

# ***SHERLOCK HOLMES***

***VICTORIAN FEARS OF THE OUTSIDER***

# ***THE RED-HEADED LEAGUE***

**Mr. Jabez Wilson: Holmes' and Watson's first reactions to Mr. Wilson's story was to laugh...Why? He was not like them. He was not of the upper class. What makes him different?**

- His characteristics are of the stereotypical Irish – who the British detested – who was the “outsiders’ to English civilization.
- A carpenter – who works and has done physical labor.
- A Freemason – In Holmes, the members of secret societies or orders are typically from the merchant class – definitely not the upper class
- Tattoo – travels to China, a peculiar place the Victorians saw as different, or conspicuous
- **Duncan Ross & Red-Headed League founded by an American millionaire – the outsider for English society**

# ***THE BOSCOMBE VALLEY MYSTERY***

**Mr. John Turner – made his money in Australia.**

**Mr. Charles McCarthy – also an ex-Australian.**

- **McCarthy & his son argue in public – “appeared to be having a violent quarrel,” “using very strong language,” & “latter raise up his hand as if to strike his father” (81).**
- **Turner made his money in the gold mines – wealth not inherited and not of the upper class**
- **McCarthy & son not of the same status – Turners moving up and McCarthy remains stagnant**
- **McCarthy son becomes involved with a woman of even lower status**
- **“Cooee” identifies the murderer as an Australian...**
- **McCarthy and Turner originated in Australia as highway robbers – criminals in The Ballarat Gang**

# ***FIVE ORANGE PIPS***

**John Openshaw – father is a factory owner in Coventry, therefore, not the upper class of Holmes and Watson**

- **His uncle, Elias Openshaw, emigrated to America – Florida, and became a farmer (oranges)**
  - Served in the Confederacy under “Stonewall” Jackson and John Hood
  - Held incriminating letters on a member of the K.K.K., possibly a member himself
- **Letters from the K.K.K. come from India, Dundee (Scotland)**
- **K.K.K. deemed a secret society by Holmes – dangerous, murderous, terrorizing actions, drives out people opposed to its views**
  - They were anti-Reconstructionist, opposed Carpet baggers and wanted to reestablish the South as it was pre-Civil War.

# ***THE BLUE CARBUNCLE***

**Henry Baker – outside of the upper class due, fallen on hard times due to an “evil influence” (Holmes concludes drinking)**

- **Stereotype of lower class and the Irish to “go to drink”**
- **Henry Baker is our Red Herring but still not of the upper class**

**Blue Carbuncle – stone originally from Southern China (a stone of ill fate like the Hope Diamond?)**

- **Holmes states, “Of course it is a nucleus and focus of crime. Every good stone is” (BLUE 168).**
- **Sinister history – two murders, vitriol-throwing, a suicide, and several robberies (BLUE 168)**

**James Ryder – the thief of the stone, but not yet a villain**

- **Not upper class, but not evil, either (as determined by Holmes)**

# ***THE SPECKLED BAND***

**Dr. Roylott married Helen Stoner's mother in India (an uncivilized place in Victorian views). Established their home at Stoke Moran.**

- **Roylott in disgraceful brawls, has a violent temper, suffers from mania, and a recluse – not appropriate behavior**
- **Has a passion for Indian animals – not normal Victorian standards**
- **Miss Stoner suggests it is due to “his immense time in the tropics”**

# ***THE ENGINEER'S THUMB***

## **Colonel Lysander Stark – German**

- **German books on the table**
- **Mr. Ferguson – working with the Col. Stark in the house**
  - “morose, silent man” but a “fellow countryman” (ENGR 230)
  - Not upper class Victorian, but associates with the outsiders – the Germans
- **The house in disrepair – house does not meet Victorian standards of living**
  - No carpets, no furniture, no signs of living
  - Plaster peeling from the walls, green blotches on the walls from dampness (ENGR 229).
- **The German Colonel kills engineers who discover the secret**
- **Germans equated to murderers – criminals in Victorian perspective**

# ***THE BERYL CORONET***

**Sir George Burnwell – man of travels, older, a man of great beauty**

- **He draws Arthur back to the aristocratic club to play cards and squander money**
- **Lures Mary into a love affair, and convinces her to steal the Coronet**
- **Holmes describes him as “a ruined gambler, and absolutely desperate villain; a man without heart or conscience” (BERY 289).**
  - **Robert Patrick suggests Burnwell was an agent of Moriarty assigned to attain the Coronet (SHRL, n. 35 266)**



# ***THE COPPER BEECHES***

**Copper Beeches – “a charming rural place”**

- **Holmes states about the danger of the countryside, “Think of the deeds of hellish cruelty, the hidden wickedness which may go on, year in, year out, in such places, and none the wiser. Had this lady who appeals to us for help gone to live in Winchester, I should never have had a fear for her. It is the five miles of country which makes the danger” (COPP 307).**
- **Mrs. Rucastle – colorless in mind and feature, a nonentity, possessed of a deep sorrow**
- **Murder and deceit occur in the countryside without notice**
- **Miss Alice locked in the home to be kept from Mr. Fowler (a sailor) – would never have been achieved in the city**
- **Miss Hunter used as a decoy of Miss Alice**

# ***APPLY THE OUTSIDER THEORY TO A STUDY IN SCARLET***

Character - Outsider	How were they an outsider?	Evidence from the text.