

READING

Read, listen and answer.

The man who wrote Sherlock Holmes

Arthur Conan Doyle was born in Edinburgh on 22nd May 1859. He studied medicine at Edinburgh University and as a student he began writing short stories. He became a doctor in the south of England, but at first he didn't have many patients. So in his free time he began writing stories about a brilliant detective, Sherlock Holmes. Conan Doyle based Holmes' personality on his professor at university. Holmes, who lives at 221b Baker Street in London, is famous for solving difficult crimes and mysteries using his great intelligence.

The Sherlock Holmes stories soon became very popular, but in 1893 Conan Doyle became tired of his detective, and decided to 'kill' him. In *The Final Problem* Sherlock Holmes and his enemy, Professor Moriarty, die when they fall off the Reichenbach Falls in Switzerland. But people were very unhappy to lose Sherlock Holmes, and there were letters in many newspapers asking for him to come back. Finally, in 1901 Conan Doyle brought him back in a new story, *The Hound of the Baskervilles*. He explained that Holmes did not die in the Reichenbach Falls, but miraculously survived.

Conan Doyle died on 7th July 1930, but Sherlock Holmes continues to live both in the stories and in many film versions. Recently he was the inspiration for the character Dr Gregory House in the TV series *House*.

1. What was Arthur Conan Doyle's job?
 - He was a university professor.
 - He was a doctor.
 - He was a detective.

2. What happens in *The Final Problem*?
 - Moriarty kills Holmes.
 - Holmes kills Moriarty.
 - Holmes and Moriarty die.

3. What happened after Conan Doyle died?
 - People became interested in a different detective.
 - Sherlock Holmes continued to be popular.
 - People forgot about Sherlock Holmes.

Read again and choose the correct answers.

1. Arthur Conan Doyle was Scottish, but he worked in England.
 True
 False
2. He started writing stories about Sherlock Holmes at university.
 True
 False
3. Conan Doyle lived at 221b Baker Street, London.
 True
 False
4. In 1893 he didn't want to write any more Sherlock Holmes stories.
 True
 False
5. *The Final Problem* was the last story about Sherlock Holmes.
 True
 False
6. Dr Gregory House is very similar to Sherlock Holmes.
 True
 False