READING COMPREHENSION

Who is Sherlock nowadays?

The BBC series, Sherlock, starring Benedict Cumberbatch, has been a big hit. There have been over 250 films about the famous detective, so what's different about the new series?

Many Sherlock Holmes films, like the original stories, are set in the shadows of Victorian London. In those days, the best technology was a magnifying glass to look for fingerprints. However, the BBC series is set in the 21st century, and this adds a fresh perspective and helps to create some clever twists in the plot of each story.

In this modern version, Sherlock has a mobile and a website. He can get information about suspects and witnesses online. He can even check CCTV cameras to look for extra clues, so his job has become very different. His friend Dr John Watson, who is played by Martin Freeman, still helps him. In fact, Watson writes a blog about each of Sherlock's cases, and you can find these online!

Isn't it strange that Sherlock is over 100 years old but he is still popular? Cumberbatch explains that playing Sherlock is 'a form of mental and physical gymnastics'. His character was based on Conan Doyle's teacher at medical school. The teacher, Dr Bell, was very clever and noticed little things.

He often looked at his patients and told them about their activities and their illnesses before they even spoke to him! Similarly, Sherlock Holmes solves crimes with the power of his intelligence. What may explain the popularity of the stories today is that it is a chance to find out if you can think as quickly as Sherlock!

A) Read the text and choose the correct answer.

1 What has changed for Sherlock in the 21st century?
   a He can do lots of different jobs.
   b He doesn't use a magnifying glass anymore.
   c He has new ways of solving crimes.
   d He's no longer friends with Dr Watson.

2 How did Dr Bell inspire Conan Doyle?
   a He didn't speak to his patients.
   b He wrote lots of notes about his patients.
   c He talked to his patients kindly.
   d He solved problems by finding clues.

3 Why is Sherlock still popular?
   a Because he's been around a long time.
   b Because his character is fascinating.
   c Because he's famous.
   d Because he looks great on screen.

4 What is the writer's main aim in the text?
   a To explain why Holmes is still popular.
   b To describe the old films about Holmes.
   c To tell readers how Conan Doyle wrote these stories.
   d To describe the personality of a detective.

B)Complete the sentences with the words from the Vocabulary Box.

Vocabulary Solving crimes

case CCTV camera clue detective
fingerprints magnifying glass ~~suspect~~ witness

1 The police caught the *suspect* because he put photos on the internet.
2 The burglar didn't wear gloves, so she left _____ on the window.
3 The detectives are working on a very difficult _____.
4 My mum saw a pickpocket, so police asked her to be a _____.

C)Which of these skills are you good at? Would you like to be a detective? Use these ideas to write a short paragraph.

spotting clues thinking quickly
noticing little things using technology

LIVEWORKSHEETS