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Chapter 1

READING NOTES

1. **deductions** – Sherlock Holmes is famous for his brilliant deductions. Most of his deductions, however, are not made using deductive reasoning. In deductive reasoning, general principles or rules are used to reach a specific, logically certain conclusion. Holmes, although he occasionally employs deductive reasoning, most often uses abductive reasoning. In abductive reasoning, specific observations lead to the formulation of a general theory based on likelihood and probability. Doyle's use of the term may have influenced the current popular use of the word deductions to mean more generally "conclusions made through reasoning."
2. **ferrule** (p. 6) – typically a metal ring or cap at the end of a stick or handle, used to strengthen it
3. **convex** (p. 6) – curved outward like the outside of a sphere
4. **dolichocephalic** (p. 10) – having a relatively long head
5. **supra-orbital** (p. 10) – situated above the orbit of the eye
6. **anthropometry** – As explained by the reference notes, at the turn of the nineteenth century, Alphonse Bertillon, whom Dr. Mortimer references (p. 11), developed the science of anthropometry. This science uses the physical measurements of people, such as height and armspan, for various purposes. Anthropometry was especially useful in establishing a system to catalog criminals for identification purposes. It is still employed in criminology and in other fields such as design, architecture, and ergonomics.

WORDS TO BE DEFINED

Definitions Bank

conclusions based on reasoning	in a manner feeling or showing disbelief
false or mistaken reasoning or ideas	shrewdly; cunningly
friendly; pleasant in manner	small, indented space
harshness of manner	unraveled at the edge
shining or reflecting light	untidy; worn-out

1. It may be that you yourself are not yourself **luminous**, but you are a conductor of light. (p. 6)
2. When I said that you stimulated me I meant, to be frank, that in noting your **fallacies** I was occasionally guided towards the truth. (p. 6)
3. Well, then, supposing that "CCH" does stand for "Charing Cross Hospital", what further **inferences** may we draw? (p. 7)
4. So your grave, middle-aged family practitioner vanishes into thin air, my dear Watson, and there emerges a young fellow under thirty, **amiable**, unambitious, absent-minded, and the possessor of a favourite dog (p. 8)
5. I laughed **incredulously** as Sherlock Holmes leaned back in his settee and blew little wavering rings of smoke up to the ceiling. (p. 8)
6. "No mention of that local hunt, Watson," said Holmes, with a mischievous smile, "but a country doctor, as you very astutely observed." (p. 8)
7. Now he halted in the **recess** of the window. (p. 9)
8. He was clad in a professional but rather **slovenly** fashion, for his frock-coat was dingy and his trousers **frayed**. (p. 9)
9. "Indeed, sir! May I inquire who has the honour to be the first?" asked Holmes, with some **asperity**. (p. 10)



Read Chapter 1: "Mr. Sherlock Holmes" (pp. 5-11), marking the text according to the method taught in "How to Mark a Book."

WORDS TO BE DEFINED

1. shining or reflecting light
2. false or mistaken reasoning or ideas
3. conclusions based on reasoning
4. friendly; pleasant in manner
5. in a manner feeling or showing disbelief
6. shrewdly; cunningly
7. small, indented space
8. untidy; worn-out unraveled at the edge
9. harshness of manner

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. John Watson, Sherlock Holmes' associate, is the narrator.
2. Watson highly values the approval of Holmes, just as Holmes appreciates the wit and companionship of Watson. Although Watson very publicly expresses his admiration for Holmes by attempting to emulate Holmes's deductive methods and writing of his adventures, Holmes does not often return Watson's favor. Holmes usually has an air of indifference in response to Watson's esteem.
3. Watson infers that Dr. Mortimer is an esteemed, elderly man who practices medicine in the country. He also hypothesizes that a local hunt presented Dr. Mortimer his cane after the doctor provided some medical service. The cane has been worn down by a good amount of walking. Holmes states that, although Dr. Mortimer is a country practitioner, he is a young man, who received his cane from the Charing Cross Hospital. Dr. Mortimer's dog has been the cause of the wear on the cane.
4. Dr. Mortimer tells Holmes that he received his cane from one or two of his friends from Charing Cross on the occasion of his marriage, not from the hospital like Holmes thinks.

SOCRATIC DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Holmes is extremely sure of himself and his own deductions to the point of pride. When Dr. Mortimer calls him the second highest expert in Europe instead of the first, Holmes reacts with evident bitterness. Holmes is also brilliant, but not cold and aloof. Complimenting Watson on his deductions, he appears to have genuine respect for his friend. However, he does not shy away from telling Watson with brutal honesty that Watson's deductions are completely wrong.
2. As a man of science, Dr. Mortimer may be coming to Holmes to present a problem which science cannot answer. Since Holmes is a specialist in crime, Dr. Mortimer may also be bringing a problem concerning an unsolvable crime, probably a very sinister one.
3. Dr. Mortimer says that Bertillon appeals "*to the man of precisely scientific mind*" while Holmes is "*a practical man of affairs*" (p. 11). He implies that Bertillon deals with theoretical, heady subjects while Holmes works with more applicable, rational matters.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. Who is the narrator of the novel?
2. Watson is very pleased when Holmes compliments him. He notes that Holmes has never given him such a compliment before. What does this scene say about their relationship?
3. What inferences does Watson make about Dr. Mortimer from his cane? How does Holmes correct them?
4. Which detail of Holmes' deductions does Dr. Mortimer disprove?

SOCRATIC DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (LOGIC | Dialectic) May be verbally discussed or answered in written form in your Literature Notebook.

1. Through Holmes' deductions in the first chapter, his great genius is already revealed. How does Holmes carry himself and his intellect? Does he appear humble, condescending, prideful? Provide specific examples.
2. "*What does Dr. James Mortimer, the man of science, ask of Sherlock Holmes, the specialist in crime?*" Sherlock Holmes asks. Chapter 1 does not answer this question, but what might a man of science have to ask of a specialist in crime?
3. At the end of this chapter, Dr. Mortimer calls Holmes the second highest expert in Europe, second only to Bertillon. What **distinction** does Dr. Mortimer draw between the two?