

## 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

### Lesson 11, School Days 31-40 (310 school days)

#### **“The Speckled Band”**

**by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle: Mystery Fiction (Includes a researched writing component)**

Students will read the story carefully, answering comprehension stories as they proceed.

Students will then study the vocabulary words/definitions and take/study/retake vocabulary quizzes repeatedly until they can achieve three 100% scores in a row.

And, finally, each student will conduct research papers on the following topics:

(1) Conduct extensive research and Write a **500-word illustrated research paper** on **“The poisonous snakes of India.”** Students will write a full research paper on this topic, fully illustrated with embedded photos of the indigenous snakes of the Indian subcontinent. Minimum of 500 words and 25 photos/illustrations must be embedded on the same page near the associated text.

(2) Write a **biographical essay** on the personal life and career of the story’s author, **Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.**

(3) Since the death of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle in 1930, **important advances** have been made **in investigative forensic detective procedures, equipment, and materials.** Conduct **research on some forensic advances made since 1930,** and write a research paper focusing on ten of the most important forensic tools and methods, with a history about how/when the technique was developed or discovered.

#### **Comprehension/Discussion Questions:**

1. Why did Dr. Watson the narrator, say he had postponed the publication of this account?
2. How did Holmes know their visitor, Helen, had been traveling in a ‘dog-cart’?
3. Why, according to Helen, would Holmes have to wait to be paid for his services?
4. In the paragraph starting with “Alas!” to whom does Helen refer?
5. How had Helen’s wealthy and distinguished family lost their fortune?
6. Why had Helen’s stepfather been imprisoned in India?
7. How had Helen’s mother died?
8. What was Helen’s relationship with Dr. Roylott?
9. Why didn’t Helen’s stepfather make any friends in the neighborhood around Stoke Moran?

10. How did she get her stepfather out of trouble after he attacked and injured a blacksmith?
11. Why had Helen's sister, Julia, gone earlier to her Helen's bedroom on the night of her murder?
12. Why did Julia ask Helen about a whistling sound?
13. Why did the twin sisters keep their bedroom doors locked at night?
14. Describe Julia's death and what she said when she died.
15. What did Helen believe her sister might have died from?
16. Why did Holmes want to visit the mansion, Stoke Moran?
17. Describe Dr. Roylott's arrival and visit to Holmes' house.
18. How did Helen react when Holmes told her about Roylott's visit to his house?
19. Why did it seem strange that Roylott had installed a new bell-pull in the dead sister's bedroom?
20. What did Holmes learn when he tugged on the bell-pull?
21. What did Holmes say seemed odd about the new vent duct Roylott had installed?
22. Why did Holmes find it curious that there was a small saucer of milk in Roylott's room?
23. What did Holmes find uncommon about the dog lash hung on Roylott's bedstead?
24. Why did Holmes want to spend the night in the bedroom where Helen usually slept?
25. Why did Holmes say that he was at first reluctant to take Dr. Watson, the narrator, with him for the vigil in Helen's room?
26. What signal was Helen to use to let the men know the window was unlatched and they could enter it?
27. What sight terrified the two men just before they entered through the window of Helen's empty bedroom?
28. Once they were in Helen's room, what message did Holmes whisper into Watson's ear?
29. How did they know that someone in the next room had lit a lantern?
30. Describe the scream they heard from Roylott's room.
31. When they entered Roylott's room, what was around his head?
32. What did Holmes do with the dangerous creature?
33. Why had Roylott installed the tiny vent hole between the two rooms?
34. Why had Roylott been making the low whistling noise on the night of Julia's murder?
35. Why did Holmes say he was "indirectly responsible" for Roylott's death?

**Vocabulary Study Guide:**

**forensics:** study of crime scene clues

**commonplace:** ordinary

**retorted:** replied

**outset:** very beginning

**intuitions:** instinctual hunches

**unraveled:** came apart; took apart

**haggard:** looking sick and tired

**dog-cart:** small carriage with seats back-to-back

**Leatherhead:** a suburb of London

**Waterloo:** a section of central London

**tiara:** small crown/headpiece for females

**defray:** pay for

**fancy:** something imagined

**averted:** turned aside (usually ones eyes)

**manifold:** obvious

**Saxon:** originally Germanic peoples who settled in England

**Berkshire:** English county

**Hampshire:** English county

**dissolute:** living wildly/self-destructively

**encompass:** surround

**pauper:** penniless person

**perpetrated:** acted criminally

**capital:** carrying the death penalty

**morose:** grumpy; gloomy

**bequeathed:** left in a will

**indulge:** take part in

**fly:** run away

**parapet:** protective barrier along a walkway

**vagabonds:** homeless wanderers

**leave:** permission

**correspondent:** person in touch by mail

**pray:** please

**seared:** burnt

**plantation:** planted area

**subtle:** mysterious (in this context)

**blanched:** turned white or pale

**writhed:** twisted oneself around

**convulsed:** taken over by muscle spasms

**fain:** gladly; willingly

**coroner:** doctor who determines cause of death

**narrative:** story

**averse:** against

**sinister:** menacing; harmful

**nocturnal:** happening at night  
**ejaculation:** sudden statement  
**aperture:** opening  
**gaiters:** mud-boots  
**crop:** thin whip for horse-riding  
**bile-shot:** with eyes yellow from bile  
**apparition:** ghostly figure  
**crocuses:** a type of iris flower  
**imperturbably:** with cool-headed self-control  
**confound me with:** mistake me for  
**zest:** energetic enthusiasm  
**pittance:** small amount paid  
**dawdling:** moving slowly and wasting time  
**Eley's No. 2:** an old style British pistol  
**trap:** light, one-horse carriage  
**fleecy:** fluffy-puffy like sheep wool  
**stile:** small stairway over a fence  
**homely:** domestic; unpretentious  
**counterpane:** bedspread  
**wickerwork:** made of woven willow switches  
**camp-bed:** cot; temporary bed  
**daresay:** venture to say; assume  
**reverie:** trance; dream-world  
**compliance:** obeying  
**hasp:** metal fastener for doors/windows  
**tangible:** real enough to touch  
**vise:** heavy metal tool to secure objects to work on  
**affected:** pretended; fake  
**vigil:** night-watch for illness, security, etc.  
**dark lantern:** light that can be turned on and off  
**audible:** hearable  
**loathing:** disgust; hatred  
**singular:** remarkable  
**conveyed:** carried; communicated  
**dispel:** drive away (a feeling, fear, etc.)

**Vocabulary Quizzes:****Quiz A:**

___ forensics:	a. small carriage with seats back-to-back
___ commonplace:	b. instinctual hunches
___ retorted:	c. a suburb of London
___ outset:	d. study of crime scene clues
___ intuitions:	e. a section of central London
___ unraveled:	f. replied
___ haggard:	g. ordinary
___ dog-cart:	h. looking sick and tired
___ Leatherhead:	i. came apart; took apart
___ Waterloo:	j. very beginning

**Quiz B:**

___ tiara:	a. English county
___ defray:	b. small crown/headpiece for females
___ fancy:	c. something imagined
___ averted:	d. surround
___ manifold:	e. obvious
___ Saxon:	f. living wildly/self-destructively
___ Berkshire:	g. pay for
___ dissolute:	h. turned aside (usually ones eyes)
___ encompass:	i. originally Germanic peoples who settled in England

**Quiz C:**

___ pauper:	a. penniless person
___ perpetrated:	b. protective barrier along a walkway
___ capital:	c. run away
___ morose:	d. permission
___ bequeathed:	e. carrying the death penalty
___ indulge:	f. acted criminally
___ fly:	g. take part in
___ parapet:	h. homeless wanderers
___ vagabonds:	i. left in a will
___ leave:	j. grumpy; gloomy

**Quiz D:**

- \_\_\_ correspondent: a. burnt  
\_\_\_ pray: b. please  
\_\_\_ seared: c. taken over by muscle spasms  
\_\_\_ plantation: d. turned white or pale  
\_\_\_ subtle: e. twisted oneself around  
\_\_\_ blanched: f. doctor who determines cause of death  
\_\_\_ writhed: g. person in touch by mail  
\_\_\_ convulsed: h. mysterious (in this context)  
\_\_\_ fain: i. planted area  
\_\_\_ coroner: j. gladly; willingly

**Quiz E:**

- \_\_\_ narrative: a. sudden statement  
\_\_\_ averse: b. ghostly figure  
\_\_\_ sinister: c. story  
\_\_\_ nocturnal: d. happening at night  
\_\_\_ ejaculation: e. with eyes yellow from bile  
\_\_\_ aperture: f. against  
\_\_\_ gaiters: g. thin whip for horse-riding  
\_\_\_ crop: h. menacing; harmful  
\_\_\_ bile-shot: i. mud-boots  
\_\_\_ apparition: j. opening

**Quiz F:**

- \_\_\_ crocuses: a. with cool-headed self-control  
\_\_\_ imperturbably: b. mistake me for  
\_\_\_ confound me with: c. moving slowly and wasting time  
\_\_\_ zest: d. energetic enthusiasm  
\_\_\_ pittance: e. small stairway over a fence  
\_\_\_ dawdling: f. light, one-horse carriage  
\_\_\_ Eley's No. 2: g. a type of iris flower  
\_\_\_ trap: h. small amount paid  
\_\_\_ fleecy: i. fluffy-puffy like sheep wool  
\_\_\_ stile: j. an old style British pistol

**Quiz G:**

- |                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| ___ homely:      | a. real enough to touch                          |
| ___ counterpane: | b. obeying                                       |
| ___ wickerwork:  | c. venture to say; assume                        |
| ___ camp-bed:    | d. made of woven willow switches                 |
| ___ daresay:     | e. domestic; unpretentious                       |
| ___ reverie:     | f. heavy metal tool to secure objects to work on |
| ___ compliance:  | g. metal fastener for doors/windows              |
| ___ hasp:        | h. trance; dream-world                           |
| ___ tangible:    | i. cot; temporary bed                            |
| ___ vise:        | j. bedspread                                     |

**Quiz H:**

- |                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| ___ affected:     | a. night-watch for illness, security, etc. |
| ___ vigil:        | b. remarkable                              |
| ___ dark lantern: | c. light that can be turned on and off     |
| ___ audible:      | d. English county                          |
| ___ loathing:     | e. pretended; fake                         |
| ___ singular:     | f. carried; communicated                   |
| ___ conveyed:     | g. hearable                                |
| ___ dispel:       | h. drive away (a feeling, fear, etc.)      |
| ___ Hampshire:    | i. disgust; hatred                         |

**Vocab Quiz Keys**

<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>H</b>
d	b	a	g	c	g	e	e
g	g	f	b	f	a	j	a
f	c	e	a	h	b	d	c
j	h	j	i	d	d	i	g
b	e	i	h	a	h	c	i
i	i	g	d	j	c	h	b
h	a	c	e	i	j	b	f
a	f	b	c	g	f	g	h
c	b	h	j	e	i	a	d
e		d	f	b	e	f	