

Quotations From *The Sign of Four* about Dr John Watson

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. "What was I, an army surgeon with a weak leg and a weaker banking account, that I should dare to think about such things?"
2. "What a very attractive woman!"
3. "A wondrous subtle thing is love, for here were we two, who had never seen each other before that day... and yet now in an hour of trouble our hands instinctively sought for each other."
4. "I assure you, Holmes, that I marvel at the means by which you obtain your results in this case."
5. "I lost my bearings, and knew nothing, save that we seemed to be going a very long way. Sherlock Holmes was never at fault..."
6. "I endeavoured to cheer and amuse her by reminiscences of my adventures in Afghanistan..."
7. "Three times a day for many months I had witnessed this performance... my conscience swelled nightly...at the thought I had lacked the courage to protest."
8. "His great powers, his masterly manner, and the experience which I had had of his many extraordinary qualities, all made me diffident and backward in crossing him."