

2. The Adventure of the Beryl Coronet

I Answer the questions with reference to the Context

1. "Calm yourself, Mr. Holder," he said, his voice steady. "Tell me every detail, from the start. Omit nothing."

a. Who is referred to as 'he'?

Ans: Sherlock Holmes is being referred to as 'he'.

b. What was Mr. Holder's situation when these words were addressed to him?

Ans: Mr. Holder was extremely disturbed and agitated when Sherlock Holmes addressed him. His face had turned grey and his coat had become lopsided.

c. Why was the speaker asking for every detail?

Ans: Sherlock Holmes was asking for every detail, because he needed all the facts to solve the mystery of the missing beryl.

d. What do the above lines tell us about the speaker's temperament?

Ans: These words spoken by Holmes reveal that he is methodical, observant and focused on gathering evidence to understand the case. It reflects his analytical and calm nature.

2 "I didn't mean harm! George - Sir George - came to my window in the dark"

a. Who said these lines and to whom?
Ans: These words were spoken by Mary Holder in answer to Sherlock Holmes. Alexander Holder and Dr. Watson were also present

b. What event in the story led to this confession?

Ans: The confession happened after Holmes confronted Mary about the footprints revealing George Burnwell's involvement and Arthur's silence, which suggested he was protecting someone. Mary broke down and admitted her role in the theft.

c. How was Sir George linked to the theft?

Ans: Sir George Burnwell, a wealthy aristocrat often visited Streatham and captivated Mary with his stories. One late night he came to the window and persuaded Mary to open the bureau and give her the beryl from the Coronet.

d. Why was the speaker so upset?

Ans: Mary was upset because she was a gentle, graceful person whom her uncle Alexander Holder trusted blindly. However, she had betrayed his trust and almost ruined his reputation by helping George Burnwell steal the beryl. Her cousin Arthur too was arrested on her account as he refused to reveal Mary's name.

3. "The footprints told the tale" he said.
"Burnwell's tracks led to the window where Mary met him."

a. Who spoke these lines, and when were they spoken?

Ans: The speaker was Sherlock Holmes, and the lines were spoken at Alexander Holder's house in Streatham, while explaining how the mystery was solved.

b. What tale did the footprints tell in the story?

Ans: The footprints told the tale of how Sir George Burnwell came to the dressing-room, window, where Mary met him and helped him steal the beryl from the coronet. They also revealed that there was a struggle between Sir George Burnwell and Arthur Holder.

c How did the footprints help solve the mystery of the missing heryls?

Ans: The footprints helped solve the mystery by showing Burnwell's tracks to the window, revealing their involvement. They also led to the stables, where a struggle occurred, and a heryl fragment was found, confirming that Arthur had chased Burnwell and had not stolen the gems.

d How would you describe the speaker's investigating abilities?

Ans: Sherlock Holmes' investigating abilities are built on his exceptional observation skills, allowing him to notice minute details. His logical reasoning enables him to draw and logical reasoning, which enables him to draw conclusions from those observations.

c Answer the following questions

Q1: How did Mr. Holder come into possession of the heryl coronet and why did he decide to keep it at home?

Ans: A nobleman borrowed £50,000 from Mr. Holder's bank and left the heryl coronet as security. Holder took it home because he feared thieves at the bank.

Q2. Holmes' investigation of the scratched lock of the bureau revealed two things about the theft. What were they?

Ans: Mr. Holmes' investigation revealed that the lock was forced with care, by a skilled hand, not brute strength. The bureau was opened before Arthur arrived.

Q3. Why did Sherlock Holmes suspect Mary instead of Arthur as the one who helped steal the pearls?

Ans: Holmes suspected Mary because Arthur's silence showed he was protecting someone. Further, Mary's nervous behaviour and red eyes raised suspicion.

Q4. How did Mr. Holder feel at the end of the story?

Ans: He felt relieved, grateful and tearful. His honour was saved, Arthur was freed and the coronet was restored.

3 The Listeners (Poem)

- Walter de la Mare

I

only Textual Exercises