CLASS 7 • ENGLISH LITERATURE • UNIT 8

# The Walking Stick Story

*An extract from The Hound of the Baskervilles*
*by Arthur Conan Doyle*



A visitor's walking stick turns breakfast into an investigation.

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Illustrated study material with textbook solutions, exam-style practice and a Ready Reckoner.

START HERE

# Before You Begin

> **Look closely** A shoe has a worn heel and dried mud along one side. What can you actually see? What might you infer about its use? What would you need to check?

In this detective-fiction extract, Dr Watson tells us how a walking stick left by an unknown visitor becomes a set of clues. Arthur Conan Doyle wrote The Hound of the Baskervilles, the novel from which the chapter is taken.

## Learning objectives

- Retell the investigation in the order in which Watson narrates it.
- Distinguish observations, inferences and confirmed facts.
- Compare how Holmes and Watson interpret the same clues.
- Explain the role of the first-person narrator and the final reveal.
- Support a short answer with a precise detail from the story.
- Adapt a narrative moment into dialogue and stage directions.

## Contents


| Section | Pages |
|---|---|
| **Story overview and guided reading** | 3–5 |
| **Vocabulary and literary analysis** | 6–8 |
| **Textbook solutions and model play** | 9–11 |
| **Exam-style practice** | 12–15 |
| **Explanatory answers and marking points** | 16–19 |
| **Ready Reckoner, sources and illustration notes** | 20–21 |

READ THE STORY • 1 OF 3

# From Object to Clue

## Complete summary

Dr James Mortimer leaves his stick after calling on Holmes and Watson. At breakfast Watson uses the inscription and worn wood to infer that Mortimer is a respected, elderly country doctor who walks often. He guesses that a local hunt gave him the stick. Holmes agrees about the country practice and the walking, then reinterprets CCH as Charing Cross Hospital and suggests a younger former house surgeon or house physician. The Medical Directory confirms the hospital connection and Mortimer's post as house surgeon. Holmes reasons from tooth marks that a dog has carried the stick. Looking out of the window, he spots a curly-haired spaniel at the door as Mortimer rings the bell.

## 1. The visitor's forgotten stick

Watson picks up a thick wooden stick with a rounded head. Its silver band names James Mortimer, gives the initials MRCS and CCH, and carries the date 1884. The stick looks solid and dignified to Watson, who associates it with an old-fashioned family doctor.



Watson picks up the stick while Holmes faces the other way.



The polished coffee pot explains how Holmes saw Watson.

## 2. How did Holmes see Watson?

Holmes sits with his back to Watson and asks what he makes of the stick. Watson is astonished. Holmes points to the polished silver-plated coffee pot in front of him, which has reflected Watson's movement.

> **Look for the clue** Watson reports what Holmes says and does. We share Watson's surprise because we learn how Holmes saw him only when Watson does.

READ THE STORY • 2 OF 3

# Two Readings of the Same Stick

## 3. Watson builds a portrait

The wear at the lower end suggests long use. Watson links the wear with frequent visits on foot and imagines a country doctor. The handsome gift suggests esteem. He goes further and guesses that members of a local hunt gave it in thanks for medical help.

## 4. Holmes tests a different explanation

Holmes inspects the stick and uses a convex lens by the window. He keeps Watson's points about the country practice and frequent walking. He then proposes Charing Cross Hospital as a more likely expansion of CCH. He treats that reading as a working hypothesis and asks what would follow if it were true.



The worn end suggests the stick has been used frequently.



Holmes examines the stick again by the window.

## 5. Why give a doctor a stick?

Holmes suggests that Mortimer's hospital friends presented it when he left their service to practise elsewhere. In his reasoning, a senior London doctor would have been well established, so a junior hospital post seems more likely. He connects the date on the stick with Mortimer's departure five years earlier and pictures a man under thirty.

> **Be careful** The date is part of the inscription. Mortimer's reason for leaving and his exact age require more evidence.

READ THE STORY • 3 OF 3

# Checking the Evidence

## 6. Watson opens the Medical Directory

Watson laughs in disbelief, then searches the Medical Directory. The matching entry records that Mortimer was house surgeon at Charing Cross Hospital from 1882 to 1884. It also lists his current post as medical officer for Grimpen, Thorsley and High Barrow.

## 7. Holmes interprets habits

Holmes reads the gift as a sign of friendliness and takes the move away from London as a sign of limited career ambition. He calls Mortimer absent-minded because, after waiting an hour, he left the stick behind and did not leave a visiting card. These are Holmes's interpretations of his behaviour.



The Medical Directory gives Watson a way to check the hospital clue.



A reconstruction of how the spaniel may have carried the stick earlier.

## 8. The spaniel and the bell

Marks near the middle suggest a dog gripped the heavy stick where it could carry it more easily. The gap between the marks points to a jaw broader than a terrier's and narrower than a mastiff's. Holmes names the breed after spotting the curly-haired spaniel on the doorstep. The bell announces Mortimer's arrival.

> **Exam focus** The tooth marks suggest the animal's size. The view from the window confirms the breed.

WORD BANK

# Vocabulary and Expressions

| Word or phrase | Meaning in the lesson | Example or near synonym |
|---|---|---|
| **engraved** | Cut into a hard surface | Her name was engraved on the medal. |
| **practitioner** | A person who works in a profession | A medical practitioner is a doctor. |
| **reassuring** | Giving a feeling of comfort or confidence | The sturdy handle felt reassuring. |
| **souvenir** | An object that reminds you of someone or something | A keepsake |
| **well-esteemed** | Highly respected | A well-esteemed teacher |
| **worn down** | Made thinner or smoother through use | The stair edges were worn down. |
| **presentation** | A gift, or the giving of it on an occasion | A farewell presentation |
| **convex lens** | An outward-curving lens used here to magnify | A magnifying glass |
| **working hypothesis** | A possible explanation used as a starting point | A theory to test |
| **inference** | An idea reached by reasoning from clues | A conclusion based on evidence |
| **venture** | Dare to suggest or go further | She ventured a guess. |
| **amiable** | Friendly and pleasant | Good-natured |
| **incredulously** | In a way that shows disbelief | He stared incredulously. |
| **astutely** | With sharp judgement | She astutely noticed the change. |
| **particulars** | Specific facts or details | The particulars of his career |
| **absent-minded** | Likely to forget things through inattention | Forgetful |
| **unambitious** | Having little desire for advancement | Holmes infers this from the move. |

## Expressions worth using

**Make of it** Understand or interpret it.

**Vanish into thin air** Disappear suddenly. Here Watson's imagined portrait disappears.

**A pledge of goodwill** A sign that people feel kindly towards someone.

LITERARY ANALYSIS

# Characters, Viewpoint and Craft

| Character | Role and evidence |
|---|---|
| **Sherlock Holmes** | Observant and quick to revise a theory. He uses the reflection, the lens, the date and the spacing of the tooth marks. His teasing can sound affectionate and superior at once. |
| **Dr Watson** | Curious, observant and willing to check a claim. He links wear to walking and looks up the hospital record. His first-person narration lets readers share his surprise. |
| **Dr James Mortimer** | The visitor and subject of the investigation. His recorded career can be checked. The labels Holmes applies to his personality come from interpretation. |

## Setting and conflict

The action takes place around Holmes and Watson's breakfast table, with the window connecting the room to the doorstep. The main conflict is intellectual. They have to identify their visitor and decide which explanation fits the evidence.

## Themes and the central object

An ordinary object can preserve traces of someone's work and habits. The stick drives the plot because each feature opens a different line of inquiry. The story also shows the value of checking first impressions.

## Techniques and effects

**Hyperbole** Watson's claim about eyes at the back of Holmes's head exaggerates his surprise.

**Verbal irony** Holmes's emphatic praise sounds sincere to Watson. The later correction gives it a playful, ironic edge.

**Suspense and reveal** Holmes's narrowing of the jaw size raises a question about the exact breed. The window supplies the answer.

> **Tone and mood** Watson sounds curious and admiring. Holmes sounds confident and playful. Readers move from curiosity about the owner to surprise at the final reveal.

VISUAL LEARNING

# The Case at a Glance

| Observation | Inference | What checks it? |
|---|---|---|
| **Lower end is worn** | The stick has seen frequent use. Watson links this to walking on country rounds. | Holmes agrees on the walking. The directory independently supports a country post. |
| **The band says CCH and 1884** | The initials may name Charing Cross Hospital. The date may mark departure. | The directory lists the hospital and an end date of 1884. |
| **Marks near the middle are spaced apart** | A dog likely gripped the stick. The spacing suggests a medium-sized jaw. | Holmes sees the spaniel at the doorstep. |
| **The visitor left the stick and no card** | Holmes calls him absent-minded. | The behaviour is known. The personality judgement is an inference. |

## Plot timeline

| Stage | What changes |
|---|---|
| **Opening** | A forgotten stick gives Watson a mystery to solve. |
| **First theory** | Watson links the stick with a country doctor and a hunt. |
| **Turning point** | Holmes re-examines the stick and proposes a hospital. |
| **Verification** | The directory checks the hospital and the job. |
| **Reveal** | The dog on the doorstep settles the breed question. |

## A four-step reading method

Observe the detail → suggest an explanation → check it against another clue → revise your claim if the evidence changes.

> **Model sentence** The wear supports Watson's inference that the stick had been used often. Its owner's post is checked separately in the directory.

TEXTBOOK SOLUTIONS • 1 OF 2

# Reading and Appreciating the Text

## Reading A • Choose the correct answers

1. c — frequent walking • 2. a — a farewell gift
3. a — Holmes • 4. b — Holmes: forgotten stick and no card

## Reading B • Answer the questions

**1(a–b).** Holmes spoke to Watson. The polished coffee pot acted as a mirror, so Holmes could see what Watson was doing while facing away.

**2.** The lower end was worn down. Watson thought the owner had used it on many visits on foot, which he associated with a country doctor's rounds.

**3.** Watson guessed CCH referred to a local hunt whose members had thanked Mortimer for medical help. Holmes proposed Charing Cross Hospital because a gift to a doctor was likely to come from a hospital and the initials fit the name. The directory confirmed the hospital connection.

**4.** Holmes thinks a senior London doctor would be unlikely to leave for country practice. He guesses Mortimer held a junior post and left in 1884, five years earlier. From this, he estimates that Mortimer is under thirty.

## Reading C • Think and answer

**a.** Watson is amazed that Holmes knows what he is doing without turning round. His exaggerated remark also expresses admiration.

**b.** Holmes seems partly amused and partly encouraging. Watson has made two sound points, but Holmes soon corrects much of his portrait.

**c.** Holmes limits his agreement with "To that extent." Watson's pride at earning Holmes's approval shows that he values his friend's judgement.

## Appreciating the Text

**a.** Holmes observes details, proposes an explanation, reasons from it and checks the result. The directory supports the hospital reading, and seeing the spaniel settles the breed.

**b.** Watson reasons from the wear and checks the record. His questions and narration let readers follow Holmes's reasoning.

TEXTBOOK SOLUTIONS • 2 OF 2

# In-Text Prompts, Word Work and Extension

## Warm-up • Sample response

The visible wear can suggest that the shoes have been used often. Sports or regular outdoor use is possible. A closer look at the sole and any marks could help. Age, gender and season cannot be established from the wear alone.

## In-text prompts • PDF pages 2–6

**1.** Engraved means cut into a surface.

**2.** A solid stick can give physical support and make someone feel steadier. To Watson, its dignified look also suggests a dependable doctor.

**3.** Watson thinks Mortimer's acquaintances respected him because they had presented him with a handsome gift.

**4.** CCH could be the initials of an institution. The stick could have been given at a farewell, and the owner's wear on the stick could reflect travel or exercise.

**5.** The earlier phrase is "mark of their appreciation".

**6(a).** Holmes smiles mischievously because the record supports his hospital theory and gives him a chance to tease Watson about the hunt.

**6(b).** For an incredulous laugh, raise your eyebrows and give a short, doubtful laugh. For a mischievous smile, try a quick, knowing grin.

## Using Words

1. infer  2. Apply  3. observed
4. conclude  5. examined  6. Analysing

## Going Further • Fictional-detective quiz

Work in teams. Choose fictional detectives from English and a home language. Check a reliable edition before writing each question. Give teams 20 seconds per turn and one point for each correct answer.

**Sample question** Which character narrates the walking-stick investigation?

**Answer** Dr Watson. He tells readers what he picks up, thinks, asks and reads.

> **Learning journal** Can you trace one clue, explain Watson's role and turn a scene into dialogue with stage directions? Name the skill you would practise again.

TEXTBOOK WRITING • MODEL RESPONSE

# Adapt the Story as a Play

Cast • Holmes and Watson. Mortimer is heard at the door through the bell. Setting • A Victorian breakfast room with a window, a polished coffee pot and a chair beside the table.

## Scene 1 • A visitor's stick

[Holmes faces the breakfast table. Behind him, Watson lifts a thick wooden stick from beside a chair.]

**Holmes** What do you make of it, Watson?

**Watson** How could you see what I was doing?

**Holmes** The coffee pot has a very good polish. What does the stick tell you?

**Watson** The tip is worn. The owner walks a good deal. Perhaps he visits patients on foot. CCH could be a local hunt that gave him the stick.

## Scene 2 • A better explanation

[Holmes carries the stick to the window and takes out his lens.]

**Holmes** A country doctor, yes. But what if CCH means Charing Cross Hospital? The date could mark a farewell.

**Watson** Let's see what the Medical Directory says.

[Watson opens the directory and runs a finger down the page.]

**Watson** James Mortimer. House surgeon at Charing Cross Hospital, 1882 to 1884. Now a medical officer in the country.

## Scene 3 • A caller at the door

**Holmes** See the tooth marks? The jaws are wider than a terrier's and narrower than a mastiff's.

**Watson** Can you tell the breed from that?

[Holmes looks out of the window. A bell rings.]

**Holmes** There's a curly-haired spaniel at the door. That will be Dr Mortimer.

> **Performance check** Use the props as clues. Pause before the bell so the final moment gives the audience time to connect what they heard with what Holmes sees.

PRACTICE • A

# Multiple-Choice Questions

Choose one answer for each question. Each question carries 1 mark.

**1.** Who tells the story?

a. Holmes b. Mortimer c. Watson d. An unnamed visitor

**2.** Where is Mortimer's name engraved?

a. On the silver band b. On the wooden tip c. On the table d. On the handle of the coffee pot

**3.** Why does the coffee pot matter?

a. It belongs to the visitor. b. It reflects Watson's movements. c. It contains a visiting card. d. It bears a hospital mark.

**4.** Which detail do both men accept?

a. Mortimer is elderly. b. A hunt thanked Mortimer. c. Mortimer plans to return to London. d. Mortimer has done much walking with the stick.

**5.** What does Holmes suggest CCH stands for?

a. Charing Cross Hospital b. Country Club of Hunters c. County Cottage Hospital d. Central Clinic for Horses

**6.** What role does 1884 play in Holmes's reasoning?

a. It is the year Mortimer qualified. b. It dates his move to London. c. It may mark his departure from the hospital. d. It dates the first use of the stick.

**7.** What did the Medical Directory independently confirm?

a. The dog's breed b. Mortimer's exact age c. The hunt's identity d. Mortimer's hospital post

**8.** Which physical clue helps Holmes estimate the dog's size?

a. The thickness of the silver band b. The gap between the tooth marks c. The weight of the coffee pot d. The shape of the stick's head

**9.** What settles the exact breed for Holmes?

a. Watson shows him the medical entry. b. Mortimer sends a note. c. Holmes sees the animal outside. d. Watson remembers the previous visit.

**10.** What makes Watson's narration effective?

a. Readers discover the clues and corrections alongside him. b. Readers are told Mortimer's thoughts. c. Holmes explains every clue before Watson sees it. d. The narrator gives the ending before the inquiry.

**11.** Which judgement goes beyond what the directory confirms?

a. Mortimer was a house surgeon. b. Mortimer was unambitious. c. His hospital post ended in 1884. d. He later served as a medical officer.

**12.** What is the central method shown in the extract?

a. Take the most striking first impression. b. Rely on the value of the object. c. Use only a witness's explanation. d. Test possible explanations against evidence.

PRACTICE • B AND C

# Short and Extended Answers

## B • Short answers

Answer in about 25–40 words. Allow 2 marks each.

**B1.** What details make the stick easy to recognise?

**B2.** Why is the forgotten object an accidental souvenir?

**B3.** Why does Watson connect the worn tip with a country doctor?

**B4.** How does Holmes use the window at two different moments?

**B5.** What do the initials and the date each contribute to Holmes's theory?

**B6.** How does Watson verify part of the theory?

**B7.** What two details lead Holmes to call Mortimer absent-minded?

**B8.** Why does the spacing of the tooth marks help only up to a point?

## C • Extended answers

Answer in about 70–90 words. Allow 5 marks each.

**C1.** Compare how Holmes and Watson reason from the walking stick. Use one point of agreement and one point of difference.

**C2.** Explain how Watson contributes to the investigation and the way the story is told.

**C3.** Trace the dog clue from the marks on the wood to the final reveal.

**C4.** Explain how the inscription and the directory help Holmes's case. Discuss one inference that the directory does not establish.

**C5.** How does Conan Doyle make a breakfast-room conversation suspenseful? Discuss the opening, one middle moment and the ending.

> **Answer structure** Make a point, support it with a detail and explain how that detail answers the question.

PRACTICE • D

# Reference to Context

Answer each subpart in a complete sentence. The brief cues are from the uploaded extract. Each set carries 6 marks (1 + 2 + 3).

## D1 • The coffee pot

Cue — “a well-polished, silver-plated coffee pot”

**a. [1]** Who mentions the coffee pot?

**b. [2]** What had surprised Watson, and how does the pot explain it?

**c. [3]** How does this early moment prepare us for Holmes’s later examination of the stick?

## D2 • The hypothesis

Cue — “You know my methods. Apply them!”

**a. [1]** To whom are these words spoken?

**b. [2]** What has CCH just been taken to mean, and what does Watson infer about Mortimer’s earlier work?

**c. [3]** Explain how Holmes takes the reasoning further and how the directory checks it.

## D3 • The marks

Cue — “the marks of his teeth”

**a. [1]** Whose teeth made the marks, according to Holmes?

**b. [2]** Why did the animal grip near the middle, and what did the spacing indicate?

**c. [3]** Explain how Holmes moves from a size range to certainty about the breed. What is the effect of the bell?

> **Textual evidence** A short, accurate clue such as the worn tip, the date 1884 or the gap between the marks is often enough to support a point.

PRACTICE • E AND F

# Thinking Skills and Word Work

## E • Competency and higher-order thinking

Write 2–4 sentences for each. Support your reasoning with an example or a clue.

**E1.** A classmate claims a scuffed schoolbag proves its owner cycles to school. Separate the observation from the claim and suggest a check.

**E2.** Imagine the directory listed Mortimer at a different hospital. What should Holmes do with his CCH explanation?

**E3.** Compare the polished pot and the directory. Which provides immediate visual evidence, and which provides a record that can be checked?

**E4.** A doctor leaves a city hospital to serve a village by choice. Use this situation to assess Holmes's judgement about ambition.

**E5.** Watson guesses that a hunt gave the stick. Explain why the guess is plausible and what evidence might make it stronger.

## F • Vocabulary and language

**F1.** Choose the stronger evidence verb. The inspector observed / inferred a scratch on the handle.

**F2.** Choose the stronger evidence verb. From the scratch and torn strap, she observed / inferred that the bag might have snagged on a nail.

**F3.** Replace "in disbelief" with one word from the story. Watson laughed in disbelief.

**F4.** Write a sentence using working hypothesis to describe a possible explanation you could test.

**F5.** Change to reported speech. Holmes said, "The dog is on our doorstep."

**F6.** Write two lines of dialogue and a stage direction for Watson's moment of surprise.

> **Independent reflection** Think of a time a first impression changed after you looked more closely. Write what you first thought, what you checked and what you concluded.

ANSWER KEY • A AND B

# Multiple Choice and Short Answers

## A • Multiple-choice answers

| No. | Key | Reason |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | c | Watson recounts the episode in the first person. |
| 2 | a | The inscription is on the broad silver band. |
| 3 | b | The polished surface reflects what is behind Holmes. |
| 4 | d | Both accept that Mortimer walked a good deal. |
| 5 | a | The hospital reading fits the initials and his profession. |
| 6 | c | Holmes treats 1884 as a possible farewell date. |
| 7 | d | The directory lists Mortimer as a former house surgeon. |
| 8 | b | The gap gives a rough idea of jaw width. |
| 9 | c | Seeing the dog gives Holmes direct evidence of its breed. |
| 10 | a | Readers share Watson's observations and surprise. |
| 11 | b | Ambition is Holmes's interpretation of a career choice. |
| 12 | d | Clues generate hypotheses that can be checked or revised. |

## B • Short answers 1–4

**B1.** It is a thick wooden stick with a round head and a broad silver band. The engraving names James Mortimer and includes MRCS, CCH and the date 1884.

**B2.** The visitor left it behind by chance. Since the two men had missed him, this object became an unexpected reminder of his visit and a source of evidence about him.

**B3.** The worn end suggests the stick had been used often. Watson connects such heavy use with a country doctor who regularly travels on foot to see patients.

**B4.** Holmes first takes the stick to the window to examine it with a convex lens. Later, he looks outside from the window and sees the spaniel on the doorstep.

ANSWER KEY • B AND C

# Short and Extended Model Answers

## B • Short answers 5–8

**B5.** CCH points Holmes towards Charing Cross Hospital. He treats 1884 as a possible farewell date and uses it to estimate how long ago Mortimer left the hospital.

**B6.** Watson looks up the matching entry in the Medical Directory. It records Mortimer's work as house surgeon at Charing Cross Hospital and his later country appointment as medical officer.

**B7.** Holmes points out that Mortimer left his walking stick behind. He also observes that the visitor had waited an hour but had left no visiting card.

**B8.** The spacing gives Holmes a rough estimate of the dog's jaw width. That helps him judge its size. He identifies the breed when he sees the spaniel outside.

For each short answer, award 1 mark for each accurate detail or reasoning point requested. Accept equivalent wording.

## C1 • Holmes and Watson compared

Watson notices the worn end and reasons that Mortimer walks often, probably while visiting patients in the country. Holmes accepts both ideas. They differ over the initials CCH. Watson imagines a hunt repaying Mortimer for medical help, while Holmes suggests Charing Cross Hospital and links the date to a possible farewell. The directory supports Holmes's reading by recording Mortimer's hospital appointment. Watson's useful first observations and Holmes's willingness to test another explanation both help the inquiry move forward.

Marking points [5] • Wear, walking/country practice, hunt theory, hospital theory, directory check.

## C2 • Watson's role

Watson helps uncover the truth and shapes the way readers discover it. He notices the worn end, gives a sensible explanation for its use and checks Mortimer's career in the Medical Directory. His guesses also give Holmes ideas to test or correct. Because Watson narrates in the first person, readers share his astonishment at the coffee-pot trick and his doubt about the dog. His questions prompt Holmes to explain his reasoning, so readers can follow the clues instead of simply being told the result.

Marking points [5] • First-person viewpoint, clue, verification, questions, effect on readers.

ANSWER KEY • C AND D

# Extended Answers and Extracts

## C3 • The dog clue

Holmes sees tooth marks near the middle of the stick. Because the stick is heavy, he reasons that a dog would grip it near the centre to carry it. He uses the distance between the marks to estimate jaw width. It seems too broad for a terrier and too narrow for a mastiff. That puts the animal within a size range. Looking through the window, Holmes sees a curly-haired spaniel on the doorstep. The bell immediately connects the animal's appearance with Mortimer's arrival.

Marking points [5] • Marks, grip, jaw range, direct sight, bell.

## C4 • The inscription and the directory

The silver band gives Holmes Mortimer's name, the initials CCH and the date 1884. Holmes reads CCH as Charing Cross Hospital and thinks the date may mark a farewell from a junior hospital post. Watson then finds Mortimer's entry in the Medical Directory. It records that he was house surgeon at that hospital from 1882 to 1884 and now works as a medical officer in the country. The record supports the career outline. The idea that he left because he lacked ambition remains Holmes's interpretation.

Marking points [5] • Inscription, CCH, date, verified job, unverified interpretation.

## C5 • How suspense builds

The episode begins with an object whose owner is absent. Holmes's question from across the room surprises Watson, and the polished pot provides an explanation. The debate over CCH then gives the same clue two possible meanings, making readers wait for a check. Even after the directory settles the hospital connection, the tooth marks raise a fresh question about the dog. Holmes's glance through the window and the sudden ring of the bell bring the evidence and the visitor together at the end.

Marking points [5] • Opening, reflection, competing theories, dog clue, ending effect.

## D1 • The coffee pot

**a. [1]** Sherlock Holmes mentions it.

**b. [2]** Watson wonders how Holmes knew what he was doing while facing away [1]. The polished pot reflected Watson's actions [1].

**c. [3]** An everyday object supplies evidence [1]. Holmes uses a physical detail others might overlook [1]. The moment prepares readers for his use of the stick's surface and marks [1].

ANSWER KEY • D, E AND F

# Extracts, Reasoning and Language

## D2 and D3 • Reference to context

**D2a. [1]** Holmes is speaking to Dr Watson.

**D2b. [2]** CCH may mean Charing Cross Hospital [1]. Watson infers that Mortimer practised in town before moving to the country [1].

**D2c. [3]** Holmes suggests a farewell gift [1] and a junior hospital appointment [1]. The directory records that Mortimer was a house surgeon there from 1882 to 1884 [1].

**D3a. [1]** Holmes believes the marks came from Mortimer's dog.

**D3b. [2]** A grip near the middle would help balance the heavy stick [1]. The gap indicates a jaw between a terrier's and a mastiff's in size [1].

**D3c. [3]** The marks suggest a size range [1]. Holmes sees a curly-haired spaniel at the door [1]. The bell announces Mortimer's arrival and ends the scene with a timely reveal [1].

## E • Sample reasoning

**E1.** The scuffs are visible. Cycling is a possible explanation. Ask the owner or look for independent evidence such as the bag being carried on a bicycle.

**E2.** Revise the hospital hypothesis. Look for more evidence about CCH or check that the directory entry belongs to the same Mortimer.

**E3.** The pot gives immediate visual evidence through a reflection. The directory gives a written career record that someone else can consult.

**E4.** The decision could reflect a goal of improving village healthcare. A move to the country gives little evidence of the doctor's level of ambition by itself.

**E5.** A group might reward a doctor for helping its members. A club record or a letter identifying the people who gave the stick would strengthen the theory.

## F • Language answers

F1. observed • F2. inferred • F3. Watson laughed incredulously.

**F4.** Our working hypothesis is that rain caused the leak, so we will check the roof tiles.

**F5.** Holmes said that the dog was on their doorstep.

**F6.** [Watson pauses with the stick in his hand.] Watson: How did you see me? Holmes: Look at the coffee pot.

5–10 MINUTE REVISION

# Ready Reckoner

## Five things you must remember

- Watson narrates in the first person. The owner is Dr James Mortimer.
- The silver band bears the name, MRCS, CCH and the date 1884.
- Watson and Holmes agree about country practice and frequent walking.
- The directory confirms that Mortimer was house surgeon at Charing Cross Hospital from 1882 to 1884.
- The tooth marks suggest jaw size. Holmes sees the spaniel on the doorstep as Mortimer rings the bell.

## Common traps

**The initials** Watson guesses a hunt. Holmes proposes the hospital.

**The dog** The jaw marks suggest a size range. The window reveals the exact breed.

**Mortimer's character** Amiable, unambitious and absent-minded are Holmes's readings of the clues.

**The narrator** Watson tells the story, draws his own conclusions and checks the directory.

## Last-minute checklist

- I can tell the difference between a clue, an inference and a verified fact.
- I can use a precise detail to compare Holmes and Watson.
- I can explain why the closing bell matters.
- I can use observation, inference, hypothesis and verification accurately.

> **One line to remember** "You know my methods. Apply them!" Think of the directory check and the view from the window when explaining those methods.

## Sources consulted

The walking stick.pdf • Unit 8, "The Walking Stick Story", an extract from The Hound of the Baskervilles by Arthur Conan Doyle. Source for the narrative, textbook questions and activities.

15. Colourful Student Study Materials(4).docx • Structure, typography, branding and assessment guidance. The seven realistic illustrations were created for this pack.

ILLUSTRATION NOTES

# Seven Scenes from the Investigation

Each illustration presents a story moment or clue. The captions and image descriptions identify what students should look for.

| Page | Purpose | Art direction |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Introduce the central object | 16:9 hero. A thick round-headed wooden stick with a silver band beside a Victorian breakfast table. Holmes, Watson and the polished pot appear behind it. |
| 3 | Show Watson's position | Landscape. From behind the seated Holmes, show Watson lifting the stick near a chair. |
| 3 | Explain the reflection | Landscape. An isolated polished silver-plated coffee pot in soft daylight. |
| 4 | Make the worn tip visible | Landscape detail. Show the scuffed lower end against the tabletop. |
| 4 | Show the close examination | Landscape. Holmes studies the wooden shaft through a handheld magnifying lens. |
| 5 | Show how a written source is checked | Horizontal. An open Victorian medical directory with dense columns and spectacles. |
| 5 | Reconstruct an earlier habit | Horizontal. A curly-haired spaniel grips a heavy stick near the middle. The text describes this as a habit and reveals the dog on the doorstep. |

## Extension • Try an evidence check

Choose an ordinary classroom object. Write two things you can observe, two possible explanations and one way to test either explanation. Swap with a partner and compare the evidence you chose.

> **Sample response** A library book has a folded corner and a pencilled date. Someone may have marked a page for later reading, or the corner may have bent in a bag. I could ask the borrower or look for a bookmark at the same place.