

KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER:



Core Knowledge

What was life like in Victorian London?

- There was a drastic difference in the quality of life for the rich and poor. This led to **social inequality**.
- During the Victorian era, the industrial revolution was at its peak. There were many scientific and technological advancements that led to Britain becoming a powerful nation. Many people moved away from smaller countryside areas and into cities like London to find work in industrial places like factories. London's population grew rapidly.
- With this population growth and the high levels of **poverty** came an increase in crime. This led to the introduction of the Metropolitan Police force.

Who is Arthur Conan Doyle?

- Arthur Conan Doyle came from an **affluent** family.
- Before becoming a professional writer, he was a doctor in the army.
- At university, Conan Doyle had a university professor who was able to deduce facts about people just by looking at them.
- His own experiences influenced him to write the Sherlock Holmes stories.

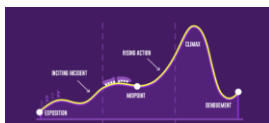


Writers structure short stories for effect.

- Stories **establish** important details in the **exposition**, then build **tension** through a series of **shifts** before a **climax**.

Written analysis should follow the steps in *Analysing structure: beginnings*

& *Analysing structure: shifts/developments* in the Writing Strategy for Reading.



Who are Sherlock Holmes and Doctor John Watson?

- The character of Doctor John Watson was **influenced** by Conan Doyle's own experiences as a doctor in the army. Watson is Holmes' companion and the **narrator** of the stories, so we see his **perspective** of Holmes and the events that occur.
- Sherlock Holmes is the **protagonist** of the stories. He is a successful, intelligent private detective. His characterisation was influenced by Conan Doyle's university professor.



How was Christmas time celebrated in the Victorian era?

- Before the Victorian era, Christmas was hardly celebrated and was mainly a religious occasion. Many businesses did not consider it a holiday. By the end of the era it had become an important annual celebration and took on the form we recognise today.
- The industrial revolution changed the way people celebrate Christmas forever. This allowed the mass manufacture of things like toys and cards, which became much more available to people of all classes.
- Charles Dickens wrote 'A Christmas Carol' during the Victorian era. This novel is helped to spread Christmas traditions. Its themes of family, charity, goodwill, peace and happiness capture the spirit of the Victorian Christmas, and are very much a part of the Christmas we celebrate today.



Plots

A Scandal in Bohemia

The King of Bohemia plans to marry a Norwegian princess. However, he previously had a relationship with a woman called Irene Adler. Adler is threatening to ruin his engagement with a picture she has of herself and the king together, which would cause a scandal. Holmes tricks Adler into revealing where she keeps the photograph, but she outsmarts Holmes and escapes with it. Adler decides not to use the picture against the king. She leaves a picture of herself in its place, which Holmes keeps as a reminder of her.

The Red-Headed League

Jabez Wilson gets a job with the mysterious 'Red-Headed League' because of his 'flame' coloured hair. One day, he is mysteriously told that he is no longer needed by the league so visits Holmes to ask him to investigate. Holmes discovers that his story reveals a plot to steal from a bank vault which is successfully prevented.

The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle

A policeman named Peterson is left with a man's hat and Christmas goose. He takes the goose home to eat and discovers a blue carbuncle (a rare, and very valuable jewel) inside the goose. Holmes recognises the jewel as the one that was stolen from The Countess of Morcar. Using the hat as a clue, Holmes and Watson set off to discover how the blue carbuncle was stolen and how it ended up in a goose.

Key Vocabulary

Word	Meaning
affluent	Having a lot of money or possessions.
characterisation	What a writer makes a character like (as a fictional 'person').
climax	The point that a story's tension builds up to
compassionate	When someone is caring about others who are having a tough time.
contempt	A feeling that a person or thing is worthless or beneath you.
establish	To set up an idea.
exposition	Key background information in a story, usually at the beginning.

facetious	When someone jokes around when they should be serious.
hubris	Too much pride or self-confidence.
ignorance	A lack of knowledge, awareness or education.
inferior	Not as good or as important as something or someone else.
influence	The power to affect someone or something.
justified	When something is right or fair because there's a good reason for it.
manipulate	To control or influence someone or something unfairly.
narrative voice	The perspective the story is told from.
patriarchy	A society where men hold the power.
perspective	How someone sees something; their point of view.
poverty	The state of being extremely poor.
protagonist	The main character. They often have heroic characteristics.
shift	An important change or development in a story.
social inequality	When people in society do not have the same status, rights or opportunities.
structure	The deliberate order of events in a story.
superior	Better or more important than something or someone else.
tension	The exciting feeling of not knowing what will happen next.

metaphor – a comparison between something being



described (tenor) and something else (vehicle).

There are three parts to a metaphor:

tenor	The thing you want to try and describe to your audience.
vehicle	The imaginative idea you compare the tenor with to help your audience understand it.
ground	The things the tenor and vehicle have in common.