

HOME LEARNING

Year 9 – English – Home Learning 9

Spoken Language – Task One

Complete the following task verbally with someone in your household.

This week's extract is from "Death Cloud" written by Andrew Lane, about Sherlock Holmes. Before reading, have a discussion with a family member about the type of story you think it will be. Use the following questions to guide your discussion.

- Who is Sherlock Holmes? What do you know about him already? What type of job does he have?
- What genre of story will this be? What might happen in the extract? How will the title character be involved?

Reading

Read the extract from "Death Cloud" by Andrew Lane and answer the questions below in full sentences.

This is a story about Sherlock Holmes, the famous detective when he was only a teenager. It is the summer of 1868, and Sherlock Holmes is fourteen. On break from boarding school, he is staying with eccentric strangers—his uncle and aunt—in their vast house in Hampshire. He is out in the woods when he makes a gruesome discovery...

Within a few moments he was out of sight of Amyus Crowe. He kept moving, but apart from a series of brown, plate-like growths emerging from the side of a tree, which he wasn't sure whether to collect or not, he could find nothing.

A flash of colour through the trees caught his attention: red spots on a white background. He moved closer, thinking it was a clump of toadstools breaking through the ground, but there was something about the shape that bothered him. It looked like...

A cloud of smoke began to rise from the object just as Sherlock recognized it for what it was: a man's body, lying twisted on the ground. The smoke wafted away, driven by the breeze, but there was no sign of fire. For a moment Sherlock thought the man was lying there smoking his pipe, his face wrapped for some reason in a red-spotted white handkerchief, but as he got closer he realized that the red blotches were neither markings on a toadstool nor spots on a white handkerchief.

They were bloody boils on the face of a corpse.

Questions:

1. What year is the story set in?
2. Where is Sherlock, and who is he staying with, when he makes his discovery?
3. What catches Sherlock's attention?
4. What does Sherlock think it is at first?
5. What rises from the object as Sherlock approaches?
6. What is the object?
7. Why is unusual about the cloud of smoke?
8. What did Sherlock think about the man at first?
9. What do you learn about the body on the floor?

Writing

Using modal verbs, write some suggestions for what young Sherlock Holmes should/could/might/would do next. Write at least five sentences, making suggestions about where the story may go and how the well-known character is likely to react.

Sherlock should...

Sherlock might...

If I were Sherlock, I would...

It is possible that Sherlock could...

Sherlock may even...