

Chapter 4: The Red-Headed League

ENGLISH WORKSHOP [PAGE 89]

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Find and write the descriptions of different people given in this story.

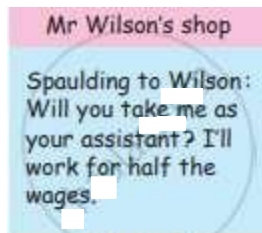
SOLUTION

Character Sketch:

- a. **Sherlock Holmes** - A private detective and the story's protagonist. His keen observations and ability to reason allow him to solve puzzles that astonish everyone else. Sometimes quiet and contemplative, other times bursting with energy, he uses methods that can confuse and frustrate others. He is somewhat a mystery, rarely letting his thoughts known until he has already solved the crime.
- b. **Dr. John Watson** - Sherlock Holmes' partner and the story's narrator. Good-natured, brave, and down-to-earth, Watson is Sherlock Holmes' sidekick, even though he rarely helps Holmes actually solve any mysteries and Holmes often mirrors the reader's own confusion.
- c. **Jabez Wilson** - A London pawn-broker, Jabez Wilson is an average man whose only remarkable feature is his shock of fiery red hair. His slow and trusting nature prevents him from seeing anything suspicious about either Vincent Spaulding or the preposterous Red-headed League.
- d. **John Clay/ Vincent Spaulding** - A notorious criminal working at Jabez Wilson's pawnshop under the name of Vincent Spaulding. He is evil and haughty. John Clay wins the respect of Sherlock Holmes because of his clever plot to rob the city and Suburban Bank.
- e. **Duncan Ross** - John Clay's partner-in-crime. Duncan's red hair prompts John Clay to devise the Red-headed League to lure Wilson out of his pawnshop for four hours every day.

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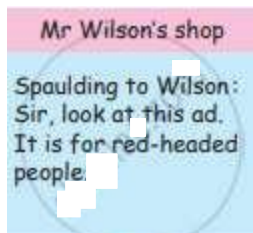
Present Mr. Wilson's story as it would be shown in a comic strip. Write what picture you will show in each frame along with the dialogues. Write the dialogue with the help of the story. Examples:



Frame 1



Frame 2



Frame 3

SOLUTION

Frame	Sentences
Mr. Wilson's shop	Spaulding to Wilson: Sir, why don't you try for this job?
Mr. Wilson's shop	Spaulding to Wilson: It is to help the redheads
Mr. Wilson's shop	Spaulding to Wilson: They are handsomely. It will be an additional income for you.
Mr. Wilson's shop	Spaulding to Wilson: Sir, I will go along with you. let's give it a try.
At fleet street	Wilson to Spaulding: Just see! It is crowded with red-headed people. I don't stand a chance.
At fleet street	Spaulding to Wilson: Sir, don't be disheartened.
At fleet street	Spaulding to Wilson: Sir, you don't worry. just answer his questions confidently
At the office	Mr. Duncan Ross to Wilson: I'm pleased with your confidence. I'm glad to announce that you leave get the job
At fleet street	Wilson to Ross: Thank you so much, Sir. I'm highly obliged.
At the office	Wilson to Ross: Sir, what am I supposed to do? How much will I be paid?

At Fleet Street	Ross to Wilson: You will have to copy the Encyclopedia Britannica. You will be paid four pounds a week. And your timings will be from 10 am to 2 pm.
At the office	Wilson to Ross: Wonderful Sir, when do I start?
At the office	Ross to Wilson: Mr. Wilson, you begin from tomorrow.
At the office	Wilson to Ross: Sir, I will put my heart and soul into my job. Ross to Wilson: You will have to begin with a letter. Wilson to Ross: Ok, Sir.
At Wilson's office	Spaulding to Wilson: How is your job going? Wilson to Spaulding: Well I am enjoying it. Mr. Ross is visiting the office every day. He is very much particular about my timings.
At the office	Ross to Wilson: How are you finding your work? This is your salary. Wilson to Ross: Thank you, Sir.
At Wilson's office	Spaulding to Wilson: How are you Sir and how is your job going? Wilson to Spaulding: It's been 8 weeks and I am really enjoying it. Now Mr. Ross has stopped coming to the office.
At Wilson's office	Spaulding to Wilson: Good morning. What happened today? You did not go out? Wilson to Spaulding: The office of the League is shut and locked. There is a note nailed on the door saying the League is dissolved
Wilson to himself	I should find out more about the League. It is a mystery and I want to know why they played this prank upon me.
Wilson to himself	Sherlock Holmes will be the best person to solve this mystery. I will go to him.

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Form groups of five. Discuss how you can complete the rest of the story without referring to Part II of the story.

SOLUTION

Mr. Holmes and Watson try to think out why the League shut so abruptly. Holmes feels he should meet Wilson at home to ask some questions that were bothering him. When he reached Wilson's house, he notices someone leaving the house. Mr. Holmes enquires about that person and understands that he was Wilson's assistant. Mr. Holmes feels that he has seen the assistant's face before. Later, he checks on records and finds out that the assistant is none but a notorious criminal who was absconding. Mr. Holmes already had a sketch of Mr. Ross. On enquiring, he came to know that Ross and Spaulding were very close friends. Mr. Holmes goes to Mr. Ross' house and threatens him. Mr. Ross spills out the beans, that he and Spaulding were going to rob Mr. Wilson the very next day. Mr. Holmes informs the police and both Spaulding and Ross are caught and put behind bars.

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Frame simple sentences -statements, questions, requests, orders, permissions, etc. using the modals listed below.

can, may, shall, will could, might, should, would I must, ought to, used to, need, dare.
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SOLUTION

- a. Take an umbrella. It may rain today.
- b. You should not leave objects lying on the floor.
- c. Drivers must stop when the traffic light is red.
- d. Can you speak French?
- e. I could not solve the problem.
- f. May I ask you a question?
- g. You may take a holiday today.
- h. You should see a doctor.
- i. I could run fast when I was young.
- j. Can I go out?
- k. You need not buy any vegetables.
- l. Students shall not enter this room.
- m. What should I do to get rid of this pain?

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Put the following events in proper order.

- Holmes and others go to the bank.
- Clay digs a tunnel.
- Ross closes the office of the 'Red-headed League'.
- Holmes catches the criminal Clay.
- Clay and Ross enter the cellar to steal the gold.
- The bank received a lot of gold from the Bank of France.
- Holmes visits the area around Mr. Wilson's shop.

SOLUTION

- a. The bank received a lot of gold from the Bank of France.
- b. Clay digs a tunnel.
- c. Ross closes the office of the 'Red-headed League'.
- d. Holmes visits the area around Mr. Wilson's shop.
- e. Holmes and others go to the bank.
- f. Clay and Ross enter the cellar to steal the gold.
- g. Holmes catches the criminal Clay.

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From the passage, find adverbs that end with '-ly'. Find the adjective in each of the adverb.

SOLUTION

Adverb	Adjective
frankly	frank
silently	silent
carefully	careful
finally	final
suddenly	sudden
beautifully	beautiful

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Discuss the following elements of a detective or mystery story.

- a mystery
- strange happenings
- a smart detective who investigates the happenings
- a crime/possibility of a crime
- preventing the crime and catching the criminal.
- characteristics of the victim
- characteristics of the criminal
- characteristics of the detective

Use the elements to prepare outlines of detective stories using your imagination. Write a story using any one of the outlines.

SOLUTION

Outline:

- Disappearance of the 'Will'.
- Death of the head of the family.
- Wife and two sons left behind.
- 'Will' to be read before family members.
- The elder brother in charge of the 'Will' .
- He makes excuses of misplacing the 'Will' and shows the photocopy of the 'Will'.
- The family lawyer insists on the original 'Will'.
- The elder brother keeps insisting on having lost the 'Will'.
- Mr. Karamchand, a clever and intelligent detective called.
- The detective makes the necessary enquiries.
- The elder brother, a gambler, a revelation.
- The detective catches the elder brother in his own act.
- The elder brother owns up.
- The lawyer with the help of the detective prevents a big crime from being executed.

Caught in his own act

The disappearance of the 'Will' was a mystery in the Patwardhan family. The disappearance of the 'Will' came to light when it had to be read by the family members after the death of senior Mr. Patwardhan. Mr. Patwardhan had left behind a lot of property and wealth. Mr. Patwardhan had left behind his wife and two sons. When the family lawyer enquired about the 'Will', Mrs. Patwardhan said that she had given it to her elder son who had said that he would keep it safely.

The younger son was unaware of the 'Will' made by his father. When the lawyer of the family asked him if he had read his father's 'Will', he understood about the 'Will'. When he asked his mother to show the 'Will', she said that it was with her elder son. When the elder son was asked about the 'Will', he started making excuses by telling he had misplaced the 'Will' and could not find it.

The family lawyer insisted that the 'Will' be shown to the younger son. The elder son brought a photocopy of the 'Will'. The younger son and the family lawyer demanded for the original 'Will'. The elder son kept on making excuses and also said that the original 'Will' was lost. There was something in this situation which was a mystery. This is when the younger son hires a smart and intelligent detective, Mr Karamchand. Mr Karamchand makes a lot of enquiries and comes to know that the elder son was in the habit of gambling and was in a lot of debts.

Mr Karamchand also came to know that the elder son was a very sweet talker and could twist and turn situations to his advantage. On the other hand, the younger brother was quite a simpleton who was happy with what he had, making it easier for the elder brother to manipulate him. Their mother being quite old, had bouts of memory loss. This was another good reason for the elder son to do as he pleased. Mr Karamchand very cleverly got the truth out from the elder son.

Mr Karamchand informed the family lawyer, who in turn, demanded the original copy of the 'Will' from the elder son. The lawyer also told him that it was a crime not to show the 'Will' to the family members. The elder brother showed the 'Will' to the younger brother. The younger brother read the 'Will' and handed it to the family lawyer without suspecting anything. The family lawyer went through the 'Will' and found out that the 'Will' had been tampered with.

The dates and certain words were changed for the benefit of the elder brother. After a lot of interrogation, the elder brother accepted the crime committed by him. The family lawyer rectified the changes made and now the younger brother got his share of property and wealth.

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Use the following outline to develop a story as a group activity. Then write the story individually.

Family returns home late at night_____ hear conversation between thieves from inside the locked house_____ family gets ready to

counter_____ attack _____ father opens the door _____ all
enter _____ no one is seen _____ but TV is on detective serial midway.

SOLUTION

A Family Drama

After attending the reception cum dinner of their closest friend's daughter, at the famous five-star hotel 'The Oberoi', Mr. Pai and his family were returning home discussing the events of the function. Mr. and Mrs. Pai along with their two children Suhani and Soham had attended the function. It was quite late at night, and to add to it, it began to rain making the surroundings dark and scary. Mr. Pai drove the car cautiously and reached their colony safely. Mr. Pai parked the car while the others waited for him at the entrance of their building. It was still raining and the watchman was nowhere in sight. The common light in the building was not on.

The way leading to their house was in darkness. Somehow they dropped their way to the second floor, where they lived. As they reached their house, Mr. Pai felt that he heard footsteps and whispering coming from inside their house. He asked his wife to listen carefully and she too agreed that there was whispering. The conversation indicated robbers searching for valuables.

There was no light in their house. Mr. Pai was an army officer. He asked his family members to stand behind him and he opened the main door very slowly. He could hear conversations and movements too. He slowly went towards the bedroom from where the conversation was coming. The door was closed. He took out his revolver and pushed the door open quickly only to understand that the conversation was from the TV serial 'Crime Patrol'. He then remembered that he had been watching this serial before leaving home and had forgotten to switch off the TV. The other family members who had followed him gave a huge sigh of relief.

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Start a collection of synonyms, antonyms, and homonyms. Collect at least 50 each. Keep adding to your selection.

SOLUTION

Examples of synonyms.

- word - chat - conversation
- advice - help - guidance - aid
- argument - dispute - squabble
- almost - nearly
- aromatic - fragrant
- backbone - spine
- belly - stomach
- choosy - picky

- collect - gather
- constant - fixed
- daybreak - dawn
- defective - faulty
- enormous - huge - immense
- famous - popular - renowned
- fantastic - great - brilliant

Examples of antonyms.

- servant x master
- predator x prey
- employer x employee
- buy x sell
- former x later
- borrow x lend
- true x false
- exhale x inhale
- clever x foolish
- natural x artificial

Examples of homonyms.

- bark (n) - bark (v)
- board (n) - board (v)
- bow (n) - bow (v)
- bat (n) - bat (v)
- book (n) - book (v)
- clear (adj) - clear (v)
- cool (adj) - cool (n)
- current (adj) - current (n)
- duck (n) - duck (v)
- fair (adj) - fair (n)