

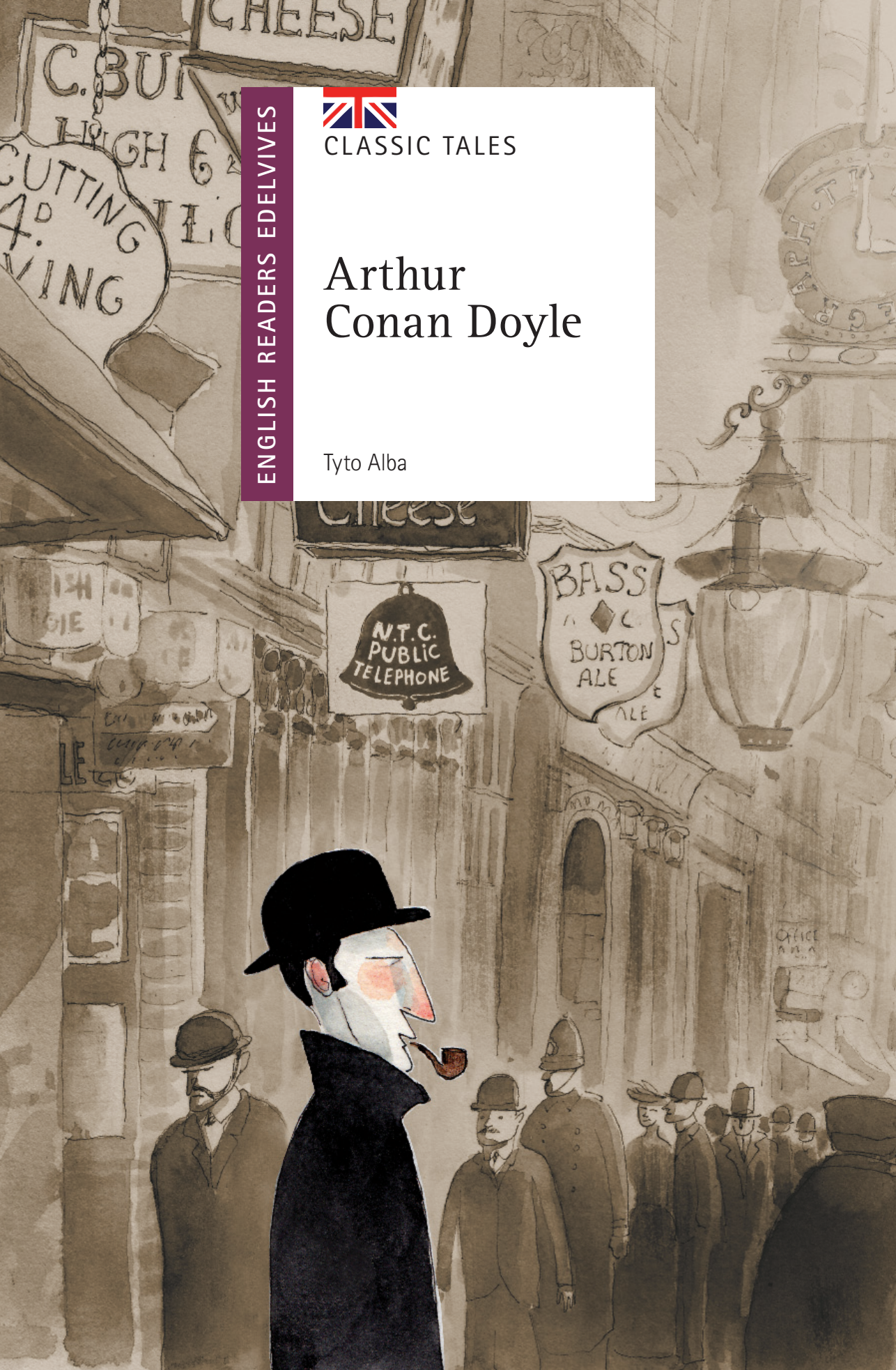
ENGLISH READERS EDELVIVES



CLASSIC TALES

# Arthur Conan Doyle

Tyto Alba



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CLASSIC TALES

# Arthur Conan Doyle

Illustrations  
Tyto Alba

# before reading

- 1 Conan Doyle uses some expressions which were common at the end of the nineteenth century but sound old-fashioned today. **Match** them with their more modern equivalent.

Tut-tut	Wow!
My dear Watson	Oh no
Good heavens!	Really?
Well, well	Wow!
By George!	Really?
Capital!	Listen up
I say!	Brilliant!

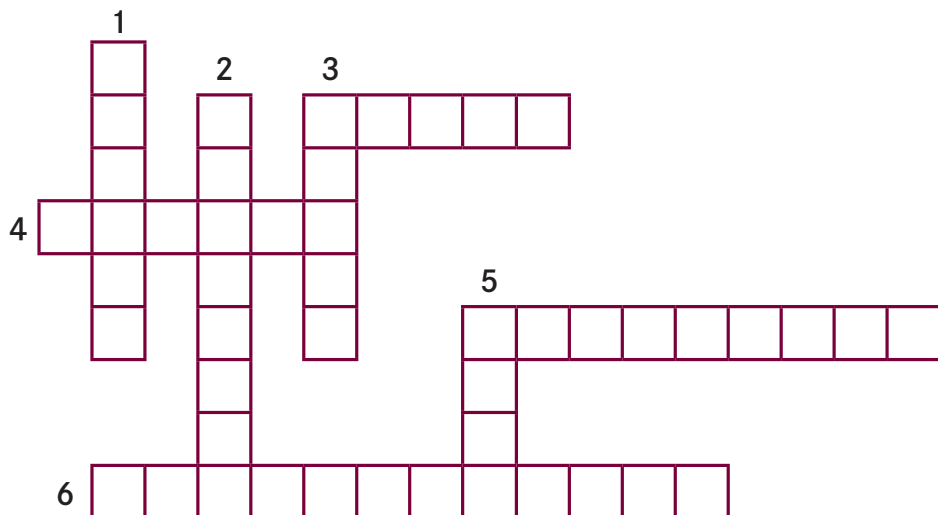
- 2 **Follow** the clues and **complete** the crossword.

## Across

3. Good detectives find lots of these.
4. The reason why a crime is committed.
5. A word game: Across and Down.
6. An active game - for pirates?

## Down

1. A tricky game for mathematical detectives.
2. This tells you if your theory is correct.
3. A black and white game of strategy.
5. Useful for writing secret messages.



3 **Fill** the gaps in this text about Conan Doyle's sources of inspiration.

Celtic	thin	detective
Master	Ancient	great
medical	triumphant	Poe

Conan Doyle was a \_\_\_\_\_ man with a \_\_\_\_\_ number of interests and influences. He read Edgar Allan \_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Macabre. Doyle's \_\_\_\_\_ heritage fired his imagination; and his knowledge of \_\_\_\_\_ Greek mythology gave him hellish dogs and \_\_\_\_\_ heroes. He often described \_\_\_\_\_ work as following a thread to find the answer - just like Theseus finding his way out of the labyrinth by following a \_\_\_\_\_ thread - the clue!

4 In 1824 Britain began using a system of weights and measures which is still used in the United Kingdom and Canada today. **Put** these imperial units in order of size (from the smallest to the biggest) and **guess** their approximate value in metric units.

- Yard
- Inch
- Mile
- Foot

An \_\_\_\_\_ is about \_\_\_\_\_ millimetres long.

A \_\_\_\_\_ is about \_\_\_\_\_ centimetres long.

A \_\_\_\_\_ is about \_\_\_\_\_ metres long.

A \_\_\_\_\_ is about \_\_\_\_\_ kilometres long.

# before reading

- 5 Like every good detective, Sherlock Holmes has a small book where he writes down his important ideas, and that he carries with him at all times. How many things can you think of that you can make notes in? **Write** a list.

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- 6 Conan Doyle mentions many places in London in his stories. **Find** a map of the city and **mark** these well-known ones on it.

Scotland Yard  
Buckingham Palace  
Victoria Station  
Euston Station

Baker Street  
Tower of London  
Pall Mall  
Trafalgar Square





7

With a partner look at the first paragraph from the biography of Conan Doyle. You need some coloured pens!

**Underline in black** all the words you and your friend already know - if one of you knows the word but the other doesn't, teach it to your friend!

**Highlight in green** all the words which look like Spanish words (even false friends)

**Highlight in pink** all the words which have prefixes or suffixes. What word forms do they make and what information do they tell you?

**Cross out** all the words you don't know but you think are not important in the text. Can you understand the paragraph without looking these words up?

**Look up** any words that are not marked. Can you teach these words to your friends?

Sir Arthur Ignatius Conan Doyle was a Scottish doctor, journalist, poet, spiritualist, inventor and, most famously, writer. His most well-known character was the enigmatic detective named Sherlock Holmes who lived in London with his friend and assistant, Dr. Watson, at 221B Baker Street. Of course the address is invented but many fans from all over the world visit the place today believing that Holmes and Watson really lived there. Holmes used his eccentric scientific techniques and brilliant mind to solve the most curious crimes of the day. The character of Holmes is said to be based on Dr Joseph Bell who taught Conan Doyle medicine at Edinburgh University and whose analytical way of working with his patients is mirrored in the literary detective's style of investigation. Dr Watson wrote accounts of Holmes' investigations in his diaries - and these are the adventures we read about in the novels by Conan Doyle.

# during reading

## The Adventure of the Dancing Men

1 **Match** the characters in this story with their descriptions.

Sherlock Holmes	
Dr. Watson	
Hilton Cubitt	
Elsie Cubitt	
Abe Slaney	

I was very curious... so I waited

white face grow even whiter in the moonlight

looking worried and depressed, with tired eyes

like a hunting-dog looking for a bird

someone who had been close to the lady in her early life

The most dangerous criminal in Chicago

shot through the heart

seriously injured, and is in danger of dying

sometimes he was puzzled, and would sit for long periods with an empty look in his eyes

natural curiosity

a tall, red-faced gentleman

totally surprised

a strange bird, with grey feathers and a black head

devotes her whole life to looking after the poor

wearing a grey suit, with a Panama hat, a big black beard, and a great, aggressive nose

2

Sherlock Holmes is famous for his methodical approach to his detective work. **Complete** the explanation he gives Dr. Watson at the beginning of the story.

Holmes knew that Dr. Watson did not want to invest his money in South African \_\_\_\_\_.

He knew this because he had inspected the part of Watson's hand between his left index finger and \_\_\_\_\_.

Watson had \_\_\_\_\_ between his left finger and thumb when he returned from his club.

Watson put chalk there when he played \_\_\_\_\_.

Four weeks before, Watson told Holmes that Thurston had the option to buy some South African gold - but only for a \_\_\_\_\_.

Watson's cheque book was locked in Holmes' drawer, and Holmes had the \_\_\_\_\_.

3

Conan Doyle often uses expressions using animals to give colour to his stories. **Identify** the missing animals.

"Our simple Norfolk squire is caught in a strange and dangerous web" - just like a \_\_\_\_\_.

Holmes pricked up his ears every time the bell rang - just like a \_\_\_\_\_.

"When I opened the door to the garden and got to the tool-shed the creature was gone" - just like a \_\_\_\_\_.

"Did she help to set a trap for me?" - just like a \_\_\_\_\_.



# during reading

- 4 Holmes speculates that Slaney must be American because “Abe” is short for Abraham, which was a popular name in the United States, especially since the Presidency of Abraham Lincoln in the mid-nineteenth century. **Circle** the country ruled by these 19th Century leaders.

UK / US	William Pitt `the Younger´ 1783-1801 & 1804-1806
UK / US	James Monroe 1817-1825
UK / US	William Lamb (July)1834-(November)1834 & 1835-1841
UK / US	James K. Polk 1845-1849
UK / US	James A. Garfield (March)1881-(September)1881

- 5 **Put** the story of Elsie and Abe’s relationship in order.

Abe shot Hilton.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Elsie tried to pay Abe to leave England.	<input type="checkbox"/>
When Elsie was a child, her father promised her in marriage to Abe.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Elsie refused to see Abe.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Elsie ran away from Chicago.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Abe worked for Elsie’s father in Chicago.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Abe was sent to prison for life.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Abe discovered that Elsie had married an Englishman.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Elsie wrote to Abe asking him to leave England.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Abe travelled to England to see Elsie.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Elsie did not want to marry a criminal.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Abe left messages in code for Elsie.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hilton tried to shoot Abe.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Elsie met Hilton Cubitt in London.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Abe wrote letters to Elsie.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Elsie shot herself.	<input type="checkbox"/>

## The Adventure of the Final Problem

- 1 **Order** chronologically these ways of communication commonly used by Sherlock Holmes. **Write** the year of their invention.

\_\_\_\_\_ Rowland Hill invented the adhesive postage stamp

\_\_\_\_\_ Alexander Graham Bell invented the telephone

\_\_\_\_\_ Paul Reuter started Reuters news agency

\_\_\_\_\_ Samuel Morse invented Morse Code

\_\_\_\_\_ Johann Carolus published the first newspaper

\_\_\_\_\_ Samuel Morse invented the telegraph

- 2 **Match** the nationalities with their inventions.

American    Austrian    Chinese    Scot    Swede

Gunpowder was invented by the \_\_\_\_\_.

Cannons were invented by the \_\_\_\_\_.

Air guns were invented by an \_\_\_\_\_.

Rifles were invented by a \_\_\_\_\_.

Revolvers were invented by an \_\_\_\_\_.

Machine guns were invented by a \_\_\_\_\_.



# during reading

- 3 Sherlock Holmes and his great enemy are both incredibly intelligent men. **Find** 14 words related to their hobbies, and the letters that are left will **spell** the name of Holmes' nemesis.

BINOMIAL    THEOREM    SUM    POWER    MINUS  
FACTOR    MATHS    PHYSICS    TEST    PLUS  
ITEM    STUDY    ODD    BASE

B	M	O	R	I	I	T	P
A	I	M	A	T	H	S	H
S	S	N	A	E	S	R	Y
E	R	U	O	M	U	O	S
T	T	R	L	M	N	T	I
R	E	W	O	P	I	C	C
M	U	S	Y	D	M	A	S
Y	D	U	T	S	D	F	L

Holmes' nemesis: \_\_\_\_\_

- 4 In England the death sentence was not abolished until 1965 and in the 19th century over 3,500 people were hanged by the neck on the gallows.

**Decide** if you think these crimes were punishable by hanging in the 19th Century: **yes** or **no**.

Damaging Westminster Bridge \_\_\_\_\_

Begging if you were a soldier or a sailor \_\_\_\_\_

Hurting a pig \_\_\_\_\_

Hurting a cow \_\_\_\_\_

Disguising yourself as a gypsy \_\_\_\_\_

Being out at night with your face painted black \_\_\_\_\_

Stealing from a shipwreck \_\_\_\_\_

Writing a threatening letter \_\_\_\_\_

- 5 Holmes and Watson travel to Switzerland. **Choose** the correct words to complete this text about their destination.

The travellers arrived in Meiringen, (famous for being the place where meringues / Mercedes Benz cars were first made), a small town in the Swiss Alps / Pyrenees which is famous for the nearby Reichenbach Lake / Falls. They took rooms at the Englischer Hof (which means English Hotel / English Court). This hotel really existed, under the name Parkhotel du Sauvage and was popular with French / English travellers. It even had an English church / a French hospital, and many foreigners suffering from leprosy / tuberculosis went to the town to be cured.

- 6 **Complete** Watson's description of the Reichenbach Waterfall using these prepositions.

round against below up up down  
down into into into

It is a terrifying place where the river crashes \_\_\_\_\_ a tremendous abyss, and spray flies \_\_\_\_\_ like the smoke from a burning house. The water throws itself \_\_\_\_\_ an immense black hole, as the long river of green water roars \_\_\_\_\_, and the thick curtain of spray hisses \_\_\_\_\_. We stood near the edge looking \_\_\_\_\_ at the foaming water breaking \_\_\_\_\_ the black rocks, and listening to the half-human shout of the echoing river far \_\_\_\_\_ us. The path has been cut \_\_\_\_\_ the rock half-way \_\_\_\_\_ the fall, with the wall of the mountain on one side and the abyss of the falls on the other.

## The Story of the Man with the Watches

### 1 The Rugby Mystery

The train was heading for Rugby, a city in the north-west of England, famous for its school where the sport, rugby, was first played. **Choose** the correct country where these popular sports were played for the first time.

Football	France England
Waterpolo	Scotland Ireland
Basketball	USA Canada
Tennis	France England
Volleyball	USA Scotland
Hockey	Canada Egypt

2 One of the watches came from Tiffany's, a famous jeweller's shop in New York. **Unjumble** the words to find things you can buy there.

THAWC \_\_\_\_\_

LEECCNAK \_\_\_\_\_

GRIN \_\_\_\_\_

NAGERIR \_\_\_\_\_

RAATI \_\_\_\_\_

INCHA \_\_\_\_\_

CLAREETB \_\_\_\_\_

**3** **Complete** the following sentences about what the things in the young man's pockets might tell us about him by making deductions like a detective.

The six valuable gold watches might mean that the man was \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

The fact that all six watches were made in American might mean that the man \_\_\_\_\_.

The ivory knife with a corkscrew might mean that the man \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

The small, circular mirror might mean that the man \_\_\_\_\_.

The ticket to the Lyceum Theatre might mean that the man \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

The silver box full of matches and a brown leather case containing two small cigars might mean that the man \_\_\_\_\_.

And the two pounds fourteen shillings in money might mean that the man \_\_\_\_\_.

**4** Card Sharps or Card Sharks are people who play poker for money by using illegal tricks. **Tick** (✓) the things card sharps use.

- A false nose
- A piece of elastic
- A pair of scissors
- A clip
- A mirror
- A knife



# after reading

- 1 The three stories in this book involve a lot of travel by land and sea. **Classify** the following words according to the type of transport they refer to.

cab whistle carriage crew ferry dock  
terminus reins liner compartment whip porter

Rail	Sea	Road

- 2 Money in Britain remained quite similar from the Norman Conquest in 1066 until decimalisation in 1971. Old money was divided into pounds, shillings and pennies. The pound sign - £ - originally came from the Latin “l” for “libra”. **Match** the information about how the *old money* was divided up.

There were 20 shillings	in a crown.
There were 12 pennies	in a penny.
There were 5 shillings	in a halfpenny.
There were 2 shillings	in a pound.
There were 2 halfpennies	in a shilling.
There were 2 farthings	in a florin.

**Choose** the correct amount.

In **The Story of the Man with the Watches**, the mysterious young man had two pounds fourteen shillings in his pocket. This is nearly fifty / one hundred / one thousand pounds in today’s money.

In **The Adventure of the Dancing Men** there were twenty fifty-pound notes of the Bank of England in Elsie’s handbag. One thousand pounds at the end of the nineteenth century would be worth over one thousand / one hundred thousand / one million pounds today.

3

Hilton Cubit met his wife when he went up to London to join in the celebrations for Queen Victoria’s Golden Jubilee in 1887. Here are some of the events programmed to mark her 50 years as queen.

**Decide** which would you have chosen to go and see? Why?

- 24th May** Queen travels to Balmoral Castle in Scotland (one of her favourite residences) to celebrate her birthday.
- 20th June** Queen has breakfast outdoors under the trees at Frogmore, the park next to Windsor Castle.  
Queen gives a royal banquet in Buckingham Palace for fifty foreign kings and princes.  
Queen dances in the royal Ballroom, with her favourite band playing.
- 21st June** Queen goes in procession in an open carriage through London to Westminster Abbey, escorted by Colonial Indian cavalry and accompanied by seventeen princes from Russia, Britain, Prussia, and other European nations.  
Queen attends a service of thanksgiving in Westminster Abbey with prayers and music.  
10,000 guests.  
Queen returns to the Palace for a balcony appearance and is cheered by the crowd.  
Queen watches fireworks in the palace garden.  
People watch bonfires all over England.
- 22nd June** Queen visits Children’s Jubilee - a party for 27,000 children - in London’s Hyde Park. Queen gives a “Jubilee Mug” to every child.

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# after reading

- 4 When you read or listen to English you might find a word that looks familiar but that doesn't mean what you expect it to. **Identify** the correct meaning for these 'false friends'.

'She was fatally injured' means:

- She had a terrible injury.  
 She died.

'He lived on a lonely farm' means:

- The farm was isolated.  
 The farm had no friends.

'Queen Victoria was a real person' means:

- She was a monarch.  
 She existed, she wasn't imaginary.

'They took the train up to town' means:

- They went to the nearest urban area.  
 They went to London.

- 5 **Match** these words from the story with their definitions.

Pickpocket	a person who has seen a crime being committed
Duel	a legal process to judge if a person is innocent or guilty
Abyss	a feeling of great personal satisfaction
Trial	something you are morally obliged to do
Witness	a fight to the death for honour between two gentlemen
Duty	physical harm caused by an accident or attack
Injury	a criminal who steals things from other people's bags
Pride	a deep hole in the rocks