THE WORLD S ONLY CONSULTING DETECTIVE

You see, but you do not observe.

Sherlock Holmes, *A Scandal in Bohemia*



The Deerstalker

Sidney Paget s Holmes

The famous cap owes more to *The Strand* s illustrations than to Doyle s text.



The Pipe

A three-pipe problem

Holmes smokes while he thinks. The curved pipe is a stage tradition.



The Lens

Tools of the trade

Holmes examines clues through a lens and tape-measure in his first case.



The Violin

Music and mind

Holmes plays to think and once boasts of a Stradivarius bought cheap.

ABOUT THIS BOOK

This volume catalogues every work of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle s Sherlock Holmes canon four novels and fifty-six short stories arranged in the order they first appeared. Alongside the canon you will find the plays, the surviving oddments, and a clear note on what is *not* by Doyle. Every table carries a small box to tick as you read, and the final pages hold a reading tracker for all sixty tales.

COMPILED BY

Abhisek Praharaj

YOUR GUIDE TO THE CANON

Contents

- **The Canon at a Glance** — *Numbers, timeline and the five collections* — 4
- **Memories of Holmes** — *The objects, the rooms and the famous lines* — 5
- **The Cast of Characters** — *Holmes, Watson and the people of Baker Street* — 6
- **The Four Novels** — *From A Study in Scarlet to The Valley of Fear* — 7
- **The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes** — *12 stories 1891 1892* — 8
- **The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes** — *11 stories 1892 1893* — 9
- **The Return of Sherlock Holmes** — *13 stories 1903 1904* — 10
- **His Last Bow** — *8 stories 1893 1917* — 11
- **The Case-Book of Sherlock Holmes** — *12 stories 1921 1927* — 12
- **Gallery of Clues** — *Nine famous clues, sketched* — 13
- **Famous Lines** — *Six sentences everyone remembers* — 14
- **Beyond the Canon** — *Plays, parodies, outlines and one famous forgery* — 15
- **Reading Guide & Tracker** — *Three routes through the canon and a checklist* — 16

OVERVIEW

The Canon at a Glance

4 NOVELS

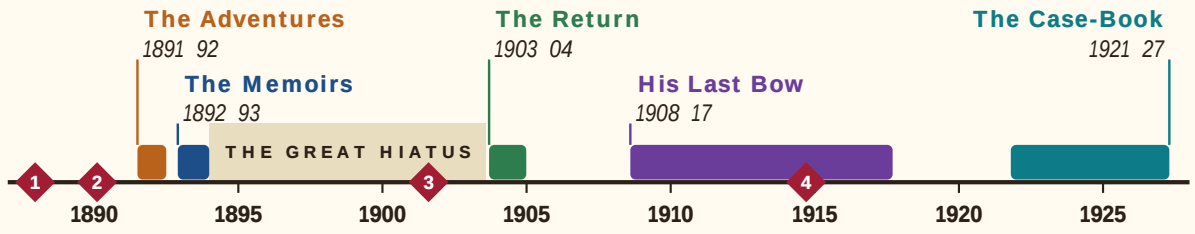
56 SHORT STORIES

5 COLLECTIONS

40 YEARS OF TALES

Between 1887 and 1927 Arthur Conan Doyle published sixty stories about Sherlock Holmes, known to readers as **the Canon**. Four are novels; fifty-six are short stories gathered into five collections. Doyle even tried to end the series in 1893, sending Holmes over the Reichenbach Falls but public demand brought him back.

PUBLICATION TIMELINE



1 A Study in Scarlet (1887) 2 The Sign of the Four (1890) 3 The Hound of the Baskervilles (1901 02)
4 The Valley of Fear (1914 15)

Numbered diamonds mark the four novels

COLLECTION	STORIES	MAGAZINE RUN	IN BOOK FORM
The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes	12	Jul 1891 Jun 1892	1892
The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes	11 (12 in some early editions)	Dec 1892 Dec 1893	1893 94
The Return of Sherlock Holmes	13	Sep 1903 Dec 1904	1905
His Last Bow	8 (including The Cardboard Box)	1893 1917	1917
The Case-Book of Sherlock Holmes	12	Oct 1921 Mar 1927	1927

BAKER STREET SOUVENIRS

Memories of Holmes

A detective is remembered through his belongings. Here are the objects and places that, for generations of readers, *are* Sherlock Holmes.



221B Baker Street

The most famous address in fiction

Holmes and Watson share rooms here, looked after by Mrs Hudson. Seventeen steps lead up.



Gaslight & Fog

Victorian London

Hansom cabs, yellow fog and gas lamps give the stories their unmistakable atmosphere.



The Lens

A Study in Scarlet

Holmes first appears at crime scenes with a tape-measure and a large round magnifying glass.



The Pipe

The Red-Headed League

A difficult case is a three-pipe problem. Holmes even keeps tobacco in a Persian slipper.



The Violin

The Cardboard Box

Holmes plays when he thinks, and mentions buying a Stradivarius for a few shillings.



The Deerstalker

Sidney Paget s Holmes

Doyle mentions a travelling cap; the illustrations of Sidney Paget made it a symbol.

DID YOU KNOW?

Doyle s detective never says Elementary, my dear Watson in a single line of the original stories. Holmes says Elementary and my dear Watson separately the famous phrase is a later invention of stage and screen.

THE PEOPLE OF BAKER STREET

The Cast of Characters

Doyle s stories are crowded with memorable figures. These are the ones every reader should know, and where each first appears.

CHARACTER	WHO THEY ARE	FIRST APPEARANCE
Sherlock Holmes	The world s only consulting detective, of 221B Baker Street	*A Study in Scarlet (1887)*
Dr John H. Watson	Holmes s friend, flatmate and chronicler	*A Study in Scarlet (1887)*
Mrs Hudson	The long-suffering landlady of 221B	*A Study in Scarlet (1887)*
Inspector Lestrade	Scotland Yard s most frequent visitor to Baker Street	*A Study in Scarlet (1887)*
Mary Morstan	The client who becomes Watson s wife	*The Sign of the Four (1890)*
Irene Adler	The one woman who outwits Holmes	*A Scandal in Bohemia (1891)*
Mycroft Holmes	Sherlock s elder brother, who works for the British government	*The Greek Interpreter (1893)*
Professor Moriarty	The Napoleon of crime Holmes s great adversary	*The Final Problem (1893)*
Colonel Sebastian Moran	Moriarty s chief lieutenant and a deadly marksman	*The Empty House (1903)*
Charles Augustus Milverton	A blackmailer whom Holmes despises	*Charles Augustus Milverton (1904)*

FUN FACT

Moriarty appears in only two original stories *The Final Problem* and *The Valley of Fear* (and is mentioned in a few others) yet he is the figure most associated with Holmes s enemies.

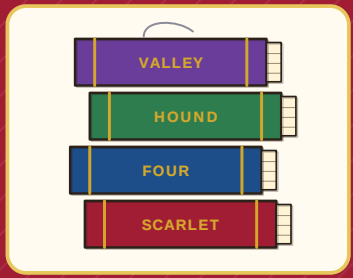
CHAPTER I

The Four Novels

The longer adventures

Sherlock Holmes in full-length form

4 NOVELS 1887 1915



Doyle wrote only four Holmes novels, each originally published in a magazine or annual. Two of them *A Study in Scarlet* and *The Valley of Fear* are told in two halves, the second leaping far back in time and place.

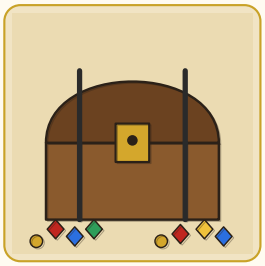
NO.	READ	NOVEL	PUBLISHED	FIRST APPEARED IN
1	☐	**A Study in Scarlet**	*1887*	Beeton s Christmas Annual
2	☐	**The Sign of the Four**	*1890*	Lippincott s Monthly Magazine
3	☐	**The Hound of the Baskervilles**	*Aug 1901 Apr 1902*	The Strand Magazine
4	☐	**The Valley of Fear**	*Sep 1914 May 1915*	The Strand Magazine



A Study in Scarlet

The first meeting, 1887

Holmes and Watson meet and move into 221B. A murder in London leads to a long flashback to Utah.



The Sign of the Four

Treasure and a promise, 1890

Mary Morstan seeks Holmes s help, and a trail of treasure leads along the Thames.



The Hound of the Baskervilles

The great moorland tale

A family legend, Dartmoor fog and a spectral hound: the best-loved Holmes novel.



The Valley of Fear

The final novel, 1914 15

A murder at a Sussex manor is explained by events in a Pennsylvania mining valley.

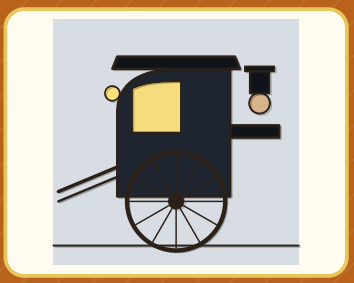
COLLECTION I

The Adventures

of Sherlock Holmes

Twelve stories July 1891 June 1892

12 STORIES | THE STRAND | FIRST COLLECTED 1892



The first twelve short stories appeared monthly in *The Strand Magazine*, illustrated by Sidney Paget. Each case is complete in a single issue, so readers could meet Holmes at full strength with any number a formula that made him a sensation.

NO.	READ	STORY	PUBLISHED	THE CASE IN A LINE
1	☐	**A Scandal in Bohemia**	*Jul 1891*	A king s compromising photograph, and Irene Adler the woman.
2	☐	**The Red-Headed League**	*Aug 1891*	A pawnbroker is handsomely paid to copy out an encyclopaedia.
3	☐	**A Case of Identity**	*Sep 1891*	A bride-to-be is abandoned at the church door by her vanishing groom.
4	☐	**The Boscombe Valley Mystery**	*Oct 1891*	A son is accused of murdering his father in the Herefordshire countryside.
5	☐	**The Five Orange Pips**	*Nov 1891*	Five dried pips in an envelope mark a family for death.
6	☐	**The Man with the Twisted Lip**	*Dec 1891*	A missing husband, an opium den and a beggar with a twisted lip.
7	☐	**The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle**	*Jan 1892*	A stolen gem turns up inside a Christmas goose.
8	☐	**The Adventure of the Speckled Band**	*Feb 1892*	A dying whisper and a locked bedroom at Stoke Moran.
9	☐	**The Adventure of the Engineer s Thumb**	*Mar 1892*	A hydraulic engineer escapes a sinister house minus a thumb.
10	☐	**The Adventure of the Noble Bachelor**	*Apr 1892*	A lord s bride vanishes from her own wedding breakfast.
11	☐	**The Adventure of the Beryl Coronet**	*May 1892*	A banker s priceless pledge is damaged and his son is blamed.
12	☐	**The Adventure of the Copper Beeches**	*Jun 1892*	A governess accepts very odd conditions at a lonely country house.

COLLECTOR S NOTE

Sidney Paget s drawings for *The Strand* shaped the way the world pictures Holmes. The Speckled Band remains the author s own favourite among the stories.

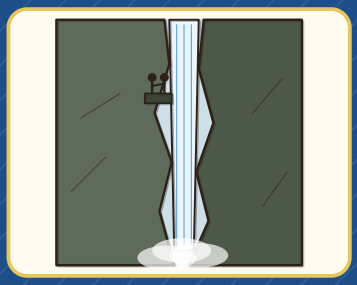
COLLECTION II

The Memoirs

of Sherlock Holmes

Eleven stories December 1892 December 1893

11 STORIES | THE STRAND | FIRST COLLECTED 1893 94



These tales deepen the legend: we hear of Holmes s college days, meet his brother Mycroft, and finally face Professor Moriarty. Doyle meant the last story to be Holmes s end, and sent the detective over the Reichenbach Falls.

NO.	READ	STORY	PUBLISHED	THE CASE IN A LINE
13	☐	**The Adventure of Silver Blaze**	*Dec 1892*	A champion racehorse vanishes and its trainer is found dead the famous dog in the night-time.
14	☐	**The Adventure of the Yellow Face**	*Feb 1893*	A husband is troubled by a strange face at the window of a nearby cottage.
15	☐	**The Adventure of the Stockbroker s Clerk**	*Mar 1893*	A clerk is offered a splendid post in Birmingham a little too splendid.
16	☐	**The Adventure of the Gloria Scott**	*Apr 1893*	Holmes recounts his very first case, from his college days.
17	☐	**The Adventure of the Musgrave Ritual**	*May 1893*	An old family riddle leads to a vanished butler and a hidden relic.
18	☐	**The Adventure of the Reigate Squire**	*Jun 1893*	Holmes recuperates in Surrey, where a burglary turns into murder. (Also called The Reigate Puzzle.)
19	☐	**The Adventure of the Crooked Man**	*Jul 1893*	A colonel dies after a quarrel with his wife; an old army secret emerges.
20	☐	**The Adventure of the Resident Patient**	*Aug 1893*	A nervous patient fears three mysterious visitors.
21	☐	**The Adventure of the Greek Interpreter**	*Sep 1893*	Holmes introduces his brother Mycroft; an interpreter is drawn into a kidnapping.
22	☐	**The Adventure of the Naval Treaty**	*Oct Nov 1893*	A secret naval treaty is stolen from a Foreign Office clerk s desk.
23	☐	**The Final Problem**	*Dec 1893*	Holmes confronts Professor Moriarty and the Reichenbach Falls.

COLLECTOR S NOTE

The Cardboard Box (January 1893) appears in some early editions of the *Memoirs*, but modern editions place it in *His Last Bow*. It is counted once in this catalogue, under *His Last Bow*.

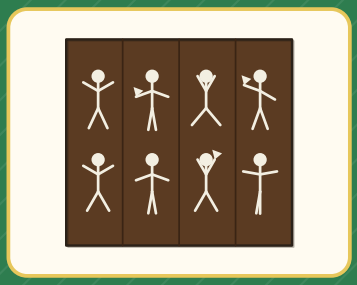
COLLECTION III

The Return

of Sherlock Holmes

Thirteen stories September 1903 December 1904

13 STORIES | THE STRAND | FIRST COLLECTED 1905



After a ten-year silence and a public outcry, Doyle revived Holmes in *The Empty House*, explaining that the detective had only feigned his death. Thirteen new cases followed in barely fifteen months.

NO.	READ	STORY	PUBLISHED	THE CASE IN A LINE
24	☐	**The Adventure of the Empty House**	*Sep 1903*	Holmes returns from the dead to trap Colonel Sebastian Moran.
25	☐	**The Adventure of the Norwood Builder**	*Oct 1903*	A young solicitor is accused of murder; a thumbprint seems conclusive.
26	☐	**The Adventure of the Dancing Men**	*Dec 1903*	Mysterious stick-figure messages haunt a Norfolk squire s wife.
27	☐	**The Adventure of the Solitary Cyclist**	*Dec 1903*	A young music teacher is followed on her lonely rides.
28	☐	**The Adventure of the Priory School**	*Jan 1904*	A duke s young son vanishes from a boarding school.
29	☐	**The Adventure of Black Peter**	*Feb 1904*	A harpoon, a murdered sea captain and a tobacco pouch.
30	☐	**The Adventure of Charles Augustus Milverton**	*Mar 1904*	Holmes takes on a master blackmailer, the worst man in London.
31	☐	**The Adventure of the Six Napoleons**	*Apr 1904*	Someone is smashing plaster busts of Napoleon across London.
32	☐	**The Adventure of the Three Students**	*Jun 1904*	An examination paper is tampered with at a university.
33	☐	**The Adventure of the Golden Pince-Nez**	*Jul 1904*	A dying secretary clutches a pair of gold-rimmed spectacles.
34	☐	**The Adventure of the Missing Three-Quarter**	*Aug 1904*	A star rugby player disappears on the eve of the Varsity match.
35	☐	**The Adventure of the Abbey Grange**	*Sep 1904*	A violent death in a Kent manor house and a famous opening cry: The game is afoot.
36	☐	**The Adventure of the Second Stain**	*Dec 1904*	A stolen letter threatens to plunge Europe into war.

COLLECTOR S NOTE

In between, Doyle published *The Hound of the Baskervilles* (1901 02) but set it before Holmes s death .

COLLECTION IV

His Last Bow

Some Reminiscences of Sherlock Holmes

Eight stories first published 1893 1917

8 STORIES | THE STRAND | FIRST COLLECTED 1917



Written over many years, these eight stories include a gentle Holmes in his later career and, in the title story, a final wartime mission set on the eve of the First World War.

NO.	READ	STORY	PUBLISHED	THE CASE IN A LINE
37	☐	**The Adventure of the Cardboard Box**	*Jan 1893*	A parcel containing two severed ears arrives in the post. (First published in 1893.)
38	☐	**The Adventure of Wisteria Lodge**	*Aug 1908*	A house guest vanishes overnight, leaving a terrified host and bizarre clues.
39	☐	**The Adventure of the Bruce-Partington Plans**	*Dec 1908*	Stolen submarine plans and a corpse on the Underground track; Mycroft calls for help.
40	☐	**The Adventure of the Devil s Foot**	*Dec 1910*	A Cornish family is struck down in the night Holmes and Watson risk everything.
41	☐	**The Adventure of the Red Circle**	*Mar Apr 1911*	A landlady s lodger who never leaves his room, and a red circle on a note.
42	☐	**The Disappearance of Lady Frances Carfax**	*Dec 1911*	A lady disappears while travelling on the Continent.
43	☐	**The Adventure of the Dying Detective**	*Nov 1913*	Holmes lies at death s door but all is not as it seems.
44	☐	**His Last Bow**	*Sep 1917*	August 1914: Holmes, in disguise, undertakes one final mission against a German spy.

COLLECTOR S NOTE

The Cardboard Box was first published in 1893 and joined this book later. The title story, *His Last Bow*, is told in the third person rather than by Watson.

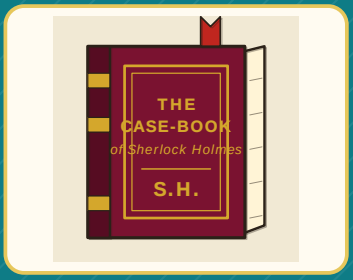
COLLECTION V

The Case-Book

of Sherlock Holmes

Twelve stories October 1921 March 1927

12 STORIES | THE STRAND | FIRST COLLECTED 1927



The last twelve stories are darker, stranger and more varied than the earlier ones. Two are narrated by Holmes himself, and one is told in the third person.

NO.	READ	STORY	PUBLISHED	THE CASE IN A LINE
45	☐	**The Adventure of the Mazarin Stone**	*Oct 1921*	A priceless diamond is stolen and Holmes sets a clever trap.
46	☐	**The Problem of Thor Bridge**	*Feb 1922*	A millionaire s wife is found shot beside a bridge; the governess is accused.
47	☐	**The Adventure of the Creeping Man**	*Mar 1923*	A respected professor s strange nocturnal behaviour alarms his household.
48	☐	**The Adventure of the Sussex Vampire**	*Jan 1924*	A mother is accused of drinking her baby s blood.
49	☐	**The Adventure of the Three Garridebs**	*Oct 1924*	An absurd inheritance hunt for men named Garrideb hides something criminal.
50	☐	**The Adventure of the Illustrious Client**	*Nov 1924*	Holmes is hired to stop a lady from marrying the sinister Baron Gruner.
51	☐	**The Adventure of the Three Gables**	*Sep 1926*	A strange offer to buy a house together with all its contents.
52	☐	**The Adventure of the Blanched Soldier**	*Oct 1926*	Told by Holmes himself: a soldier s friend vanishes after the Boer War.
53	☐	**The Adventure of the Lion s Mane**	*Nov 1926*	Also told by Holmes: a death on a Sussex beach baffles the retired detective.
54	☐	**The Adventure of the Retired Colourman**	*Dec 1926*	A paint-maker s wife has run off with her lover or has she?
55	☐	**The Adventure of the Veiled Lodger**	*Jan 1927*	A veiled woman asks Holmes to hear a long-hidden story.
56	☐	**The Adventure of Shoscombe Old Place**	*Mar 1927*	An eccentric racing baronet s strange behaviour puts his estate at risk.

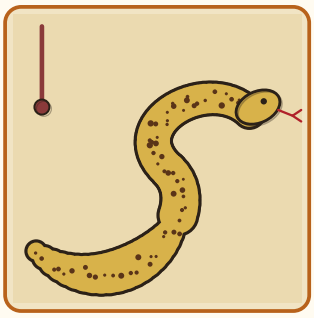
COLLECTOR S NOTE

Holmes narrates *The Blanched Soldier* and *The Lion s Mane*; *The Mazarin Stone* is in the third person. *The Adventure of Shoscombe Old Place* (1927) closes the canon.

SKETCHBOOK

Gallery of Clues

Every great case leaves behind an object you remember. Here are nine of the most famous.



The Speckled Band

A strange whistle and a bell-rope that rings nothing.



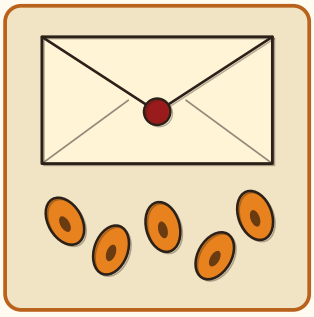
The Dancing Men

Stick figures that turn out to be a cipher.



The Blue Carbuncle

A stolen gem, a goose and a Christmas puzzle.



The Five Orange Pips

A warning delivered in an envelope.



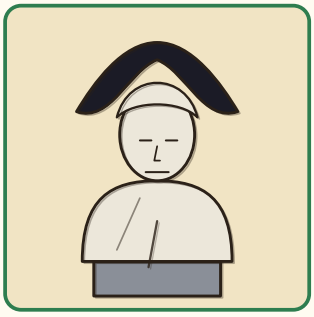
The Norwood Builder

A bloody thumbprint that seems to prove guilt.



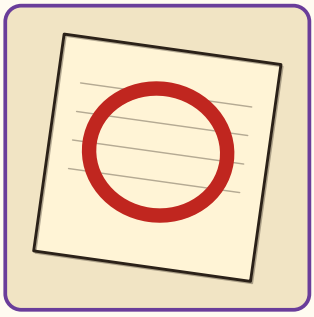
The Hound

Glowing eyes on the moor of the Baskervilles.



The Six Napoleons

Plaster busts smashed across London.



The Red Circle

A mysterious lodger and a coded signal.



The Cardboard Box

A parcel that no one wanted to open.

IN HIS OWN WORDS

Famous Lines

It is a capital mistake to theorise before one has data.

A Scandal in Bohemia

There is nothing more deceptive than an obvious fact.

The Boscombe Valley Mystery

When you have eliminated the impossible, whatever remains, however improbable, must be the truth.

The Sign of the Four

The world is full of obvious things which nobody by any chance ever observes.

The Hound of the Baskervilles

Come, Watson, come! The game is afoot.

The Adventure of the Abbey Grange

You see, but you do not observe.

A Scandal in Bohemia

PLAYS, PARODIES AND ODDMENTS

Beyond the Canon

Besides the sixty canonical tales, Doyle left a handful of Holmes-related pieces. A few more items are often *attributed* to him but are not his work. This page separates the two.

TITLE	KIND	DATE	STATUS
The Field Bazaar	Short parody	1896	Written by Doyle for a student charity bazaar at Edinburgh University.
How Watson Learned the Trick	Short parody	1924	Written by Doyle for the miniature library of Queen Mary s Dolls House.
The Adventure of the Tall Man	Plot outline	Undated	An unwritten story: only a plan was found among Doyle s papers. Later writers have built stories on it.
The Man Who Was Wanted	Pastiche	c. 1914	**Not by Doyle.** Written by Arthur Whitaker, found in Doyle s papers, and published in 1948 as a lost Doyle story before the true author came forward.

PLAY	YEAR	NOTES
The Speckled Band	1910	Doyle s own stage adaptation of his 1892 story.
The Crown Diamond	1921	A one-act play whose plot Doyle reworked into the story The Mazarin Stone.
Sherlock Holmes (Gillette)	1899	Written by the American actor William Gillette with Doyle s permission; it shaped the stage Holmes.

A NOTE ON ACCURACY

Earlier lists of Holmes works sometimes call The Man Who Was Wanted an unfinished Doyle manuscript. That is incorrect: it is a complete story by another writer. Later authors have also written new Holmes tales for example *The Exploits of Sherlock Holmes* (1954) by Adrian Conan Doyle and John Dickson Carr but none belongs to the original canon.

WHERE TO BEGIN

Reading Guide & Tracker

The best order is simply the order of publication the one used throughout this book. If you prefer a shorter path, choose one of these three routes.

ROUTE	READ THESE
The Newcomer s Trail	A Scandal in Bohemia The Red-Headed League The Speckled Band The Blue Carbuncle The Final Problem The Empty House
The Novel Lover	A Study in Scarlet The Sign of the Four The Hound of the Baskervilles The Valley of Fear
Dark & Strange	The Devil s Foot The Creeping Man The Sussex Vampire The Illustrious Client

MY HOLMES READING TRACKER

Novels	N1 N2 N3 N4
Adventures	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
Memoirs	13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23
The Return	24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36
His Last Bow	37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44
Case-Book	45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56

Numbers 1 56 match the story tables. Mark each circle as you finish a tale four novels plus fifty-six stories make sixty in all.

Education never ends, Watson. It is a series of lessons with the greatest for the last. The Red Circle