

# 5. Malakoff

## COMPREHENSION

Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow.

[Sherlock Holmes, Dr Watson and Inspector Lestrade wait on a foggy night to catch a culprit as the fog drifts away. The 'I' here is Dr Watson.]

A sound of quick steps broke the silence of the moor.... The steps grew louder, and through the fog, as through a curtain, there stepped the man we were awaiting. He looked round him in surprise as he emerged into the clear, starlit night. Then he came swiftly along the path, passed close to where we lay, and went on up the long slope behind us. As he walked, he continually glanced over either shoulder, like a man who is ill at ease....

Suddenly, Holmes' eyes started forward in a rigid, fixed stare, and his lips parted in amazement. At the same instant, Lestrade gave a yell of terror and threw himself face downward upon the ground. I sprang to my feet, my inert hand grasping my pistol, my mind paralysed by the dreadful shape which had sprung out upon us from the shadows of the fog. A hound it was, an enormous coal-black hound, but not such a hound as mortal eyes have ever seen. Fire burst from its open mouth, its eyes glowed with a smouldering glare, its muzzle and hackles and dewlap were outlined in flickering flame. Never in the delirious dream of a disordered brain could anything more savage, more appalling, more hellish be conceived than that dark form and savage face which broke upon us out of the wall of fog.

With long bounds, the huge black creature was leaping down the track, following hard upon the footsteps of our friend..... Then Holmes and I both fired together, and the creature gave a hideous howl, which showed that one at least had hit him. ...But that cry of pain from the hound had blown all our fears to the winds.... If we could wound him, we could kill him.

- 'The Hound of the Baskervilles' by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

**A** Answer the following questions.

1. What broke the silence on the moor?

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2. Who were the three people who were waiting to catch the culprit?

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3. What was 'the dreadful shape' which sprang out of the fog?

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4. What did Sherlock Holmes and Dr Watson do?

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5. What did the creature's howl show?

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**B** Give other words or phrases to explain the following.

1. broke upon us
2. ill at ease
3. the wall of fog
4. blown our fears to the wind
5. the delirious dream of a disordered brain

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**C** Fill in the blanks with suitable adjectives from the passage.

1. It was an \_\_\_\_\_ coal-black hound.
2. The creature gave a \_\_\_\_\_ cry.
3. He emerged into the clear, \_\_\_\_\_ night.
4. Its eyes glowed with a \_\_\_\_\_ glare.
5. My mind was paralysed by the \_\_\_\_\_ shape.

## GRAMMAR

**A** Add a verb in agreement with the subject in the following sentences by using do, does, have, has, is and are.

1. The news \_\_\_\_\_ true.
2. What instrument \_\_\_\_\_ you play?
3. They \_\_\_\_\_ taken pains to put up a good show.
4. He \_\_\_\_\_ not tell lies.
5. India \_\_\_\_\_ a large army.
6. Who \_\_\_\_\_ the housework?
7. There \_\_\_\_\_ many guests at the party.
8. The police \_\_\_\_\_ know who the thief is.

**B** Select the suitable verbs from the brackets to complete the following sentences.

1. I \_\_\_\_\_ the stories of R. L. Stevenson. [enjoys/enjoy]
2. He will \_\_\_\_\_ the parade. [lead/leads]
3. Who were the people who \_\_\_\_\_ to the party? [comes/came]
4. She \_\_\_\_\_ that she \_\_\_\_\_ the book. [accepts/accepted; has/have]
5. Where \_\_\_\_\_ you going this morning? [were/are]

**C** Underline the verbs and say if they are Transitive [T] or Intransitive [Int].

1. The old lady wept. [ ]
2. The dog killed about a dozen chickens. [ ]
3. He had an angelic expression. [ ]
4. The gardener won thirty rupees. [ ]
5. He was summoned today. [ ]

**D** Circle the direct objects and underline the indirect objects in the following sentences.

1. A fox came into the chicken coop.
2. Mithu flew a kite on the terrace.
3. A temple in Hampi has musical pillars.
4. Give Roma five rupees for the bus home.
5. The picture left a mark on the wall.

## VOCABULARY AND WRITING

**A** Each word below has been given four meanings, one of which is the odd one out. Find the odd word in each group.

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|----------------|-------------------|---------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Reproach    | (a) blame         | (b) criticise | (c) upbraid       | (d) hope        |
| 2. Genuine     | (a) false         | (b) actual    | (c) original      | (d) authentic   |
| 3. Outstanding | (a) extraordinary | (b) dreadful  | (c) distinguished | (d) exceptional |
| 4. Blank       | (a) empty         | (b) stem      | (c) clear         | (d) unused      |
| 5. Narrative   | (a) story         | (b) account   | (c) army          | (d) chronicle   |

**B** Edit the following passage by adding capital letters and punctuation marks.

george suggested that for breakfast we take eggs and bacon which were easy to cook he said that for lunch we could have biscuits cold meat bread butter and jam but he said there should be no cheese

**C** Give the feminine forms of the following.

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|------------|-------|-----------|-------|
| 1. Man     | _____ | 2. Horse  | _____ |
| 3. Monk    | _____ | 4. Son    | _____ |
| 5. Peacock | _____ | 6. Gander | _____ |
| 7. Bull    | _____ | 8. Stag   | _____ |
| 9. Ram     | _____ | 10. Fox   | _____ |