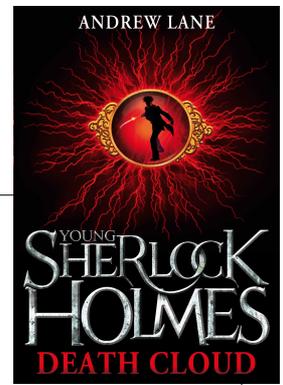


Murder Mystery



Read the following extract from "Death Cloud" by Andrew Lane

This is a story about Sherlock Holmes, the famous detective. In this story Sherlock is only a teenager. He is out in the woods when he makes a gruesome discovery...

Within a few moments he was out of sight of Amyus Crowe. He kept moving, but apart from a series of brown, plate-like growths emerging from the side of a tree, which he wasn't sure whether to collect or not, he could find nothing.

A flash of colour through the trees caught his attention: red spots on a white background. He moved closer, thinking it was a clump of toadstools breaking through the ground, but there was something about the shape that bothered him. It looked like...

A cloud of smoke began to rise from the object just as Sherlock recognized it for what it was: a man's body, lying twisted on the ground. The smoke wafted away, driven by the breeze, but there was no sign of fire. For a moment Sherlock thought the man was lying there smoking his pipe, his face wrapped for some reason in a red-spotted white handkerchief, but as he got closer he realized that the red blotches were neither markings on a toadstool nor spots on a white handkerchief.

They were bloody boils on the face of a corpse.

Answer the following questions in full sentences.

Comprehension

- 1) What catches Sherlock's attention?
- 2) What does Sherlock think it is at first?
- 3) What rises from the object as Sherlock approaches?
- 4) What is the object?
- 5) Why is unusual about the cloud of smoke?
- 6) What did Sherlock think about the man at first?
- 7) What do you learn about the body on the floor?

Deduction

What do you think has happened here? Write a paragraph explaining your theory. Give reasons for what you think.

Understanding

Imagine you are Sherlock. Write a short diary entry (at least half a page of your exercise book) about your this day in the woods.

Writing Task

Write a newspaper report about this mysterious death in the woods.

Use the plan to help you.

THE TIMES

DEATH IN THE WOODS!

Paragraph 1

Describe what happened:

- Who found the body?
- Where was the body found?
- What do we know about the body?

Paragraph 2

Interview with local police chief.

- What do the police think is happening?
- Who/what are they investigating?
- What is their advice to local residents?

PICTURE

Paragraph 3

- Appeal to the public for more information, including identifying the body.
- Link this death to other deaths in the area - maybe this is one of many recent deaths?
- Give a detailed description of what people should look out for.
- Give details of local health centres/police stations that people can visit if they are worried.