

STUDY GUIDE FOR THE SPECKLED BAND

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Date of *The Adventure of the Speckled Band*

Although the story may contain other clues as to the date of the adventure, use only the clues shown below. Your goal is to use only logical reasoning to find the date when both Helen Stoner's visit and Dr. Roylott's death occurred.

CLUES:

1. It was early in April in the year '83.
2. April 1, 1883 was a Saturday.
3. Two days before Holmes visited Stoke Moran, some repairs were started at Stoke Moran.
4. Repairmen would not have worked on Saturday or Sunday.
5. Holmes visited Doctors Commons to see a will on the day of visit
6. Doctors Commons would not have been open on Sunday
7. When Holmes and Watson visited Stoke Moran, there was "no sign of workmen." Such a statement would be unnecessary if the day were Saturday or Sunday when workmen would not be expected to be working anyway.
8. It was a perfect day with bright sun.
9. Wednesday and Thursday (April 4 and 5, 1883) produced little sun in London.

CONCLUSIONS:

- A. 1 implies it was in the first week of April 1883.
- B. A and 2 imply that the day of Holmes's visit to Stoke Moran was April 1 through April 7 of 1883.
- C. 3 and 4 imply that the day of the visit was not Monday or Tuesday.
- D. C implies that the day of the visit was Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, or Sunday.
- E. 5 and 6 imply that the day of the visit was not Sunday.
- F. D and E imply that the day of the visit was Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, or Saturday.
- G. 7 implies that the day of the visit was not Saturday.
- H. F and G imply that the day of the visit was Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday.
- I. 8 and 9 imply that the day of the visit was not Wednesday nor Thursday.
- J. H and I imply that the day of the visit was Friday.
- K. B, J, and 2 imply that the day of the visit was Friday, April 6, 1883.

Dr. Roylott died on Friday, April 6, 1883

The Adventure of the Speckled Band Vocabulary Words

affected	showed a liking for
aperture	opening
averted	turned away
bile-shot eyes	eyes whose whites are colored brownish-yellow or greenish-yellow
blandly	showing no concern or worry
bramble-covered	covered with prickly shrubs or bushes
camp-bed	folding bed
clinched fists	clenched fists
counterpane	bedspread
dark lantern	lantern with sliding door
dissolute	indulged in sensual pleasures or vices
dog-cart	a cart with two seats placed back-to-back; name is derived from box under rear seat originally used to carry dogs
dog lash	dog leash
draught	draft
fain	gladly; willingly
fortnight	two weeks
frock-coat	close fitting, double-breasted, knee-length coat
gable	part of house that is enclosed by part of the roof that slopes downward
gaiters	cover for the ankle and instep, spats
hasp	metal fastener with a hinged, slotted part that fits over a projecting part and is secured by a bolt
herald	a sign of something to come
insolence	arrogance; impertinence
Jack-in-office	a petty official unjustifiably claiming distinction or merit
knock you up	wake you by knocking at the door
lichen-blotched	spotted with a fungus that forms a crust-like branching growth
livid	discolored as from a bruise; black-and-blue
morose	gloomy
parapet	low protective wall

parish clock	church clock
parsonage	residence provided by a church for its parson
pauper	extremely poor person
pittance	very small amount of money
retorted	returned like for like; retaliated
return ticket	round trip ticket
reverie	daydream
scruples	uneasy feelings arising from conscience
singular	beyond what is ordinary or usual; remarkable
sounded	examined something by causing it to emit sound
squire	a country gentleman especially one who is the principal landowner in a village
staples	U-shaped metal loops with pointed ends, driven into a surface to hold bolts or wiring in place
stile	steps over a fence
stump	short piece
The Regency	1811-1820; last nine years of George III's reign when he was insane
trap	one-horse, two-wheeled open carriage
vigil	watch kept during normal sleeping hours
whipcord	strong twisted or braided cord used a whip
whitewashed	covered with a mixture of lime and water to whiten it
Wilton carpet	carpet with lush surface loops of yarn' named for the town in Southwestern England where it was first made

The Adventure of The Speckled Band Open Questions

1. What was it that crawled up and down the bell pull? Snakes are totally deaf, so whistling would not call a snake back. Snakes do not feed on milk. A snake might crawl down a rope but could not crawl up. There is no such thing as a swamp adder.

The poison was fast acting so it must have been of the cobra family. Perhaps it was a hybrid of a cobra and a Gila monster.

2. When Holmes woke Watson, he (Holmes) was fully dressed. If Helen Stoner was waiting in the sitting room, why did Holmes dress before waking Watson?

Holmes or any English gentleman would not appear before a lady unless he was fully dressed.

3. Holmes says that the case involving Mrs. Farintosh was "before your time, Watson." If so, how did Helen Stoner get the Baker Street address?

By the time Holmes sent his bill to Mrs. Farintosh, he (Holmes) had moved to Baker Street.

4. Helen Stoner says that "...there seemed to be no obstacle to our happiness." Based on Dr. Roylott's past (in a fit of anger he beat a native butler to death), did it seem like there were no obstacles to their happiness?

A strange statement indeed.

5. Julia was described as having "hands groping for help" but, on the same page, it says "In her right hand was found the charred stump of a match, and in her left a match-box." How did she 'grope' with her hands full?

It would be difficult if not impossible.

6. Dr. Roylott poured brandy down Julia's throat. Does that seem to be a wise thing to do?

No, brandy would speed up the effect of the poison.

7. Holmes says, "...the schemer falls into the pit which he digs for another". The correct quotation is, "He that diggeth a pit shall fall into it, and whoso breaketh a hedge, a serpent shall bite him." From where is that quotation taken?

Ecclesiastes 1:2

The Adventure of the Speckled Band Simple Quiz*

1. Grimesby Roylott was killed by
 - a. a heart attack
 - b. an angry gypsy
 - c. a poisonous snake
 - d. none of the above

2. After Grimesby Roylott left the rooms at 221B Baker Street, Sherlock Holmes
 - a. put on his coat and followed Roylott
 - b. looked up Roylott's name in his records
 - c. straightened the poker Roylott had bent
 - d. none of the above

3. Helen Stoner's relationship to Grimesby Roylott was that she was
 - a. his housekeeper
 - b. his step daughter
 - c. his niece
 - d. none of the above

*The Simple Quiz is designed to determine if the student has read the story. Anyone who has read the story through should have no trouble in completing this quiz. This Intermediate and Advanced Quizzes are more challenging.

The Adventure of the Speckled Band Intermediate Quiz*

1. How much income would Grimesby Roylott receive if both of his stepdaughters married?
 - a. £100
 - b. £250
 - c. £500
 - d. none of the above
2. Who referred Helen Stoner to Holmes?
 - a. Mrs. Farintosh
 - b. Mrs. Forrester
 - c. Inspector Lestrade
 - d. none of the above
3. What was the name of Helen Stoner's fiancé?
 - a. Percy Armitage
 - b. James Farintosh
 - c. George Forrester
 - d. none of the above
4. Watson said that the snake that killed Julia Stoner and Grimesby Roylott was
 - a. a black adder
 - b. a swamp adder
 - c. a water moccasin
 - d. none of the above

*The Intermediate Quiz is designed to test whether the student has read the story with reasonable attention to detail. The Simple Quiz is an easier test while the Advanced Quiz is much more challenging.

The Adventure of the Speckled Band Advanced Quiz*

1. Where did Holmes and Watson stay on their visit to Stoke Moran?
 - a. the Crown Inn
 - b. the Horse and Coach Inn
 - c. the White Hart Inn
 - d. none of the above

2. What type of slippers was Grimesby Roylott wearing when the snake attacked and killed him?
 - a. English
 - b. Persian
 - c. Turkish
 - d. none of the above

3. What type of carpet was on the floor of Julia Stoner's bedroom?
 - a. Checkered
 - b. Persian
 - c. Wilton
 - d. none of the above

4. What was the maiden name of Helen and Julia Stoner's mother?
 - a. Westbury
 - b. Westcombe
 - c. Westphail
 - d. none of the above

*The Advanced Quiz is designed for aficionados of the Canon. The questions are quite challenging. The Intermediate and Simple Quizzes are designed for the more casual reader of the stories.

Answers to Quizzes for **The Adventure of the Speckled Band**

SIMPLE QUIZ ANSWERS: 1-c; 2-c; 3-b

INTERMEDIATE QUIZ ANSWERS: 1-c; 2-a; 3-a; 4-b

ADVANCED QUIZ ANSWERS: 1-a; 2-c; 3-c; 4-c