

Ten Quotations From *The Sign of Four* about Sherlock Holmes

Task: create a quotation revision card for each quotation where you explore A01, A02 and A03.

Tips for A02 language analysis:

- a) Literally, what does this quotation mean?
- b) Zoom in on any specific words that are interesting and consider connotations (suggested meanings) of these words.
- c) Ensure you state if the word is a noun/ pronoun/ verb/ adverb/ adjective
- d) Can you identify any language techniques being used? (Metaphors, similes, oxymorons etc)
- e) If you have noticed a literary technique being used, what impact and effect does this have? Why do you think the author has used it?
- f) Does the sounds of words contribute to meaning or impact?
- g) What does this quotation reveal about character?
- h) Can you consider how the quotation links to key themes?
- i) What effect does this quotation have on the reader? Would a 2016 reader respond differently to a Victorian readership?

1. "My mind," he said, "rebels at stagnation. Give me problems, give me work, give me the most abstruse cryptogram or the most intricate analysis, and I am in my own proper atmosphere. I can dispense then with artificial stimulants. But I abhor the dull routine of existence. I crave for mental exaltation. That is why I have chosen my own particular profession, or rather created it, for I am the only one in the world."
2. "How often have I said to you that when you have eliminated the impossible, whatever remains, *however improbable*, must be the truth?"
3. "There is something positively inhuman in you at times." (said by Watson to Holmes)
4. "It is of the first importance not to allow your judgment to be biased by personal qualities. A client is to me a mere unit, ---a factor in a problem. - Sherlock Holmes"
5. "No: I am not tired. I have a curious constitution. I never remember feeling tired by work, though idleness exhausts me completely." ~
6. "The emotional qualities are antagonistic to clear reasoning."
7. "So swift, silent and furtive were his movements like those of a trained bloodhound picking out a scent, that I could not but think what a terrible criminal he would have made had he turned his energy and sagacity against the law instead of exerting them in its defense."
8. "You know my methods. Apply them."
9. "But love is an emotional thing, and whatever is emotional is opposed to that true cold reason which I place above all things."
10. "Even the best of us are thrown off some- times."