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Посібник складається з семи розділів, кожен з яких містить фрагмент тексту та добірку вправ, спрямованих на розширення словникового запасу студентів, розвитку навичок усного мовлення, письма та перекладу.

Мета посібника – удосконалювати навички читання та розуміння студентами англійських художніх текстів мовою оригіналу та сприяти формуванню їх соціокультурної компетенції.

Для студентів філологічних факультетів та факультетів іноземних мов вищих навчальних закладів.

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BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES ON SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE

*“Doctor, whaler, athlete, writer, speculator,
dramatist, historian, war correspondent,
spiritualist, ...helper of the underdog”*

Arthur Ignatius Conan Doyle was born in Edinburgh on May 22, 1859. His mother, Mary Foley Doyle, was Irish, and his father, Charles Doyle, came from an Anglo-Norman line. They settled in Edinburgh where his father had obtained a job in the civil service as a clerk in the Office of Works. Charles Doyle's real desire, however, was to be an artist, and his frustration at having to work at something else to support his large family – he and his wife had seven children – may have contributed to his drinking problems. Late in life he was institutionalized for mental instability. Fortunately for the children, Conan Doyle's mother was a strong woman, devoutly religious, and she remained an important influence on her son, giving him advice on many areas of his life, including his writing. It was she who forbade him to kill off Sherlock Holmes the first time he considered doing so because the character had become a burden to him, insisting, “You won't! You can't. You mustn't.”

Arthur was the couple's first son, and they added Conan to his name to honour his godfather and great uncle, Michael Conan. As a young boy, he loved books but also loved getting into scrapes with the friends he later admitted were “rough boys.” In 1868, when his parents felt his education as a Roman Catholic was being neglected, Conan Doyle was sent to a Jesuit school in Lancashire. Perhaps they also wished to get him away from his friends. His new school's rules proved very strict; order was kept by threats and intimidation. Conan Doyle later wrote, “I went out of my way to do really mischievous and outrageous things simply to show that my spirit was unbroken. An appeal to my better nature and not to my fears would have found an answer at once.”

Conan Doyle was not an outstanding student, though he continued to do a great deal of private reading and writing, and he became the editor of the school's magazine. A large and strong child, he also enjoyed sports of all kinds throughout his life.

When it came time to choose a profession, he settled on medicine and enrolled at Edinburgh University so that he could save money by living at home. Here he met Dr. Joseph Bell, who later served as the model for Sherlock Holmes. But Conan Doyle craved adventure, and he interrupted his studies to sail as a ship's surgeon on a whaler bound for the Arctic. During this voyage he wrote adventure stories and historical romances in his free time. When the trip ended, he returned to school, obtained his MD, and then signed on for another voyage, this time to Africa, where he enjoyed swimming in waters full of sharks and alligators and hiking through dangerous jungles.

His return from Africa in 1882 led him to a more settled life, and by 1885 he had married Louise Hawkins and was established in his medical practice. Conan Doyle was never particularly successful as a doctor, even after he decided to specialize in eyes, but his small practice allowed him time to write, and write he did. A fan of stories involving crime and investigation, including those of Edgar Allan Poe, the plots of these tales, especially the endings, often frustrated Conan Doyle. He decided to use his medical training to apply scientific methods to crime, and Sherlock Holmes was born. The great success of this detective allowed his creator to abandon his medical practice forever.

Conan Doyle's personal life was less happy. His wife, whom he called "Touie," fell ill in 1893 of what turned out to be consumption. Although she lived thirteen more years, far longer than expected, she remained an invalid for the rest of her life. During her long illness, Conan Doyle stayed a devoted nurse and faithful husband, even after he met Jean Leckie in 1897 and fell deeply in love. She swore to wait for him, and they both swore to keep their relationship platonic as long as his wife lived. Louise died in 1906, and in 1907, Jean Leckie became his second wife.

Although his detective stories brought fame and financial security, Conan Doyle wished to kill off Sherlock Holmes almost as soon as he invented him. Doyle felt chained to Holmes' popularity, and public demand for more stories prevented him from pursuing his many other interests. In his memoirs he wrote, "I saw that I was in danger of having my hand forced, and of being entirely identified with what I regarded as a lower stratum of literary achievement." His wished to write other kinds of fiction, including historical fiction and

drama, and the interval he gained while Holmes was “dead” allowed him to do so.

Conan Doyle was always willing to employ his considerable energy to fight for his beliefs. He wrote letters and pamphlets and gave lectures in support of the many causes he espoused, including changing English divorce laws, which, he felt, were unfair to women. His reputation as Sherlock Holmes’ creator led to his being consulted regarding many real life criminal cases, the most famous of which involved George Edalji. This young lawyer, the son of an Indian minister of the Church of England, had been convicted of killing and mutilating farm animals in 1903, and he was serving a seven-year sentence. Conan Doyle was convinced that he was innocent. He believed that his conviction in this bizarre case, which, according to some local papers, involved pagan sacrifice, was due in part to British racism. Although Edalji had been suddenly and without explanation released from prison halfway through his term, his reputation and career had been destroyed. Conan Doyle wrote a series of articles in his defence and began lecturing about what he saw as a serious miscarriage of justice. Thanks to his efforts, the Law Society readmitted Edalji, an implicit statement that his name had been cleared.

Although Conan Doyle was not blind to his country’s faults, as this case proved, he was a deeply patriotic man, committed to serving his nation when the opportunity arose. In 1899 he went to South Africa to work in a field hospital during the Boer War, and his experiences there inspired him to write a pamphlet defending the British view of the conflict. His effort was so well received that it earned him a knighthood. Later in his life he predicted a conflict with Germany, and when World War I broke out, he attempted to enlist as a private soldier in spite of his age and experience. During this war the ingenuity so obvious in Sherlock Holmes came to the aid of his government. Conan Doyle devised a method of communicating with British prisoners of war by using needle pricks under letters of words in books he sent them. Figuring German censors would examine at least the first two chapters of any book, however, he always began the messages at the third.

Conan Doyle staunchly supported Britain in World War I, but his romantic view of war, formed by his fascination with stories of

medieval chivalry, may have left him unprepared for the reality of machine guns and trenches. He lost both his younger brother and his son Kingsley before the conflict ended, and the second tragedy caused him to redirect his literary energy into a new realm, spiritualism, during the last ten years of his life. His desire to contact the spirits of the dead became an obsession; he consulted mediums and magicians, including Harry Houdini, gave lectures, wrote pamphlets, debated his beliefs in public, and attended a number of séances. At one he believed he did communicate with the spirit of his son. He came to see spreading an understanding of spiritualism as his life's great mission.

Late in 1929, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle suffered a heart attack from which he never fully recovered. On July 7, 1930, he died. His epitaph reads simply, "Steel true, blade straight," but perhaps the best summary of his life is his own, in his memoirs: "I have had a life which, for variety and romance, could, I think, hardly be exceeded."

CHARACTERISTICS OF A DETECTIVE STORY

C. Hugh Holman's *A Handbook to Literature* defines a detective story as "a novel or short story in which a crime, usually a murder – the identity of the perpetrator unknown – is solved by a detective through a logical assembling and interpretation of palpable evidence, known as clues."

The first detective stories were written by Edgar Allan Poe, and Conan Doyle acknowledged their influence on his writing. A good detective story generally follows six "unwritten rules."

First, the crime must be significant, worthy of the attention it receives. Most stories involve murder, though Conan Doyle tied the majority of his crimes to greed and theft.

Second, the detective must be in some way a memorable character. He or she must be very intelligent, of course, unusually clever and observant, but also quirky, possessing perhaps some odd idiosyncrasies that distinguish him or her. Kojak's lollipop, Columbo's crumpled raincoat, James Bond's unruffled cool and high-tech gadgets, all of these things make the hero somehow distinct.

Third, along with an exceptional detective, there must be an outstanding opponent, a criminal clever enough to be a match for the hero. Solving the crime can't be too easy.

Fourth, because a large part of the attraction of a detective story is the opportunity for the reader to try to figure out the solution along with the detective, all suspects of the crime must be introduced early in the story.

Fifth, all clues the detective discovers must be made available to the reader also.

Finally, at the end of the story, the solution must seem obvious, logical, possible. The crime must not have resulted from accident or supernatural intervention, and the detective must be able to explain all aspects of the case in a reasonable way. A fine detective story should meet each one of these standards.

THE STORIES OF CONAN DOYLE

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle was quite familiar with detective stories when he decided to try his hand at some of his own. In fact, his frustration with many of the ones he read led him to believe he could improve on the form. Although he did admire Poe, many authors, he felt, created weak characters and weaker plots, plots overly dependent on coincidences to provide the solutions to the crimes. In an interview in 1900, Conan Doyle said, "I had been reading some detective stories, and it struck me what nonsense they were, to put it mildly, because for getting the solution of the mystery, the authors always depended on some coincidence. This struck me as not a fair way of playing the game, because the detective ought really to depend for his successes on something in his own mind and not by adventitious circumstances which do not, by any means, always occur in real life." Conan Doyle believed in a more scientific way of solving a mystery. For his model he thought of Dr. Joseph Bell, one of his medical professors at Edinburgh University in the 1870's. Dr. Bell was famous for the deductions he was able to make about his patients, telling them their occupations, habits, mode of transportation, as well as some particulars of their diseases all from a rapid observation of what most people would never notice. In his memoirs Doyle describes his experiences as Dr. Bell's outpatient clerk:

I had ample chance of studying his methods and of noticing that he often learned more of the patient by a few quick glances than I had done by my questions. Occasionally the results were very dramatic, though there were times when he blundered. In one of his best cases he said to a civilian patient: "Well, my man, you've served in the army."

"Aye, sir."

"Not long discharged?"

"No, sir."

"A Highland regiment?"

"Aye, sir."

"A non-com officer?"

"Aye, sir."

"Stationed at Barbados?"

"Aye, sir."

“You see, gentlemen,” he would explain, “the man was a respectful man but did not remove his hat. They do not in the army, but he would have learned civilian ways had he been long discharged. He has an air of authority and he is obviously Scottish. As to Barbados, his complaint is elephantiasis, which is West Indian and not British.”

With Bell in mind Conan Doyle created the “scientific approach” to solving a crime: observation, analysis of the data observed, formation of a theory based only on the facts. As Holmes says in *A Study in Scarlet*, “It is a capital mistake to theorize before you have all the evidence. It biases the judgment.” Like Bell, Holmes would insist on cold, unbiased reason as his guide, confident it would always lead him to the correct solution, however unlikely the result seemed. He insists in *The Sign of Four*, “When you have eliminated the impossible, whatever remains, however improbable, must be the truth.”

Conan Doyle had another concern in mind as he began to write his Holmes stories. At the time fiction was generally published in magazines. Novels appeared in segments that way before they were republished as books, but Conan Doyle worried that this form would not suit his desire to write mysteries. There was too much danger that one missed edition would cause the reader to lose interest in the whole, he felt, so he decided to connect his segments not by plot but by character. Each offering would be an entire story, able to stand alone, with Holmes and his friend Watson providing the link to hold all the pieces together. The resulting tales first appeared in *The Strand* magazine, and were an instant success. William Vivian Butler, author of *The Young Detective’s Handbook*, remembers his father telling of the excitement of standing in line at the booksellers for the new edition of *The Strand*, a line which sometimes stretched five times around the block. The characters Conan Doyle created became so real to his public that much of the mail and many of the gifts that he received were addressed not to the author but to Holmes himself.

Conan Doyle soon became the best-paid writer of his time, and perhaps the best known as well. But he never really liked his creation, confessing once, “If I have sometimes been inclined to be weary of him it is because his character admits of no light or shade. He is a calculating machine, and anything you add to that simply weakens the

effect.” He felt too that Holmes kept him from other, more serious work, so he determined to kill him off. When he finally did so in “The Final Problem,” writing Holmes off a cliff locked in the arms of his archenemy; he was forced to accept the extent to which his creation had gotten away from him. Letters of outrage covered his desk, one from a woman who accused him of being quite simply “a brute.” The streets of London filled with men in black armbands. His publishers begged him to reconsider, tried bribes of large fees if he did, and made vague promises to their readers. Eventually Doyle did relent, bringing Holmes back to life once again to the delight and relief of his fans all over the world.

The literary criticism written about Conan Doyle’s stories sometimes amused the author. Because he did not care as deeply about these stories as he did about some of his other works, he never bothered to check his details for accuracy. So, in “The Speckled Band,” a snake responds to a whistle and a bribe of milk despite the fact that snakes are deaf and don’t drink milk. In the same story, Dr. Roylott obtains a cheetah and a baboon because of a passion for Indian animals, which they aren’t. Watson frequently feels the pain of an old war wound, but the trouble is sometimes in his shoulder and sometimes in his leg. Even Watson’s Christian name falls into question. He gives it as John, but one of his wives calls him James. Confronted with these inaccuracies, Conan Doyle apparently shrugged, saying, “I have never been nervous about details.” The stories are fairy tales, he insisted, and should be viewed as such. Yet an entire book has been written attacking Watson’s remark that Holmes rarely laughs, insisting that he actually laughs 65 times, chuckles 31, and smiles 103.