

illustrated
READERS

SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE

THE CREEPING MAN

retold by Virginia Evans & Jenny Dooley



Express Publishing



Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

Arthur Conan Doyle was born in Edinburgh, Scotland on 22 May 1859. He studied medicine at Edinburgh University from 1876 to 1881. While at university, he published his first story, *The Mystery of Sasassa Valley*, in 1879. After graduating, he worked as a doctor, but continued to write in his spare time.

On 5 August 1885, Conan Doyle married Louise Hawkins. They were happily married for twenty-one years and had two children. In 1887, the first Sherlock Holmes story, *A Study in Scarlet*, was published. In 1891, Conan Doyle gave up his job as a doctor to work full-time as a professional writer.

Conan Doyle wrote many other books that were not about Holmes, such as the classic adventure story, *The Lost World*. However, people will always remember him for the Sherlock Holmes stories.

In 1902, he became Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. In the same year, he wrote perhaps the most famous Holmes story of all – *The Hound of the Baskervilles*.

In 1906, Conan Doyle's wife, Louise, died. A year later, he married Jean Leckie with whom he had three children. Conan Doyle became interested in other things. He was involved in a very famous case in England in the 1920s. Two young girls claimed to have seen and taken photographs of fairies. Conan Doyle wrote a book, *The Coming of the Fairies*, about the photographs, saying that he believed it was all true.

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle died on 7 July 1930 at his home in Windlesham, Sussex. He was a great writer who will always be remembered for creating the world's most famous detective.

Read Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's biography and answer the following questions:

- 1 Look at the cover of the book. What does *Creeping Man* mean? What kind of story do you expect to read?
.....
- 2 When and where was Sir Arthur Conan Doyle born?
.....
- 3 What was the name of the first Sherlock Holmes story?
.....
- 4 When did Conan Doyle marry Jean Leckie?
.....
- 5 When and where did Sir Arthur Conan Doyle die?
.....





The Creeping Man

The Creeping Man is one of the most popular of Arthur Conan Doyle's stories. It was first published in 1923 in *Strand Magazine*, but later appeared in the last collection of Sherlock Holmes stories, *The Casebook of Sherlock Holmes*, in 1927.

Just like *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, *The Creeping Man* is a Sherlock Holmes case that is both strange and scary. In the later years of his life, Conan Doyle became increasingly interested in the supernatural and other strange things, and *The Creeping Man* reflects this interest. Many people think of *The Creeping Man* as a story of science fiction, very similar in many ways to *Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*. *The Creeping Man* has been dramatised for both television and radio.

1. THE VANISHING PROFESSOR

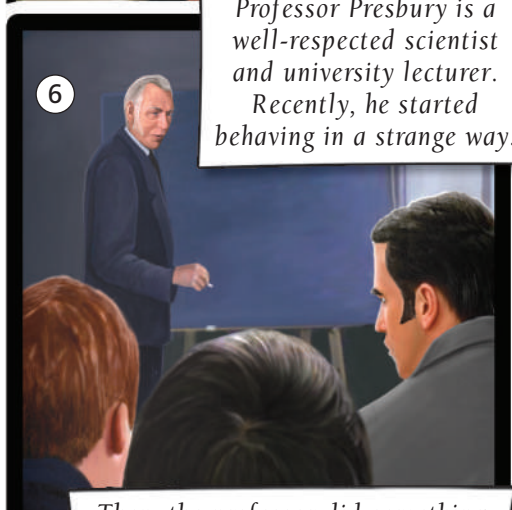
Sherlock Holmes has asked Dr Watson to come to his house at 221b Baker Street to discuss a new case.





5

Professor Presbury is a well-respected scientist and university lecturer. Recently, he started behaving in a strange way.



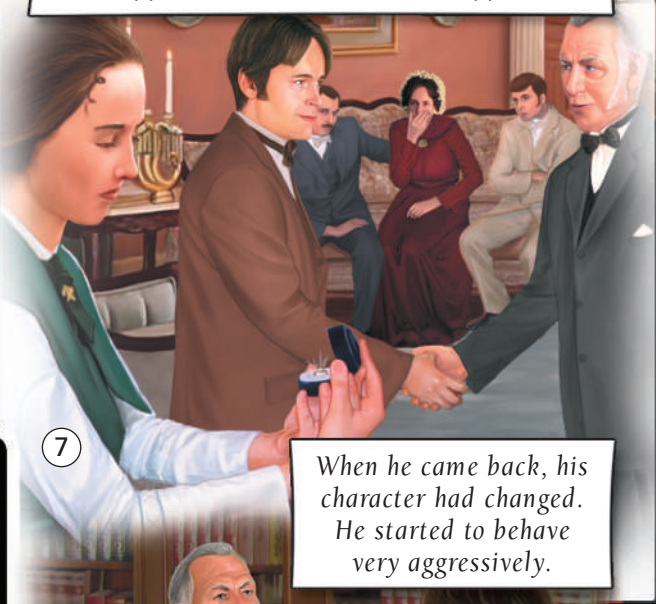
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Then, the professor did something completely out of character. He disappeared for two weeks and nobody knew where he was.



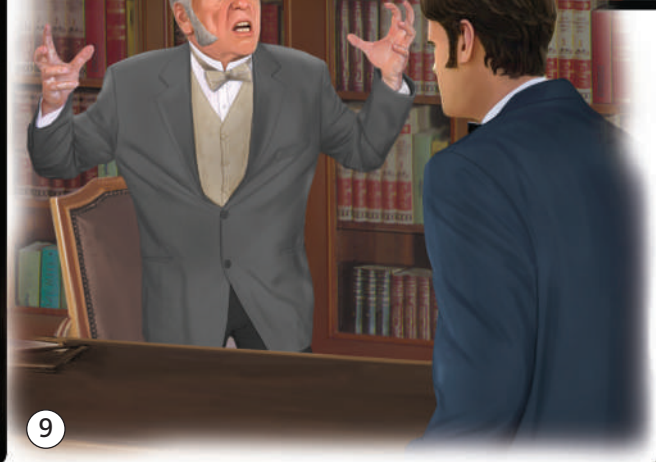
8

First, he got engaged to Alice Morphy, a woman much younger than him. Although her father approved, Alice seemed less happy.



7

When he came back, his character had changed. He started to behave very aggressively.



9

7.

MORE STRANGE HAPPENINGS activities



Before Reading

- 1 Look at the title and pictures in Episode 7. What strange things do you see?
- 2 What do you think is happening in picture 3? In picture 4?



While Reading

- 3 Read or listen to the episode and then mark the sentences as *T* (true) or *F* (false).
 - 1 Presbury suspects that Bennett spoke to Holmes and Watson.
 - 2 Presbury teased Bennett cruelly.
 - 3 In class Presbury had the energy of a younger man.
 - 4 Holmes believes Presbury will behave strangely again on Tuesday night.
- 4 Read or listen, then find words in the episode that mean the opposite of the following:
 - 1 better ≠ _ _ _ _ _
 - 2 walking ≠ _ _ _ _ _
 - 3 doubtful ≠ _ _ _ _ _
 - 4 pleased ≠ _ _ _ _ _



After Reading

- 5 Read and listen, then take roles and act out the episode.
- 6 What do you think is in the package?
- 7 Should Bennett open the package? Why? Why not?



Before Reading

- 1 Look at the title of the episode. Can it have more than one meaning? What do you think it refers to?
- 2 Look at the pictures, then read the questions and circle the correct answer.
 - 1 Where are the people in picture 3?
a) in Baker Street c) at Bennett's house
b) at Presbury's house
 - 2 What is Bennett holding in picture 8?
a) a novel c) a train timetable
b) a diary
 - 3 Who is wearing a spotted hat in pictures 10 and 11?
a) Watson b) Holmes c) Bennett



While Reading

- 3 Read or listen to the episode and answer the questions.
 - 1 Who is Macphail? What does Holmes want him to do?
 - 2 Where is the key to the wooden box?
 - 3 When are Holmes and Watson going to Camford?



After Reading

- 4 Read and listen, then take roles and act out the episode.
- 5 What does Holmes mean when he says, "Elementary, my dear Watson"?
- 6 In pairs, discuss the clues that Holmes repeats to Watson. (Pictures 5-9). Can you solve the mystery? Present your theory to the class.

THE CREEPING MAN

Why would a dog suddenly attack its master?
Why would a respected Professor disappear for two weeks without telling anyone where he went?
And why, upon his return, would he begin to act in a strange and scary way, creeping around the house and garden on all fours? Can brilliant detective Sherlock Holmes and his colleague Dr Watson help the Professor and solve the mystery of the Creeping Man?

Components:

- Reader
- Audio CD



Level 1 Level 2 Level 3 Level 4 Level 5

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