

Name: _____ () Class: _____ Date: _____

Your sister has given you an adapted detective story. Read the story.

Text 2 Detective story

The Red-Headed League: an adaptation

- 1 One afternoon, I was introduced to a Mr James Wilson as Sherlock Holmes' 'capable assistant'. Attempting to act the part, I scrutinized Mr Wilson as he pulled out his phone. Cottoning on to my attempt, Sherlock shook his head.
- 2 'Beyond the possibility that Mr Wilson's job involves a mobile phone, I see little else.'
- 5 3 'How did you know that?' quizzed Mr Wilson.
- 4 'The clumsy handling of your everyday phone,' Sherlock explained, pointing at Mr Wilson's awkward double-handed grip, 'betrays your unfamiliarity with it. Yet you are proficient in thumb typing. This suggests you frequently use another device—a work phone, perhaps? Anyway, please begin.'
- 10 5 'Right ... I run my own online shopping platform, but business has been slow. Two months ago, we moved to a cheap basement office. I've cut employees down to a single assistant. He's even on minimum wages. His name's Spaulding. Last month, he showed me this advertisement.' Mr Wilson handed us his phone.
- 6 'This charity, the Red-Headed League, was hiring a social media
15 marketer. They aim to "fight prejudice against redheads". The only job requirement was having red hair.'
- 7 'You do have very red hair,' observed Sherlock.
- 8 'That's what Mr Andrews said. He runs the charity. Despite the fact that I already had a job, he made an exception and hired me.'
- 20 9 'What did the work entail?' Sherlock enquired.
- 10 'Managing the charity's social media account at their office four hours a day. I looked up random redheads and sent friend requests. The monthly pay was high and I was desperate, so although I had no colleagues or meetings, I didn't worry much about it until this
25 morning. That is, until I found a locked office door with this note.'
- 11 Sherlock and I looked at the message, 'the Red-Headed League is disbanded'. We burst out laughing at the silliness of it all. Mr Wilson blushed. He began moved to leave, but Sherlock interrupted.



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Further simplified reading and comprehension

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Unit 7

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- 30 **12** 'I apologize. Were you able to contact Mr Andrews?'
- 13** 'No. The security guard said there was no such person.'
- 14** 'Thank you, Mr Wilson. You shall have my opinion within two days.'
- 15** Soon, Sherlock and I found ourselves at the basement office of Mr Wilson's online shopping enterprise. A smart-looking young man answered the door instantly.
- 35 **16** 'Mr Jones?'
- 17** 'No, Spaulding,' the man snapped.
- 18** 'Wrong address. Sorry!'
- 19** As we left, I wondered aloud about Spaulding's unwelcoming demeanour.
- 20** 'It was his trousers, Watson,' corrected Sherlock. 'They were muddy.'
- 40 Sherlock was walking in a bizarre, stomping manner. We rounded the corner behind Mr Wilson's office. Then we passed by a newsagent's, the City Bank and three fashion boutiques. The stomping ended suddenly in a telephone box.
- 22** 'A robbery is underway at the City Bank. Two male suspects, average build. Hurry and capture them within the half hour.'
- 45 **23** I stared, wide-eyed, as Sherlock hung up.
- 24** 'Elementary, Watson,' he explained in his usual self-assured tone. 'It begins with the assistant. He accepted ridiculously low wages in order to recommend an even more ridiculous job to Mr Wilson. Why pay someone handsomely to kill time on a phone? Because he has the reddest hair? Please. They needed him away from his office!'
- 50 **25** 'So the Red-Headed League ...'
- 26** 'Never existed. But what of the motive? Mr Wilson is struggling financially. His office surely contains little of value. What else can one do in a basement? Dig a tunnel, perhaps? That would explain Spaulding's muddy trousers. By stomping on the ground, I determined which direction the tunnel went. And guess what's behind Mr Wilson's office?'
- 55 **27** 'The City Bank!' I exclaimed.
- 28** Sherlock nodded. 'Today's disbanding of the Red-Headed League means Mr Wilson is of no further use. In other words, the tunnel is complete. Our culprits are on the move.'

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Comprehension 2 *Your parents are curious about Sherlock Holmes. Answer their questions using information from the detective story. For multiple-choice questions, choose the best answer and blacken ONE circle only.*

- 1 The writer 'scrutinized Mr Wilson' (line 2) because he _____.
☐ A wanted to solve the crime before Sherlock Holmes
☐ B felt that something was wrong with him
☐ C wanted to look like a good assistant
☐ D did not trust him

- 2 The phrase 'cottoning on to' (line 3) is closest in meaning to _____.
☐ A realizing ☐ C disapproving
☐ B liking ☐ D misunderstanding

- 3 Complete the following summary using information given in paragraphs 1–4. Write ONE word for each blank. Answers must be grammatically correct.

Mr Wilson had just pulled out his (i) _____. Sherlock noticed that he gripped it with both hands (ii) _____, but typed on it (iii) _____. This showed that Mr Wilson (iv) _____ used a different mobile phone at work.

- 4 a) According to paragraph 5, give TWO business changes carried out by James Wilson.
 i) _____

 ii) _____

- b) Why did Mr Wilson make these changes?

- 5 Complete the job advertisement using information from paragraphs 6–10.

The Red-Headed League	
Mission:	(i) _____ _____
Hiring:	(ii) _____ _____
Main duty:	(iii) _____ _____
Requirement:	(iv) _____ _____
Contact (v) _____ to apply.	

- 6 Find a word in paragraphs 6–10 that means 'involve'.

- 7 How does Mr Wilson currently feel about his job at the Red-Headed League?

- ☐ A He loves his job.
☐ B He thinks the job is strange.
☐ C He thinks the job is interesting.
☐ D He hates his job.

- 8 i) Why does Sherlock 'burst out laughing' (line 27)?

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ii) How does this make Mr Wilson feel?

ii) _____

9 What does Sherlock do after walking along the street behind Mr Wilson's basement office?

10 Why does the writer stare at Sherlock after his phone call?

11 How difficult does Sherlock find the case?

12 List TWO ways in which Sherlock found evidence to solve the case.

i) _____

14 What does 'our culprits' (line 57) refer to?

13 Complete the diagram to illustrate Sherlock's thought process outlined in paragraphs 24–28.

Q: Why did Spaulding accept minimum wages to be Mr Wilson's assistant?

A: to (i) _____



Q: Why did Mr Andrews pay Mr Wilson to waste time on a phone?

A: (ii) _____



Q: (iii) _____

A: to dig a tunnel to the City Bank



Q: Why was a tunnel needed?

A: (iv) _____

15 Complete the following paragraph from a news article with the correct form of words from Text 2 that are similar in meaning to the words in brackets. Use ONE word to complete each blank.

After (i) _____ (para. 1–4, *examining*) several months' worth of financial transactions, police think they have caught the mastermind behind this criminal (ii) _____ (para. 12–15, *business*). While she denies any involvement, her nervous (iii) _____ (para. 16–20, *behaviour*) (iv) _____ (para. 1–4, *reveals*) the truth. Investigators should be able to explain the (v) _____ (para. 26–28, *purpose*) behind her crime soon.