper with your address in it? We waited and waited for an advertisement from you, but saw nothing.'

Mr Baker smiled. 'I'm sorry. Advertisements are expensive and I haven't got a lot of money these days. I had once, but not now,' he went on. 'And, well, I thought those young men in Tottenham Court Road had my hat and my goose, and I didn't want to put an expensive advertisement in the newspaper for nothing.'

'I understand,' said Holmes, 'Now, before we say more, I must tell you something about your goose, Mr Baker. I'm sorry but . . . well . . . we ate it yesterday, you know.'

'You ate it!' said our visitor, and he stood up excitedly.

'Yes, well, we didn't want it to go bad, you see. But we bought a nice new goose this morning for you. It's on the table there by the door. Is that all right for you?'

'Oh, yes, yes!' said Mr Baker happily. He sat down again.

'And, let's see, I think we have your old goose's feet, head and everything from inside it in the kitchen. Do you want those?'

**address** the number and the street where somebody lives

The man laughed. 'No, no,' he said. 'But I'd like to take that nice new goose home with me, thank you very much.'

Sherlock Holmes looked at me with a little smile. 'Very well,' he said to Mr Baker. 'There is your hat and there is your bird. Please take them. Oh, and, before you go, can you tell me something? Where did you get your goose? I know a lot about geese and that was a very good bird, I can tell you.'

'Well, sir,' said Baker. He stood up and took his hat and the goose in his hands. 'I got that bird at The Alpha, a hotel near the British Museum. This year the owner of the hotel, Mr Windigate, began a goose club. Every week we all put five or six pence into a money box and at Christmas time we all had the money for a goose.'

With that he said goodbye, and left.

'Well,' said my detective friend. 'That answers one question. Mr Baker is not our diamond thief. Are you hungry, Watson?'

'No, not very.'

'Let's eat later then. We must go to The Alpha at once. We have to speak to Mr Windigate tonight.'



## Activities

### 1 Choose the correct words to complete the sentences.

1 Holmes thinks the diamond is . . .

- a wonderful and good.
- b beautiful but bad.
- c nice and cheap.

2 Mr Baker didn't put an advertisement in the newspaper because . . .

- a he wasn't interested in his hat and goose.
- b he thought that the police had his hat and goose.
- c an advertisement is expensive and he doesn't have much money.

3 Mr Baker . . .

- a wants his old hat and his old goose.
- b is happy with a new hat and his old goose.
- c is happy with his old hat and the new goose.

4 After Mr Baker leaves, Holmes and Watson go to speak to . . .

- a Jack Horner.
- b the young men in Tottenham Court Road.
- c Mr Windigate, the owner of The Alpha.

### 2 Find eight words from the story. Then complete the sentences on page 21.



- 1 'This is a very bad crime.' 'Yes. It's terrible.'
- 2 Holmes put the diamond in his \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3 Holmes's \_\_\_\_\_ is 221B Baker Street.
- 4 Mr Baker is \_\_\_\_\_. He didn't take the diamond.
- 5 Mr Baker was \_\_\_\_\_ at the door when Watson arrived.
- 6 Mrs Hudson is Sherlock Holmes's \_\_\_\_\_.
- 7 Mr Baker's \_\_\_\_\_ is on the chair in Sherlock Holmes's room.
- 8 The British \_\_\_\_\_ has many old things in it.

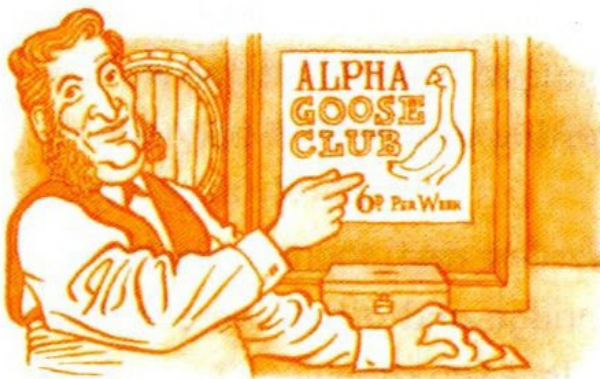
**3 What do you think happens next? Tick one picture.**



a Mr Windigate can't help Holmes.



b Mr Windigate is the diamond thief.



c Mr Windigate tells Holmes about the geese.



d Mr Windigate knows the diamond thief.

## CHAPTER 4 To Mr Breckinridge's

**H**olmes and I put on our coats and hats and went out into the cold winter street. The sky was dark over our heads. We walked east, and in a quarter of an hour we stood in front of The Alpha Hotel. Holmes opened the door and we went in.

In the hotel the owner, Mr Windigate, gave us some drinks.

'Have you got any geese?' Holmes asked him. 'I ask because I know your geese are very good. Mr Henry Baker told us all about your goose club.'

'Ah, yes. But those geese weren't our geese. They came from a man with a little shop in Covent Garden. Breckinridge is his name.'

'Thank you, my good man,' said Holmes. We finished our drinks and then we walked out of the warm hotel and into the cold night again.

'Now for Covent Garden,' said Holmes, and we walked down the street past the British Museum. 'Remember, Watson, it all started with a goose, but it finishes with seven years in prison for young Mr Horner. Maybe we can learn more about this interesting case in Mr Breckinridge's shop.'

We walked to Covent Garden and soon came to Mr Breckinridge's shop. Breckinridge and a boy were at the door. It was nearly time to close the shop.

'Good evening. It's a cold night,' said Holmes.

'How can I help you?' asked Breckinridge.

Holmes looked at the shop window. 'You haven't got any geese, I see,' he said.

'There are some in that other shop – there behind you.'



'Ah, but I came to you because I hear your geese are very good. "Breckinridge's birds are the best," he said.'

'Who said that?'

'The owner of The Alpha.'

'Ah, yes. He had twenty-four of my geese two days before Christmas.'

'They were very good birds, too. Where did you get them?'

'I'm not going to tell you!' said Breckinridge angrily. 'Again and again people come and talk to me about those geese and I don't like it. I paid good money for them, I took them to The Alpha and then I forgot all about them. And then all the questions started. "Where are the geese?" "How much do you want for them?" and "Who did you



**sell (past sold)**

to take money for something

**winner** the person who gets the right answer

**page** this book has forty pages

**Oakshott** /  
'əʊkʃɒt/



sell them to?" Why are people interested in them? I don't know. They aren't the only geese in London, you know.'

'I know,' said Holmes. 'But who asked you all those questions before? Not me. I had nothing to do with that, you know. But now I want your help. We ate a goose at The Alpha, and I say it was a country goose, but my good friend, Dr Watson here, says it was a London goose. Which of us is right? It's an important question. Five pounds goes to the winner.'

'Well then, your friend is the winner,' said Breckinridge. 'That goose came from London.'

'I can't believe that,' said Holmes.

'A pound says I'm right.'

'Very well,' said Holmes, and he took out a pound. 'I'm ready to give you a pound. Show me your books.'

Breckinridge laughed. 'Get me the books, Bill,' he said. The boy carried two books to him.

Breckinridge opened the little one. 'This is my address book,' he said. 'When people sell their geese to me their addresses go in here – country people on the left and town people on the right. The numbers after every name are page numbers in my big book.'

'Read out the third name on the right,' said Breckinridge.

'Mrs Oakshott, 117 Brixton Road. Number 249,' read Holmes.

Then Breckinridge opened the big book. 'And this is my "IN and OUT" book,' he said. 'Let's look at page 249. Here we are. Mrs Oakshott. What can you see for December 22nd?'

'Twenty-four geese from Mrs O,' read Holmes. 'All twenty-four to Mr Windigate at The Alpha.'

'There. What do you say now?' said Breckinridge.

Holmes put his pound into Breckinridge's hand angrily.



## Activities

### 1 Put these sentences in the correct order.

- a Mr Breckinridge is angry with Holmes.
- b Mr Breckinridge tells Holmes about Mrs Oakshott.
- c Holmes and Watson go to Covent Garden.
- d Holmes and Watson go to the Alpha.
- e Holmes asks Mr Breckinridge about the geese.
- f Holmes gives Mr Breckinridge a pound.
- g Mr Windigate tells Holmes about Mr Breckinridge's shop.

### 2 Complete the sentences with words from the story.



1 'Can I p ay you now?'



2 'Yes, of course I want to s \_\_\_\_\_ this goose.'



3 'Look at p \_\_\_\_\_ 249  
in your books.'



4 'You're the w \_\_\_\_\_.'

## 3 What do you think happens next? Tick the pictures.

1 Holmes feels ...



a angry with  
Mr Breckinridge.



b happy about  
the case.



c tired.

2 Holmes and Watson go to ...



a Mrs Oakshott's.



b 221B Baker Street.



c the Cosmopolitan  
Hotel.

3 They speak to ...



a Mrs Oakshott.



b the Countess's  
maid.



c the hotel's assistant  
manager.

## CHAPTER 5 A weak little man

**weak** not strong

**shout** to say loudly and angrily

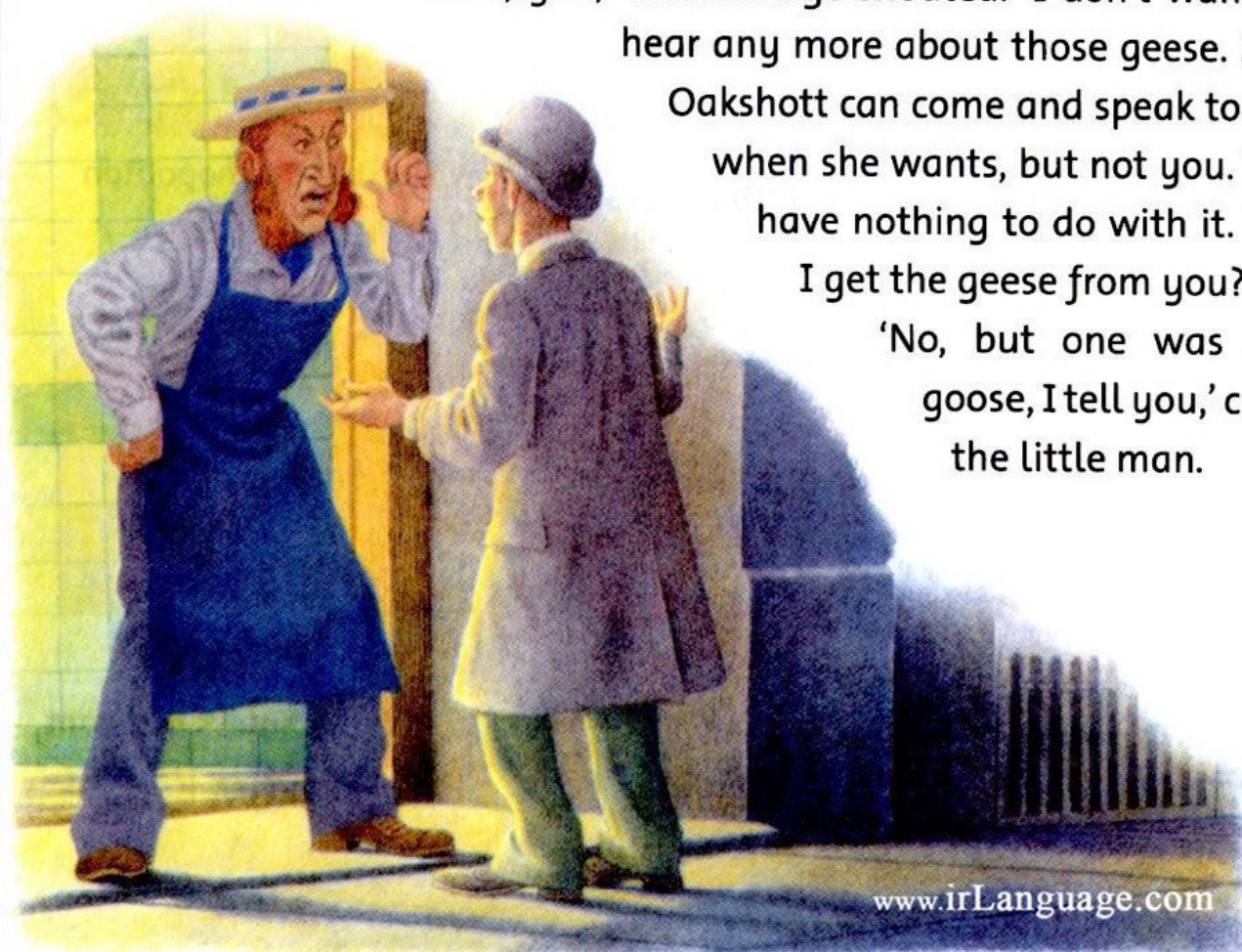
**I**n the street Holmes stopped. Suddenly he wasn't angry; he began to laugh. 'You see, Watson,' he said. 'Breckinridge didn't want to tell me Mrs Oakshott's name and address at first. But later, when he saw he could easily get a pound from me, he told me everything. And he said something very interesting when he got angry. Did you hear? Other people are asking questions about those geese.'

Suddenly there was a lot of noise from Mr Breckinridge's shop behind us. We looked back at it.

Breckinridge stood, tall and angry, in front of his shop door. A weak little man stood in front of him in the street.

'Look, you,' Breckinridge shouted. 'I don't want to hear any more about those geese. Mrs Oakshott can come and speak to me when she wants, but not you. You have nothing to do with it. Did I get the geese from you?'

'No, but one was *my* goose, I tell you,' cried the little man.



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'Then ask Mrs Oakshott for it.'

'But she told me "Ask Mr Breckinridge for it." '

'Well, that's nothing to do with me. I don't want to hear any more from you. Do you understand? Now go away!'

Breckinridge closed his shop door angrily and the little man ran off down the dark street.

'Maybe we don't have to visit Mrs Oakshott in Brixton Road after all,' said Holmes to me quietly. 'Let's talk to that man. Maybe he can help us.'

Holmes walked quickly up behind the little man and put a hand on his shoulder. The man stopped and looked over his shoulder at us. His face was white.

'Who are you? What do you want?' he asked weakly.

'Excuse me,' said Holmes. 'But I heard your questions to that shop owner. I think I can help you.'

'Who are you? And how can you help me?'

'My name is Sherlock Holmes. And it's my job to know things other people don't know.'

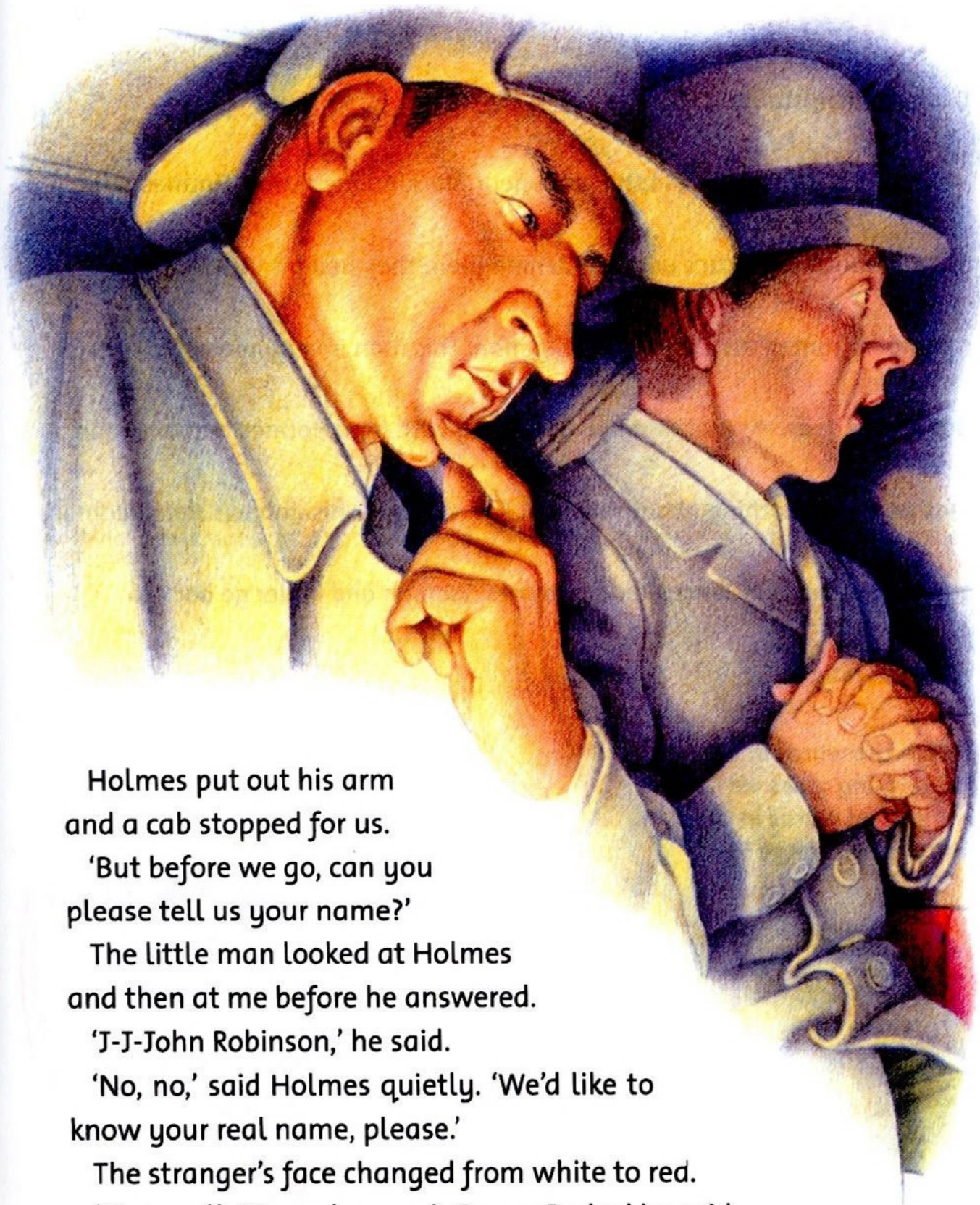
'But you can't know anything about this!'

'Excuse me, I know everything. You want to find twenty-four geese. Mrs Oakshott of Brixton Road sold them to Mr Breckinridge here. He sold them to Mr Windigate, the owner of The Alpha, and Mr Windigate sold them to the people in his goose club.'

'Oh, sir. This is wonderful. I'm very happy to meet you,' said the little man excitedly. 'You are right. I *am* very interested in those geese. More than I can say.'

'Why don't we go to a warm room in my house for a talk then? I don't like standing here in the cold street.'





Holmes put out his arm  
and a cab stopped for us.

'But before we go, can you  
please tell us your name?'

The little man looked at Holmes  
and then at me before he answered.

'J-J-John Robinson,' he said.

'No, no,' said Holmes quietly. 'We'd like to  
know your real name, please.'

The stranger's face changed from white to red.

'Very well. My real name is James Ryder,' he said.

'Well, well, well,' said Holmes. 'Assistant Manager of  
the Cosmopolitan Hotel. Now let's get into the cab and go  
home. Then I can tell you everything you want to know.'

So we got into the cab and went home. Ryder was excited  
but said nothing. Holmes didn't speak at all in the cab.

**cab** a taxi

**real** not false



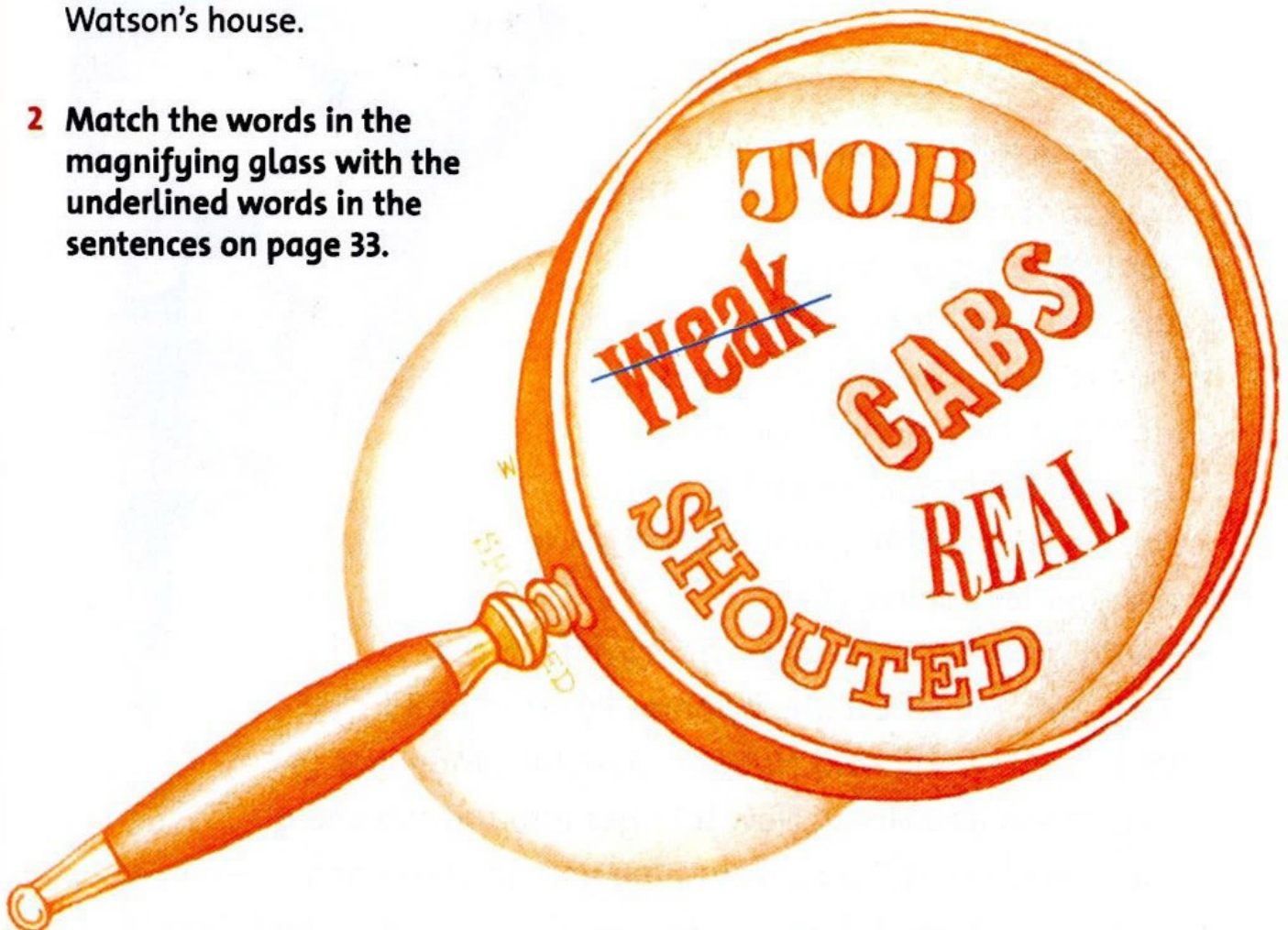
## Activities

### 1 Correct the mistakes.

street

Holmes and Watson talk in the ~~hotel~~ near Breckinridge's shop. Holmes is happy to get Countess Morcar's address. Behind them they hear Mr Breckinridge singing in front of his shop with a big man. This man is very interested in Mrs Oakshott's dogs. Mr Breckinridge gets angry with him. Holmes tells the man that he knows nothing about the case. The man says his name is John Redman, but his real name is James Ryder. Holmes, Watson and Ryder go back to Watson's house.

### 2 Match the words in the magnifying glass with the underlined words in the sentences on page 33.



## Activities

1 She was very tired after being ill. weak



2 He spoke angrily across the room at her. \_\_\_\_\_

3 London taxis are usually black. \_\_\_\_\_



4 What work does your father do, boy? \_\_\_\_\_



5 Is this a true story? \_\_\_\_\_

### 3 What do you think happens next? Tick the boxes.

1 At home Holmes takes out ...

a the blue diamond.     b a gun.     c a letter from the Countess.

2 Ryder ...

a tells the truth.     b gets a goose.     c calls the police.

3 We learn that ... was the diamond thief.

a Ryder     b Horner     c Mrs Oakshott

4 In the end ... goes to prison.

a Ryder     b Horner     c no one

## CHAPTER 6 One or two questions

**tail** the long thing at the back of an animal's body

**W**hen we arrived at 221B Baker Street, we got out of the cab and went in. When we were in the sitting room, Holmes spoke at last.

'Please sit down, Mr Ryder. Now, you want to know about those twenty-four geese. Or maybe, about one of those geese? You are interested in only one bird, I think. A white goose with a black tail.'

'Oh, sir,' Ryder said excitedly. 'Where did it go?'

'It came here. And it was very interesting. We found something in it. The most wonderful thing. Here it is.'

Our visitor stood up weakly. Holmes opened his safe and took out the blue diamond. In his hand it was cold and beautiful. Ryder looked at the jewel but said nothing.

Holmes spoke for him. 'We know it was you, Ryder,' he said. 'Sit down and have some tea. You look very weak.'

I gave Ryder some tea. He sat down and drank it quickly and looked at Holmes. I saw he was afraid.

'You don't need to tell me much,' said Holmes, 'I know nearly everything about the case. But I have one or two questions to ask. How did you hear of the Countess of Morcar's blue diamond?'

'Catherine Cusack, her maid, told me,' said Ryder.

'I see,' Holmes went on. 'So you and Cusack wanted to get



the diamond and sell it for lots of money. You asked John Horner to come and repair the window because you knew he has been in prison. When he left, you took the diamond from the Countess's jewel box. Then you called the police. Because Horner has been in prison they believed he was the thief. It was all very easy. Then . . .'

'Oh, please!' cried Ryder, now on the floor at Holmes's feet. 'I'm never going to do anything wrong again. Please don't tell the police. I don't want to go to prison.'

'Sit down in your chair!' said Holmes coldly. 'You're crying now, but did you feel sorry for young Horner? He knew nothing of this crime. But the police believed he was a diamond thief, and so he went to court and he is now going to prison – all because of you.'

'I can leave the country, Mr Holmes. Then, when I don't go to court, Horner can leave prison.'

'We can see about that later!' said Holmes. 'But now please tell me, Mr Ryder. How did the diamond get from the hotel into a goose? And how did the goose get into a shop? And please tell the truth.'

Ryder began:

*When the police arrested Horner, I left the hotel with the diamond in my coat pocket. I didn't want to stay at the Cosmopolitan, not with the police everywhere, looking at everything, so I went to my sister's house in South London. She lives in Brixton Road with her husband, Mr Oakshott. I saw lots of police officers when I was going there and when I got to Brixton Road I was very scared.*

*'What's the matter?' my sister asked.*

*I told her about the diamond thief and about the police arresting Horner. Then I went into the garden to think. What could I do with the diamond now? I remembered my*

**feel sorry for** to be unhappy about

**truth** when what you say is true

**arrest** to take a person to prison

**police officers** policemen and policewomen

friend Maudsley. He started well, but he went bad, and in the end he went to prison for his crimes. 'Perhaps he knows about selling diamonds,' I thought. So I decided to visit him at his home in Kilburn in North London.

'But how can I walk across London with the diamond?' I thought. 'I can't have it in my pocket. Not with all those police officers in the streets.' Then I looked down at the geese in the garden and I thought of something.

I knew one of those geese was for me, for my Christmas dinner. So I decided to take my goose there and then.

I quickly caught a big white goose with a black tail. Then I took the diamond from my pocket, and put it into the bird's mouth. I felt the jewel go down its neck. With the diamond now inside the goose, I felt happy. I could walk to Kilburn and back easily.

Then my sister came into the garden.

'What are you doing with that goose?' she said.

I put my bird down and it ran off with the other geese. 'That's the goose I want for Christmas,' I said.

'Very well. Take it with you,' she said.

Well, Mr Holmes, I caught that bird, killed it and took it with me to Kilburn. There I told Maudsley all about the diamond and he got a knife and opened the goose. But we couldn't find the diamond. Maybe I didn't catch the right goose.

I quickly ran back to my sister's house and went into the garden. There weren't any geese there.

'Where are the geese, Maggie?' I said.

'In Mr Breckinridge's shop, in Covent Garden.'

'Were there two birds with black tails?' I asked.

'Yes, there were, James,' she said. 'And to my eyes one was no different from the other.'

I understood it all then. The diamond was inside the other goose with the black tail. I ran to Covent Garden at

**decide** to think about something and then do it

**catch (past caught)** to take quickly in your hands

once and went to Mr Breckinridge's shop. But the geese weren't there, and when I asked about them he told me: 'I sold them all at once.'

'But you must tell me. Where are they now?' I asked again and again. But he never told me. You and Dr Watson heard him earlier tonight, Mr Holmes. He never answered my questions.

'Now my sister thinks I'm a terrible brother. I'm a thief, I'm going to get a bad name, and I never got any money from my crime at all. Oh, am I going to go to prison?'

He put his head in his hands and started to cry.

Holmes didn't speak for a long time. Then, in the end, he stood up and opened the door.

'Get out!' he said.

'Oh, thank you! Thank you!' said Ryder, and he ran out of the door, downstairs, out into the street, and away.

'After all, Watson,' said Holmes. 'It's not my job to do the police's work and young Horner's going to be all right. Ryder isn't going to go to court now. If Ryder isn't there, the police have no witness to say Horner was the thief.'

'Maybe I'm doing something bad, but I don't believe it. I think I'm helping Ryder to be a better man. Send him to prison now and you make him into a thief for life. But now he's scared, he's not going to go wrong again. We found the solution to the crime and that makes me happy. And it's Christmas, after all, and Christmas is a time to be nice to other people, I believe.'

'And now, Watson, let's ask Mrs Hudson to give us some dinner.'



**witness** a person who saw a crime

**solution** the answer to a problem

# Activities

1 What do they say? Complete the sentences.

We know it was you!

The Countess's maid told me.

I put it in a goose at my sister's house.

Let's have dinner!

Please don't tell the police!

Get out!

How did you know about the diamond?

- 1 Holmes says to Ryder 'We know it was you!'
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_ Holmes asks Ryder.
- 3 Ryder answers \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4 He then tells Holmes \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5 Ryder asks Holmes \_\_\_\_\_.
- 6 \_\_\_\_\_ says Holmes to Ryder angrily.
- 7 \_\_\_\_\_ says Holmes to Watson happily.

2 Find words to complete the sentences on page 39.

o	d	b	d	p	j	u	t	g	s	v	z	u	y
f	e	e	l	s	o	r	r	y	f	o	r	o	t
k	c	g	e	s	i	e	u	s	c	v	e	m	f
s	i	g	e	r	w	i	t	n	e	s	s	e	s
a	d	o	t	s	h	o	h	u	i	n	e	t	k
k	e	v	a	h	d	x	n	s	i	j	c	l	e
p	o	l	i	c	e	o	f	f	i	c	e	r	s
z	w	o	l	a	q	u	o	g	d	a	h	y	c
l	u	o	v	b	e	s	o	l	u	t	i	o	n
a	r	r	e	s	t	l	u	r	y	c	f	e	j
h	o	j	l	e	w	x	i	z	p	h	u	w	s

- 1 Why does Holmes decide to help Ryder?
- 2 Does he \_\_\_\_\_ that young and unhappy man?
- 3 In the end it's always good to tell the \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4 I think \_\_\_\_\_ don't have an easy job.
- 5 A good detective finds the \_\_\_\_\_ to every case.
- 6 Ryder doesn't \_\_\_\_\_ the right goose.
- 7 Henry Baker's goose was white with a black \_\_\_\_\_ too.
- 8 The police don't \_\_\_\_\_ Ryder because he leaves England.
- 9 With no \_\_\_\_\_ to speak in Court, the police can't put Horner in prison.

**3 Here are some other Sherlock Holmes cases. What are they about? Match the sentences with the titles.**



a ... Sherlock Holmes dies in Switzerland ... or does he?

b ... four men from India come to England to find the jewels they lost years ago ...

c ... someone moves into the old house opposite 221B but he doesn't want people to know he is there ...

d ... things begin when a rich man and his wife find little pictures of people on the walls of their house ...

**4 Which of these books would you like to read?**



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