

# THE BLUE CARBUNCLE

## Vocabulary List

Below is a list of more complex words that can be found in the story. Use the definitions to explain to children what these words mean. For an extra activity, you can use these words in a spelling test.

<b>barrow boy</b>	street sellers who stroll around with wheelbarrows
<b>bonniest</b>	most attractive or most beautiful
<b>camouflaged</b>	obscured or disguised out of view
<b>candle tallows</b>	candles that burn animal fat; used for lighting
<b>carbuncle</b>	a precious gemstone
<b>ruffian</b>	someone who is violent toward others; likely to be involved in crimes
<b>shillings</b>	a former British coin and unit of currency; equal to one twentieth of a pound (equivalent to 12p today)

# THE BLUE CARBUNCLE

## Plot Sequencing Activity

1. Caught up with some ruffians, a man loses his hat and goose as he flees from the commissioner, Peterson.
2. After Holmes deduces the hat belongs to a Henry Baker. Peterson returns with news that the stolen Blue Carbuncle was found inside the goose.
3. A newspaper article explains that a plumber was arrested for stealing the gem from the Countess of Morcar's hotel room.
4. Sherlock decides there is more to this case; he and Watson begin to investigate how the gem ended up inside the goose.
5. Henry Baker arrives at 221B Baker Street and explains that he bought the goose from Mr Windigate, the landlord of the Alpha Inn.
6. Mr Windigate explains that he bought a dozen geese from Breckinridge, a market seller in Covent Garden.
7. In a bet, Holmes finds out that Breckinridge buys his stock from Mrs Oakshott.
8. As Holmes and Watson leave the market, a man pesters Breckinridge about his geese and causes a commotion.
9. James Ryder, the hotel attendant at the Hotel Cosmopolitan, confesses to Holmes and Watson that he stole the gem and hid it in one of his sister's geese, which it was accidentally sold on to Breckinridge.
10. Holmes decides to let Ryder go because prison will do him no good. He knows that the the case will collapse since the blue carbuncle was found and therefore the plumber will not be sent to jail anyway.

THE  
**SHERLOCK HOLMES**  
 CHILDREN'S COLLECTION



# THE BLUE CARBUNCLE

## Reading Comprehension Answer Sheet

**Q1: Holmes finds clues on the hat and goose to find out who they belongs to. In the table below, complete the missing clues and their meanings.**

H.B. initials / label on the goose's leg	The hat belongs to a Mr Henry Baker.
a faded silk lining	The owner is struggling with money as they haven't replaced the lining.
elastic	The owner is less careful about his appearance.
large in size	The man has a big head/brain and therefore must be intelligent.
dust	The owner does not go out much; the hat is hung up most of the time.
sweat stains	The owner is unfit.
hair clippings	The owner has recently had their hair cut.
candle tallow stains	The owner has no gas supply at home.

**Q2: Why could Holmes and Watson not go and return Henry Baker's hat to him?**

**Answer:** There are too many Henry Bakers in London.

**Q3: Use literary devices to describe the unique gemstone.**

**Discussion:** On page 45, an extract of Holmes's scrapbook describes the gemstone from his perspective. Teachers may adapt this question and ask their pupils to write from the perspective of James Ryder, who is mesmerised by the gem when he sees it again on page 91.



For more worksheets and activity packs, visit  
[www.sweetcherrypublishing.com/resources](http://www.sweetcherrypublishing.com/resources).



THE  
**SHERLOCK HOLMES**  
 CHILDREN'S COLLECTION



# THE BLUE CARBUNCLE

<b>Q4: How does this illustration explain the story?</b>	
<b>Answer:</b>	After he stole the gem, James Ryder stuffed it into a goose's throat to hide it from the police. When he took the goose to his buyer, he realised he had mixed the geese up. By the time he returned to his sister's house, the correct goose had been sold to Breckinridge.
<b>Q5: Who does the Blue Carbuncle belong to?</b>	
<b>Answer:</b>	The Countess of Morcar
<b>Q6: Does the article state the plumber stole the jewel? Explain your answer.</b>	
<b>Answer:</b>	No. The article states that the plumber was arrested on suspicion of stealing the blue carbuncle, but he is pleading his innocence. The jewel has not been found on him or in his house.
<b>Q7: According to the article, who was present at the scene of the crime?</b>	
<b>Answer:</b>	James Ryder/the hotel attendant; Catherine Cusack/the Countess's maid; John Horner/the plumber
<b>Q8: Write a short newspaper article to announce that the jewel has been found. Consider what information would be made public and what information Holmes and Watson are keeping to themselves.</b>	
<b>Discussion:</b>	Pupils are encouraged to develop their understanding of what the newspaper has reported compared to what facts Sherlock and Watson have deduced. Their article should cover a story that tells the reader that the jewel has been found and the plumber is innocent. Pupils can choose which information to reveal to the reader and their answers can be discussed in class.



For more worksheets and activity packs, visit  
[www.sweetcherrypublishing.com/resources](http://www.sweetcherrypublishing.com/resources).

@SweetCherryPub  
 @sweetcherrypublishing  
 /SweetCherryPublishing

THE  
**SHERLOCK HOLMES**  
CHILDREN'S COLLECTION



# THE BLUE CARBUNCLE

## Diary Entry Activity

The Sherlock Holes stories are narrated by Dr. Watson. In this activity, pupils are encouraged to think about Sherlock's thoughts and feelings in their writing.

Choose a scene in *The Blue Carbuncle* from the list below and ask your class to write it from Sherlock's point of view.

- Sherlock analysing the hat before Watson arrives
- Peterson bursting in with the Blue Carbuncle
- Sherlock and Watson tracing where the goose had been
- Sherlock interrogating James Ryder

The following checklist can be used as guidance or assessment for this activity:

- Written in first person
- Recalls the events of the story/scene
- Includes personal feelings/emotions
- Adopts the tone of the character



For more worksheets and activity packs, visit  
[www.sweetcherrypublishing.com/resources](http://www.sweetcherrypublishing.com/resources).



@SweetCherryPub

@sweetcherrypublishing

/SweetCherryPublishing