



HOLMES AND WATSON

! YOUR ESSAY MUST MEET ALL THE CRITERIA FOR THE INTRODUCTION, BODY PARAGRAPHS, AS WELL AS CONCLUSION; OTHERWISE, YOUR ESSAY WILL NOT BE MARKED! !



! COMPLETE THE COVER LIST BELOW TO ENSURE YOU HAVE MET ALL THE CRITERIA !

Cover Checklist- ✓ Tick Each Section When Complete.

- ☒ PREP STEP - Make a copy of this document.
- ☒ PREP STEP - Share your essay outline template with your tutor.
- ☒ PREP STEP - Copy and paste the link for your essay outline into your study system.
- ☒ STEP 1 - Outline your 100% essay - **START WITH THE CONCLUSION & WORK BACKWARDS**
- ☒ STEP 2 - Use the TTECEA checklist for details
- ☒ STEP 3 - Revise your essay - check for coherence & cohesion, redundant repetition, clarity, vocabulary, etc.
- ☒ STEP 4 - Edit your essay.
- ☒ STEP 5 - Put your essay together as one complete piece.

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STEP 5: COMPLETE - Put Your Essay Together as One Complete Piece

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QUESTION

Read the following extract from the opening chapter of Conan Arthur Doyle's novel "The Sign of the Four", then answer the question that follows.

'The work itself, the pleasure of finding a field for my peculiar powers, is my highest reward. But you have yourself had some experience of my methods of work in the Jefferson Hope case.'

'Yes, indeed,' said I, cordially. 'I was never so struck by anything in my life. I even embodied it in a small brochure with the somewhat fantastic title of 'A Study in Scarlet.'

He shook his head sadly. 'I glanced over it,' said he. 'Honestly, I cannot congratulate you upon it. Detection is, or ought to be, an exact science, and should be treated in the same cold and unemotional manner. You have attempted to tinge it with romanticism, which produces much the same effect as if you worked a love-story or an elopement into the fifth proposition of Euclid.'

'But the romance was there,' I remonstrated. 'I could not tamper with the facts.'

'Some facts should be suppressed, or at least a just sense of proportion should be observed in treating them. The only point in the case which deserved mention was the curious analytical reasoning from effects to causes by which I succeeded in unravelling it.'

I was annoyed at this criticism of a work which had been specially designed to please him. I confess, too, that I was irritated by the egotism which seemed to demand that every line of my pamphlet should be devoted to his own special doings. More than once during the years that I had lived with him in Baker Street I had observed that a small vanity underlay my companion's quiet and didactic manner. I made no remark, however, but sat nursing my wounded leg. I had a Jezail bullet through it some time before, and, though it did not prevent me from walking, it ached wearily at every change of the weather.

Q. Starting with this extract, examine how Conan Doyle portrays Holmes and Watson as contrasting characters in The Sign of Four.

Write about:

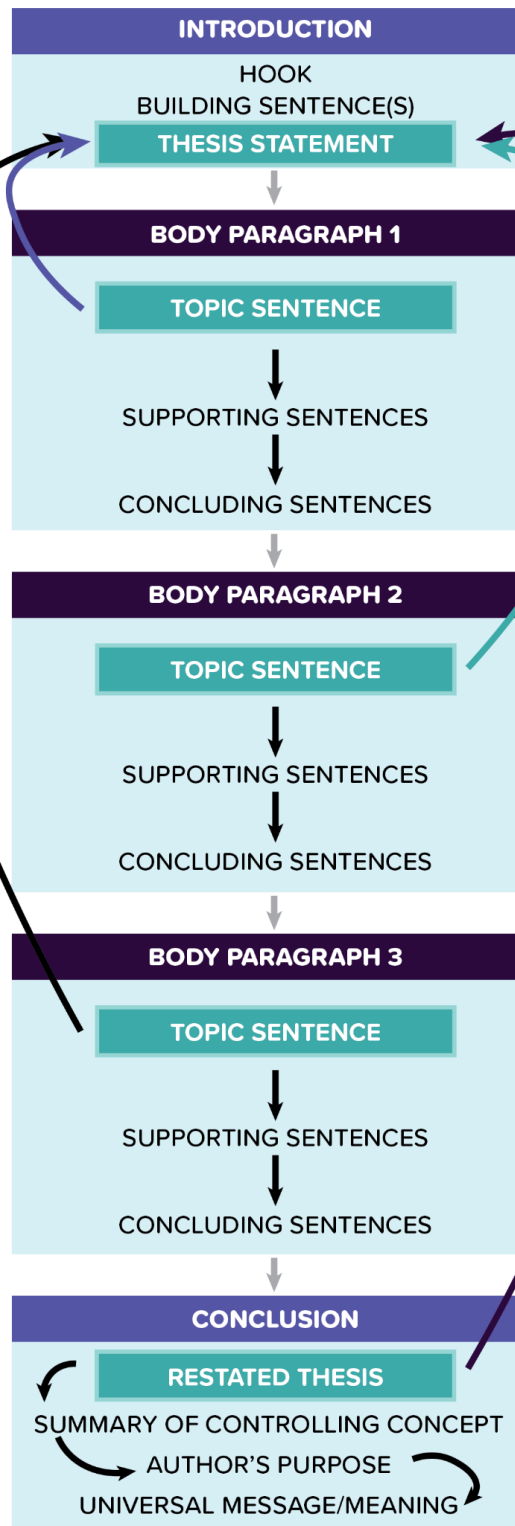
- How Conan Doyle portrays Holmes and Watson at this moment in the novel.
- How Conan Doyle portrays Holmes and Watson in the novel as a whole.





100% ESSAY STRUCTURE OVERVIEW





ESSAY PLAN



I. Introduction

- A. Background on the Victorian era
- B. Introduction of Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson
- C. Thesis statement: Explore how Doyle crafts the relationship between Holmes and Watson, using contrasting personalities, shared interests, and emotional dynamics to engage readers and reflect the tension between rationality and emotion prevalent in the Victorian era.

II. Emotional divide between Holmes and Watson

- A. Use of dialogue and characterisation
- B. Holmes' criticism of Watson's work
- C. Holmes' lack of empathy
- D. Metafiction and reader connection
- E. Holmes' response to Watson's engagement news
- F. Tension between rationality and emotion in the Victorian era

III. Foil characters and contrasting personalities

- A. Examples of foil characters in literature
- B. Physical descriptions of Holmes and Watson
- C. Watson's bullet wound as a symbol
- D. The engaging dramatic tension from contrasting personalities
- E. Reader identification with Watson

IV. Shared interests and emotional dynamics

- A. Holmes and Watson as writers
- B. The concept of vanity
- C. Shared moral convictions and ethical judgments

V. Conclusion

- A. Recap of how Doyle constructs the relationship between Holmes and Watson
- B. Emphasis on the conflict between reason and emotion
- C. Reflection on the broader societal debates and challenges faced by Victorians





STEP 1: OUTLINING - Complete Your 100% Essay Outline

Criteria	Status	INTRODUCTION - Do not make this too detailed.
Hook AO1 <div>fact/statistic ▾</div>	<div>Complete ▾</div> (only mark complete when steps 1-5 are ALL complete)	In 'The Sign of the Four,' Arthur Conan Doyle navigates the cultural cross-currents of the Victorian era, an epoch marked by the passionate sentiments of the Romantic period and the burgeoning influence of scientific empiricism.
Building sentence(s) AO3 <div><input type="checkbox"/> counter-argument</div> <div>OR</div> <div><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> some contextual info</div>	<div>Complete ▾</div> (only mark complete when steps 1-5 are ALL complete)	It is within this dynamic context that Doyle crafts his iconic sleuthing duo, Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson, who embody contrasting characteristics: the sentimental and imaginative Watson and the dry, pragmatic Holmes.
Thesis statement AO1 <div><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> key-idea-1</div> <div><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> key-idea-2</div> <div><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> key-idea-3</div>	<div>Complete ▾</div> (only mark complete when steps 1-5 are ALL complete)	Consequently, this essay will explore how Sir Arthur Conan Doyle crafts the relationship between Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson, utilising their contrasting personalities, shared interests, and emotional dynamics to engage readers and reflect the tension between rationality and emotion prevalent in the Victorian era.
Criteria	Status	BODY PARAGRAPH 1 - only focus on KEY IDEA #1
WHAT? Topic sentence AO1 <div><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> key-idea-1</div>	<div>Complete ▾</div> (only mark complete when steps 1-5 are ALL complete)	In this passage, we can see a clear emotional divide between the two friends, Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson, created through Conan Doyle's use of dialogue and characterisation.
HOW? Supporting sentences AO2 <div><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> terminology</div> <div><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> evidence</div> <div><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> close analysis</div> <div><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> effects*</div>	<div>Complete ▾</div> (only mark complete when steps 1-5 are ALL complete)	Holmes criticises Watson's work, which hurts Watson deeply. Although Watson tries to defend his writing by mentioning the romance in it, Holmes disregards his feelings and continues to argue his point. This shows that Holmes is not only unemotional himself but also struggles to understand and support the emotions of others. Interestingly, Conan Doyle employs metafiction, making the reader feel more connected to the story by discussing his first Sherlock Holmes novel, 'A Study in Scarlet.' This may evoke amusement or frustration among readers who enjoyed the book, as they learn that the novel's hero, Holmes, disapproves of it. Moreover, when Watson reveals that he wrote the book to please Holmes, readers might feel pity for him, as





		<p>Holmes never seems to go out of his way to please anyone else. Towards the end of the novel, Watson shares his engagement news with Holmes, who responds with a disheartening groan and says, 'I really cannot congratulate you.' This reaction to a close friend's significant life event can be seen as incredibly hurtful. However, readers who are familiar with Holmes's typically blunt demeanor, a result of the author's consistent characterisation, might not be too surprised by his response.</p>
<p>WHY? Concluding sentence(s) AO2/AO3</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> author's purpose</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (final thought / context about the key idea)</p>	<p>Complete ▾</p> <p>(only mark complete when steps 1-5 are ALL complete)</p>	<p>Conan Doyle may be using these moments to highlight the tension between rationality and emotion, a theme that was prevalent in the historical context of the Victorian era. This period was characterised by significant advancements in science and a growing emphasis on logic and empirical evidence. At the same time, the influence of the Romantic era, with its focus on emotion, individualism, and the human spirit, still resonated in the cultural consciousness.</p>
<p>Criteria</p>	<p>Status</p>	<p>BODY PARAGRAPH 2 - only focus on KEY IDEA #2</p>
<p>WHAT? Topic sentence AO1</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> key idea 2</p>	<p>Complete ▾</p> <p>(only mark complete when steps 1-5 are ALL complete)</p>	<p>In literature, a foil character serves to emphasise and distinguish the personalities of two different characters, often through contrasting physical traits that symbolise their distinct perspectives.</p>
<p>HOW? Supporting sentences AO2</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> terminology</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> evidence</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> close analysis</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> effects*</p>	<p>Complete ▾</p> <p>(only mark complete when steps 1-5 are ALL complete)</p>	<p>Classic examples include Shakespeare's Falstaff and Prince Hal in the Henry IV plays, and Cervantes' Don Quixote and Sancho Panza. Conan Doyle portrays Holmes as a tall, lean figure with piercing eyes and a hawk-like nose, while Watson is described as solidly built, of average height, with a thick neck and a mustache. This contrast in physical appearance mirrors their differing personalities and approaches to problem-solving. The focus on Watson's bullet wound in this passage further highlights the disparity between the two men's physical states. Watson's need to clarify that his wound doesn't prevent him from walking suggests its severity, creating a symbolic representation of their contrasting personalities. Although Watson's disability is sometimes downplayed when he is called to action by Holmes, its presence reinforces the metaphorical divide between the characters. This extract demonstrates the engaging dramatic tension that arises from Holmes and Watson's diverging personalities, making their interactions more intriguing than if Watson simply agreed with his extraordinary friend. Readers may find it easier to identify with Watson, as he serves as the narrator</p>





		and is portrayed as an 'ordinary' man experiencing common human emotions.
<u>WHY? Concluding sentence(s) AO2/AO3</u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> author's purpose <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (final thought / context about the key idea)	Complete ▾ (only mark complete when steps 1-5 are ALL complete)	By exploring the author's use of language, structure, and form techniques, we can appreciate how these contrasts and emotions contribute to the reader's experience and understanding of the characters, while also considering the broader historical context of the Victorian era in which the story is set.
Criteria	Status	BODY PARAGRAPH 3 - only focus on KEY IDEA #3
<u>WHAT? Topic sentence AO1</u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> key-idea-3	Complete ▾ (only mark complete when steps 1-5 are ALL complete)	In this passage and throughout the first chapter, we see that Holmes and Watson, despite their different professions, share a common interest in writing.
<u>HOW? Supporting sentences AO2</u> <input type="checkbox"/> terminology <input type="checkbox"/> evidence <input type="checkbox"/> close analysis <input type="checkbox"/> effects*	Complete ▾ (only mark complete when steps 1-5 are ALL complete)	Holmes, a detective, has written several monographs, while Watson, a medical doctor, has authored the excitingly titled 'A Study in Scarlet.' While their writing styles and methods differ, both characters have published their work, suggesting they might have more in common than initially apparent. Watson's description of his title as 'somewhat fantastic' implies he sought to capture readers' attention in a similar way that Conan Doyle might have. This detail might evoke a sense of curiosity and intrigue in the reader. Interestingly, both Holmes and Watson seem to possess a 'small vanity.' When Watson is hurt by Holmes' lack of enthusiasm for his writing and turns to nursing his wounded leg – a possible metaphor for his injured pride – the reader may feel sympathy for Watson and perhaps even a bit of frustration with Holmes' insensitivity. As the story unfolds, we discover more similarities between the two characters, such as their shared moral convictions. When they hear about the murder of merchant Achmet, both Holmes and Watson display the same disgust, indicating a close alignment in their ethical judgment.
<u>WHY? Concluding sentence(s) AO2/AO3</u> <input type="checkbox"/> author's purpose	Complete ▾ (only mark complete when steps 1-5 are ALL complete)	This shared reaction may prompt the reader to feel a sense of camaraderie or connection between the two characters, despite their differences.





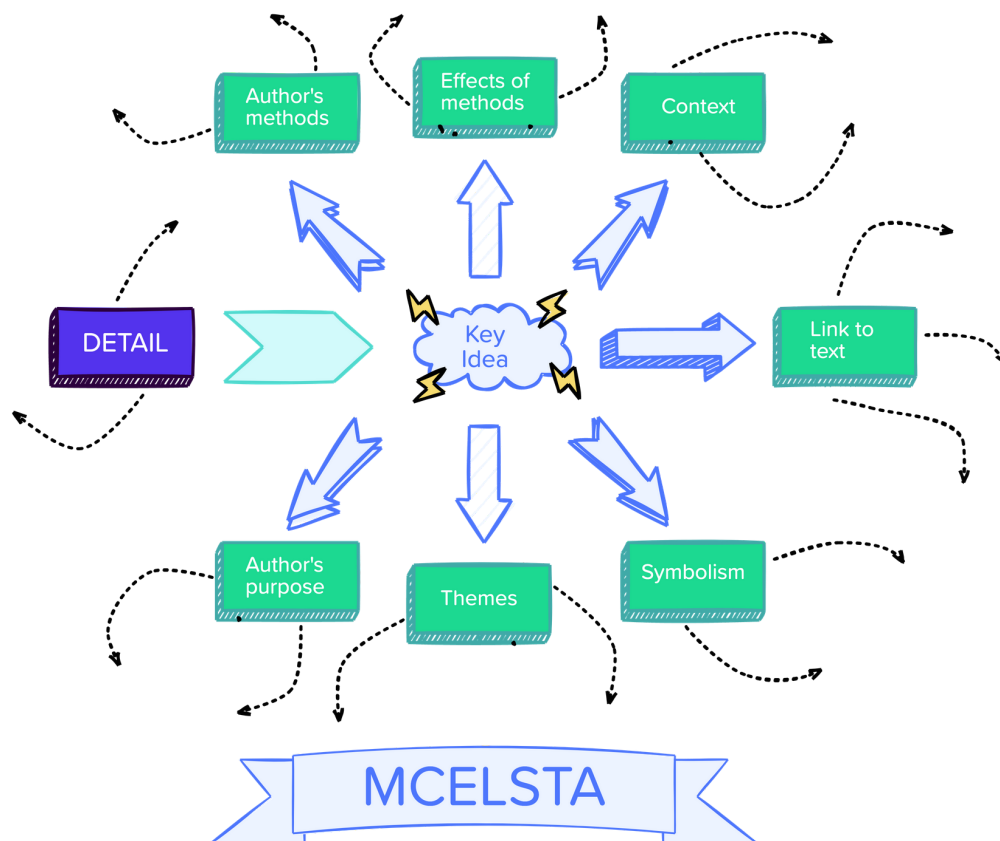
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (final thought / context about the key idea)		
Criteria	Status	CONCLUSION - <u>CRUCIAL!</u>
<u>Restated thesis AO1</u> (Re-write your thesis statement in different words.)	Complete ▾ (only mark complete when steps 1-5 are ALL complete)	In conclusion, this essay has demonstrated how Sir Arthur Conan Doyle masterfully constructs the relationship between Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson, using their differing personalities, common interests, and emotional interplay to captivate readers and embody the conflict between reason and emotion characteristic of the Victorian era.
<u>Summary of controlling concept AO1</u> How does your thesis link to the central theme of the text?	Complete ▾ (only mark complete when steps 1-5 are ALL complete)	'The Sign of the Four,' one of Arthur Conan Doyle's famous Sherlock Holmes novels, revolves around the themes of hidden truths, deception, and the complexities of human nature. The story delves into a world of betrayal, revenge, and mystery as Holmes and Dr. Watson work to unravel a convoluted case that exposes the darker aspects of humanity, all while shedding light on the challenges faced by the burgeoning detective profession in Victorian England.
<u>Summary of author's central purpose AO1/AO3</u> How does the controlling concept reflect the MAIN reason that the author wrote the text?	Complete ▾ (only mark complete when steps 1-5 are ALL complete)	By creating a character like Sherlock Holmes, who embodies the rational, scientific approach, and contrasting him with Dr. Watson, who represents a more emotional and empathetic perspective, Conan Doyle is able to explore the ongoing struggle between these two modes of thought. This conflict mirrors the broader societal debates of the time, as people grappled with the implications of new scientific discoveries and the shifting roles of emotion and reason in understanding the world and human experience. However, the irony is that Holmes and Watson's contrasting personalities and methods of problem-solving complement each other and allow them to effectively solve the case.
<u>Universal message AO1</u> (What is the MAIN message of the text? Focus on the end.)	Complete ▾ (only mark complete when steps 1-5 are ALL complete)	Through his entertaining mysteries, Arthur Conan Doyle's narrative captures the atmosphere of the period, marked by rapid industrialisation, social inequality, and moral uncertainty. By portraying a world rife with crime and deception, he sheds light on the societal challenges faced by Victorians.



STEP 2: ADDING DETAIL-Complete the TTECEA Checklist for Detail

1. To achieve a grade 9 level of detail, ensure that you link your key idea in each of your body paragraphs to as many of the elements of the TTECEA mnemonic as possible (aim to write about 650-950 words maximum for the entire essay)
2. You do not need to have each of the TTECEA elements in each paragraph, but make sure you have all of them in the entirety of your essay.
3. Each item on the checklist should only have 2 main purposes:
 - a. **to link to your key idea in each paragraph**
 - b. **and support your argument.**

- ✓ **TOPIC SENTENCE:** Introduce the key idea of your body paragraph.
- ✓ **TECHNIQUE:** Select a key technique the author uses (one you can explore in detail, eg, metaphor, simile, etc).
- ✓ **EVIDENCE:** EMBED a quote to back up your ideas.
- ✓ **CLOSE ANALYSIS:** Break the technique into smaller pieces, zoom in and analyse them PERCEPTIVELY.
- ✓ **EFFECTS ON THE READER*:** Explore what the author's method makes us focus on, feel (emotionally) or think.
- ✓ **AUTHOR'S PURPOSE:** Explore why the might want to make us feel a certain way about certain ideas.





STEP 3: REVISING - Revise Your Essay

Ensure you have revised the following aspects of your essay:





- ☒ Removed/replaced ALL redundant repetition.
- ☒ Replaced ALL instances of the word 'shows' with more accurate and specific verbs for inferring effects of the author's methods ([check toolkit](#)).
- ☒ Revised essay for coherence: are the ideas in each of the paragraphs clearly connected to each other?
- ☒ Revised essay for cohesion: [check the toolkit for help](#).
- ☒ Removed all instances of the following words and replace them with specific details of the topics you are exploring:
 - How
 - Shows
 - Some
 - Something
 - Thing
 - This
 - Way
 - What
- ☒ Your vocabulary is academic – no informal language unless quoting directly.
- ☒ Revised essay for clarity – is your essay easy to read? Ask a peer to read it and give you feedback.





STEP 4: EDITING - Edit Your Essay

Ensure you have edited the following aspects of spelling, punctuation, and grammar:

- ☒ All words are spelt correctly.
- ☒ All sentences and names begin with a capital see guidelines below 
- ☒ All sentences end with a full stop.
- ☒  No sentences are separated with a comma  
- ☒ I used a comma before and after the following words or phrases:
 - for example,
 - however
- ☒ I have used ellipses to indicate missing words in quotes.
- ☒ I have used at least one semi-colon to separate or join closely related sentences.
 - The language paper focuses on various forms of writing; the literature paper focuses primarily on academic essay writing.
 - There are five keys to a grade 9 essay: structure, conceptualisation, context, detail, and convincing evidence.
- ☒ I have used a colon to introduce a quote, phrase, word, etc.

HOW TO REMEMBER CAPITALS - **ABLE PRINTS**:

- **Abbreviations: U.K., USA, UAE**
- **Beginnings of sentences: Nobody** saw it coming.
- **Languages: French, Spanish, Italian, Arabic,**
- **Emphasis - I LOVE CHEESE!** (avoid this)
- **Places: Africa, Mecca, London, Zimbabwe**
- **Religions and words related to them: Islam/Muslim, Christianity/Christian, Judaism/Jewish, Hinduism/Hindu**
- **I, as in me**
- **Names (specific) of people, places, businesses, e.g., Shakespeare, Apple, London.**
- **Titles of books, movies, or programmes, e.g., The Lion King, Macbeth,**
- **Special days: Eid, Christmas, Diwali**

SPAG RULES

<https://www.grammarly.com/blog/category/handbook/>





STEP 5: COMPLETE - Put Your Essay Together as One Complete Piece

In 'The Sign of the Four,' Arthur Conan Doyle navigates the cultural cross-currents of the Victorian era, an epoch marked by the passionate sentiments of the Romantic period and the burgeoning influence of scientific empiricism. It is within this dynamic context that Doyle crafts his iconic sleuthing duo, Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson, who embody contrasting characteristics: the sentimental and imaginative Watson and the dry, pragmatic Holmes. Consequently, this essay will explore how Sir Arthur Conan Doyle crafts the relationship between Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson, utilising their contrasting personalities, shared interests, and emotional dynamics to engage readers and reflect the tension between rationality and emotion prevalent in the Victorian era.

In this passage, we can see a clear emotional divide between the two friends, Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson, created through Conan Doyle's dialogue and characterisation. Holmes criticises Watson's work, which hurts Watson deeply. Although Watson tries to defend his writing by mentioning the romance, Holmes disregards his feelings and continues to argue his point. This shows that Holmes is not only unemotional but also struggles to understand and support the emotions of others. Interestingly, Conan Doyle employs metafiction, making the reader feel more connected to the story by discussing his first Sherlock Holmes novel, 'A Study in Scarlet.' This may evoke amusement or frustration among readers who enjoyed the book, as they learn that the novel's hero, Holmes, disapproves of it. Moreover, when Watson reveals that he wrote the book to please Holmes, readers might feel pity for him, as Holmes never seems to go out of his way to please anyone else. Towards the novel's end, Watson shares his engagement news with Holmes, who responds with a disheartening groan and says, 'I really cannot congratulate you.' This reaction to a close friend's significant life event can be incredibly hurtful. However, readers familiar with Holmes's typically blunt demeanour, resulting from the author's consistent characterisation, might not be too surprised by his response. Conan Doyle may be using these moments to highlight the tension between rationality and emotion, a theme that was prevalent in the historical context of the Victorian era. This period was characterised by significant scientific advancements and a growing emphasis on logic and empirical evidence. At the same time, the influence of the Romantic era, with its focus on emotion, individualism, and the human spirit, still resonated in the cultural consciousness.

In literature, a foil character serves to emphasise and distinguish the personalities of two different characters, often through contrasting physical traits that symbolise their distinct perspectives. Classic examples include Shakespeare's Falstaff and Prince Hal in the Henry IV plays, and Cervantes' Don Quixote and Sancho Panza. Conan Doyle portrays Holmes as a tall, lean figure with piercing eyes and a hawk-like nose, while Watson is described as solidly built, of average height, with a thick neck and a moustache. This contrast in physical appearance mirrors their differing personalities and approaches to problem-solving. The focus on Watson's bullet wound in this passage further highlights the disparity between the two men's physical states. Watson's need to clarify that his wound doesn't prevent him from walking suggests its severity, creating a symbolic representation of their contrasting personalities. Although Watson's disability is sometimes downplayed when he is called to action by Holmes, its presence reinforces the metaphorical divide between the characters. This extract demonstrates the engaging dramatic tension that arises from Holmes and Watson's diverging personalities, making their interactions more intriguing than if Watson simply agreed with his extraordinary friend. Readers may find it easier to identify with Watson, as he serves as the narrator and is portrayed as an 'ordinary' man experiencing common human emotions. By exploring the author's use of language, structure, and form techniques, we can appreciate how these contrasts and emotions contribute to the reader's experience and understanding of the characters, while also considering the broader historical context of the Victorian era in which the story is set.





In this passage and throughout the first chapter, we see that Holmes and Watson, despite their different professions, share a common interest in writing. Holmes, a detective, has written several monographs, while Watson, a medical doctor, has authored the excitingly titled 'A Study in Scarlet.' While their writing styles and methods differ, both characters have published their work, suggesting they might have more in common than initially apparent. Watson's description of his title as 'somewhat fantastic' implies he sought to capture readers' attention in a similar way that Conan Doyle might have. This detail might evoke a sense of curiosity and intrigue in the reader. Interestingly, both Holmes and Watson seem to possess a 'small vanity.' When Watson is hurt by Holmes' lack of enthusiasm for his writing and turns to nurse his wounded leg – a possible metaphor for his injured pride – the reader may feel sympathy for Watson and perhaps even a bit of frustration with Holmes' insensitivity. As the story unfolds, we discover more similarities between the two characters, such as their shared moral convictions. When they hear about the murder of merchant Achmet, both Holmes and Watson display the same disgust, indicating a close alignment in their ethical judgment. This shared reaction may prompt the reader to feel a sense of camaraderie or connection between the two characters, despite their differences.

In conclusion, this essay has demonstrated how Sir Arthur Conan Doyle masterfully constructs the relationship between Sherlock Holmes and Dr Watson, using their differing personalities, common interests, and emotional interplay to captivate readers and embody the conflict between reason and emotion characteristic of the Victorian era. 'The Sign of the Four,' one of Arthur Conan Doyle's famous Sherlock Holmes novels, revolves around the themes of hidden truths, deception, and the complexities of human nature. The story delves into a world of betrayal, revenge, and mystery as Holmes and Dr Watson work to unravel a convoluted case that exposes the darker aspects of humanity, all while shedding light on the challenges faced by the burgeoning detective profession in Victorian England. By creating a character like Sherlock Holmes, who embodies the rational, scientific approach, and contrasting him with Dr Watson, who represents a more emotional and empathetic perspective, Conan Doyle is able to explore the ongoing struggle between these two modes of thought. This conflict mirrors the broader societal debates of the time, as people grappled with the implications of new scientific discoveries and the shifting roles of emotion and reason in understanding the world and human experience. However, the irony is that Holmes and Watson's contrasting personalities and problem-solving methods complement each other and allow them to effectively solve the case. Through his entertaining mysteries, Arthur Conan Doyle's narrative captures the atmosphere of the period, marked by rapid industrialisation, social inequality, and moral uncertainty. By portraying a world rife with crime and deception, he sheds light on the societal challenges Victorians faced.

