EASY CLASSICS

THE SHERLOCK HOLMES CHILDREN'S COLLECTION

THE SPECKLED BAND

STUDENT PACK

This activity pack belongs to:

______________________________________________________________

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>dog-cart</strong></th>
<th>a simple wooden cart pulled by one horse; used on country estates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>embellishing</strong></td>
<td>making something more interesting by adding extra details that are often untrue</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>frock-coat</strong></td>
<td>a traditional style of coat with a fitted waist that flares out to just above the knee; worn by older, rather conservative gentlemen</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>high gaiters</strong></td>
<td>material around the ankles or lower legs that protects trousers and legs from splashes of mud while horseriding</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>squandered</strong></td>
<td>wasted (money or something valuable) in a bad or foolish way</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>vagabond</strong></td>
<td>a person who wanders from place to place without a home or job</td>
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A terrifying night!

Write numbers 1 to 8 in the boxes to order the events.

1. Sherlock and Watson visit the estate and upon inspecting the room, notice a dummy bell-pull attached to a ventilator.
2. Sherlock wakes Watson up when a lady arrives at 221B Baker Street with a new case.
3. Helen is soon to be married and after spending a night in her sister’s old bedroom at Stoke Moran, she too heard the same whistling her sister heard the night she died.
4. Sherlock and Watson spend the night in the bedroom and hear a hissing at around 3am. Sherlock lights a match and sees something terrifying that Watson missed.
5. The lady, Helen Stoner, explains how her late mother’s inheritance was supposed to be divided between her, Doctor Roycott (her step-father) and Julia (her sister) once the girls marry.
6. Helen also explains that Julia died 2 years ago the night before her wedding. During a night terror in her bedroom, her last words were “It was the band. The speckled band!”.
7. They enter the Doctor Roylott’s room and find him dead with a ‘speckled band’ around his head.
8. The ‘speckled band’ is in fact a swamp adder; the deadliest snake in India. Sherlock concludes that the Doctor planned to kill his step-daughters before their wedding so he could keep their share of their mother’s inheritance.

Score: / 8
Create a comic strip using speech bubbles to retell the story!
1. Why had Watson not been able to share details on this case before now?
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________________________________________________________________

2. Turn to page 12. What gothic description does the writer use to describe Helen Stoner? What effect do these choice of words have on the reader?
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________

3. Sherlock analyses some clues on Helen Stoner’s appearance. What does he conclude from these?

| her return ticket is tucked into her left glove |
| the left arm of her jacket is splattered with fresh mud |
| she looked exhausted |

4. When would Julia and Helen Stoner receive their share of their mother’s inheritance?
________________________________________________________________

5. Why did Helen have difficulty retaining staff at their estate, Stoke Moran?
________________________________________________________________

6. Why does Helen think she is moving into her sister’s old bedroom?
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7. What does Holmes find odd about the ventilator and bell-rope in Julia’s old bedroom?
________________________________________________________________
8. Turn to page 104. What example can you find that might suggest Watson is an unreliable narrator? 

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9. Sherlock lights a match to look up at the ventilator. What effect does the darkness have on the reader? 

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10. What did the ‘speckled band’ turn out to be? 

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11. Why does Holmes feel responsible for the Doctor’s death? 

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12. Why do you think Sherlock and Watson agree to keep the true details of the case from the police? 

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13. Why do you think the author, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, chose to title this story, The Speckled Band? 

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14. What does Holmes find that explains the timing of the Doctor’s crimes against his step-daughters? 

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15. What does Helen reveal earlier in the story that explains the Doctor’s greed for money and wealth? 

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16. Sometimes Holmes and Watson take justice into their own hands. Do you agree with their choice to keep the true details from the police in The Speckled Band? Explain your answer. 

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Score: / 16
Write a diary entry as if you are Sherlock describing your day.

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