

Sherlock Holmes

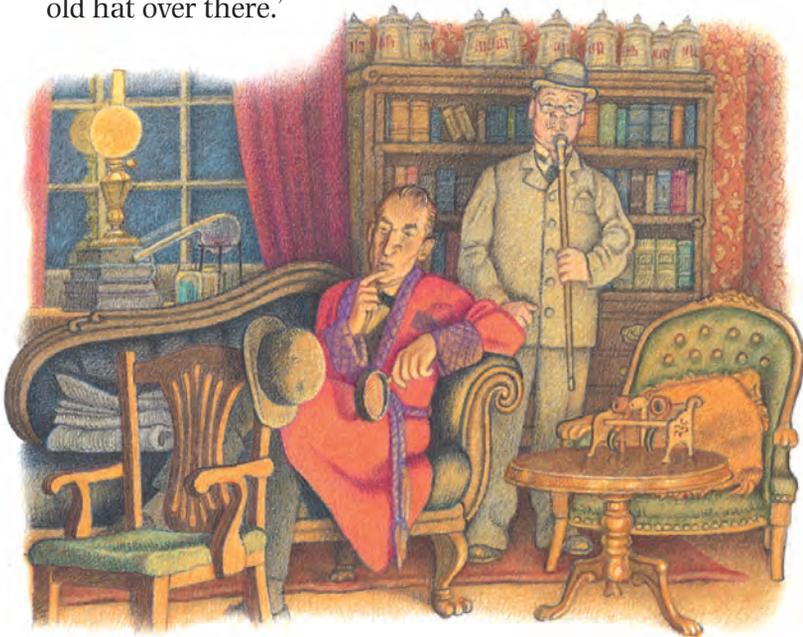
The Blue Diamond

CHAPTER 1 *An old hat*

My 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. 'Shall I go?'

'No,' said Holmes. 'Sit down and look at that interesting old hat over there.'



Holmes /həʊmz/

diamond a very expensive stone that usually has no colour

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

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 something to do with 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 and brought it here on Christmas Day for me to look at. He also brought a dead **bird** with him – a good fat Christmas **goose** – at the same time.

'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 begin when it all began,' 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.

crime killing someone, or taking money from someone

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

bird an animal that can fly; you can eat some birds

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

cook to make things for people to eat

shoulder this is between your arm and your neck

fall (*past fell*) to go down suddenly

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

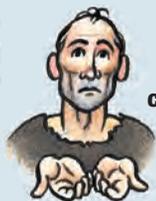
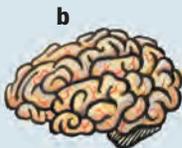
walking stick a long, thin piece of wood; you use this to help you to walk

READING CHECK

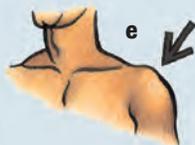
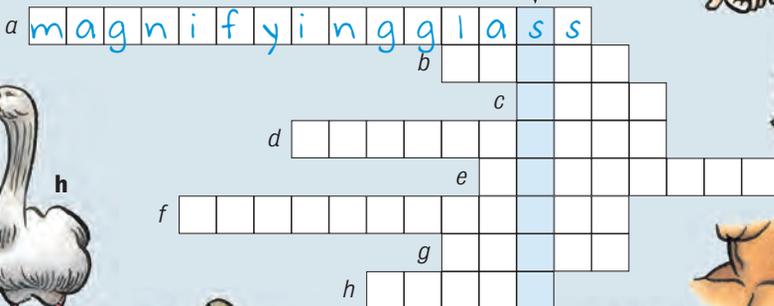
Are these sentences true or false?

True False

- a The story happens in December.
- b Holmes tells his friend Watson about a tall man with an old hat.
- c The tall man left a yellow bird in the street.
- d A hotel doorman – Peterson – gave the hat and the bird to Holmes.
- e Holmes gave the bird to Watson.
- f Peterson's wife found a green diamond in the bird.



WORD WORK



1 Look at the pictures and complete the crossword.

2 Read the blue squares and write the name of another blue jewel. S _ _ _ _ _