



MYSTERY IN THE SIGN OF THE FOUR

! 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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QUESTION

Read the following extract, then answer the question that follows.

We followed the Indian down a sordid and common passage, ill lit and worse furnished, until he came to a door upon the right, which he threw open. A blaze of yellow light streamed out upon us, and in the centre of the glare there stood a small man with a very high head, a bristle of red hair all round the fringe of it, and a bald, shining scalp which shot out from among it like a mountain-peak from fir-trees. He writhed his hands together as he stood, and his features were in a perpetual jerk, now smiling, now scowling, but never for an instant in repose. Nature had given him a pendulous lip, and a too visible line of yellow and irregular teeth, which he strove feebly to conceal by constantly passing his hand over the lower part of his face. In spite of his obtrusive baldness, he gave the impression of youth. In point of fact he had just turned his thirtieth year.

'Your servant, Miss Morstan,' he kept repeating, in a thin, high voice. 'Your servant, gentlemen. Pray step into my little sanctum. A small place, miss, but furnished to my own liking. An oasis of art in the howling desert of South London.'

Q. How does Conan Doyle create a sense of mystery in the extract?

You should look at how Conan Doyle:

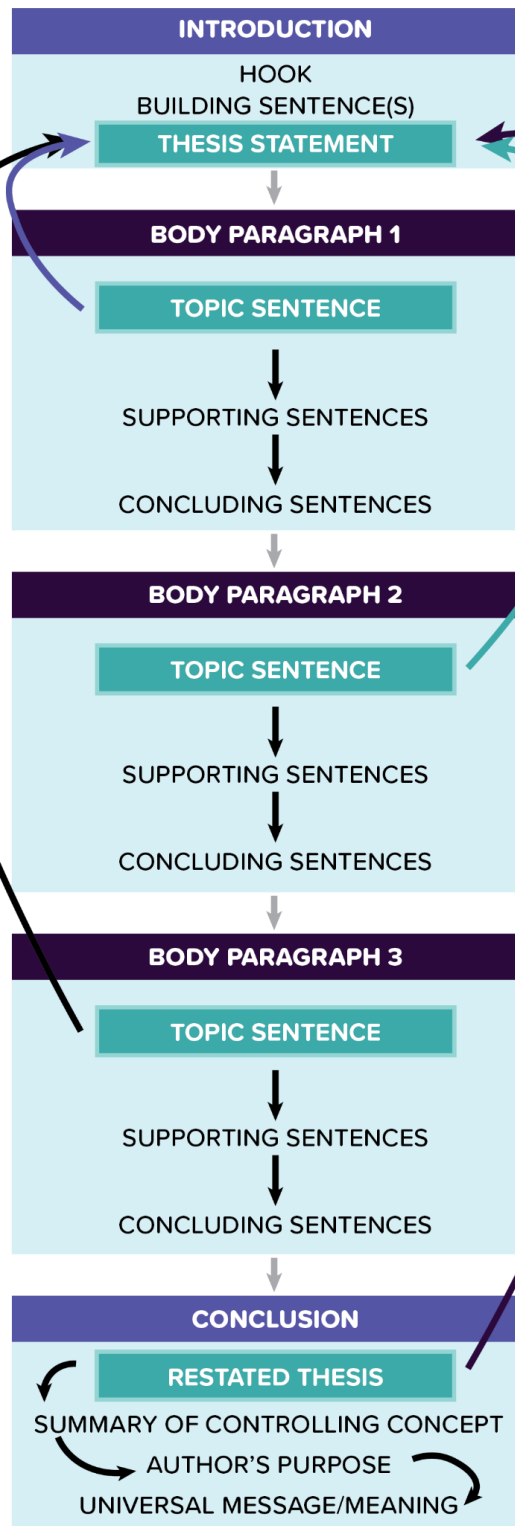
- Uses detailed description to create a sense of mystery in this extract
- Uses detailed description to create a sense of mystery in the whole novel





100% ESSAY STRUCTURE OVERVIEW





ESSAY PLAN



I. Introduction

- A. Context: Sherlock Holmes, Jack the Ripper, and Victorian England
- B. Thesis: Doyle uses vivid descriptions, symbolic motifs, and deception to immerse readers, provoke thought, and reflect Victorian England's historical context.

II. Vivid descriptions

- A. Immersing readers in the story
- B. Evoking an atmosphere of mystery and unease
- C. Connecting with the historical context of social inequality and moral uncertainty

III. Symbolism of light and darkness

- A. Representing the dual nature of humanity
- B. Creating suspense and tension
- C. Exploring complexities of human nature in the Victorian era

IV. Deception and intrigue

- A. Crafting a captivating narrative
- B. Unraveling layers of truth and falsehood
- C. Examining human greed, revenge, and justice
- D. Aligning with contemporary concerns and detective fiction conventions

V. Conclusion

- A. Summarising key points
- B. Emphasising the novel's intellectual stimulation and relevance to the historical context





STEP 1: OUTLINING - Complete Your 100% Essay Outline

Criteria	Status	INTRODUCTION - Do not make this too detailed.
<u>Hook AO1</u> fact/statistic ▾	Complete ▾ (only mark complete when steps 1-5 are ALL complete)	The iconic character of Sherlock Holmes and the infamous Jack the Ripper both inhabited the same urban landscape.
<u>Building sentence(s) AO3</u> <input type="checkbox"/> counter-argument OR <input type="checkbox"/> some contextual info	Complete ▾ (only mark complete when steps 1-5 are ALL complete)	Holmes' debut in 1887 occurred merely a year prior to the Whitechapel murders, which incited significant public outrage due to the lack of progress in solving the case. Additionally, the police force was widely perceived as inept, and their failure to apprehend the culprit elicited disdain from various segments of society, ranging from the impoverished residents of the East End to Queen Victoria herself. In fact, the queen expressed her dissatisfaction by asserting that the 'detective department was not as efficient as it might be.'
<u>Thesis statement AO1</u> <input type="checkbox"/> key idea 1 <input type="checkbox"/> key idea 2 <input type="checkbox"/> key idea 3	Complete ▾ (only mark complete when steps 1-5 are ALL complete)	Therefore, this essay will explore Doyle's use of vivid descriptions, light and darkness as symbolic motifs, and deception and intrigue to immerse readers in the narrative, provoke thought on the complexities of human nature and morality, and reflect the historical context of Victorian England, offering a captivating and thought-provoking literary experience.
Criteria	Status	BODY PARAGRAPH 1 - only focus on KEY IDEA #1
<u>WHAT? Topic sentence AO1</u> <input type="checkbox"/> key idea 1	Complete ▾ (only mark complete when steps 1-5 are ALL complete)	Arthur Conan Doyle employs vivid descriptions to immerse readers in the story, allowing them to experience the unfolding events alongside the characters.
<u>HOW? Supporting sentences AO2</u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> terminology <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> evidence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> close analysis <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> effects*	Complete ▾ (only mark complete when steps 1-5 are ALL complete)	For example, the narrator recounts the journey down a 'sordid and common' passage, evoking an atmosphere of mystery and unease. The term 'sordid' conjures images of filth and moral degradation, while 'common' implies a space accessible to all, eliciting the suspicion and fear of the Victorian upper class towards the lower class or the commoner. This historical context heightens the tension, as the passage is deemed unsuitable for refined gentlemen and ladies. Doyle's intricate descriptions serve to engage the reader on an emotional and psychological level, inviting them to share in the characters' apprehensions and





		curiosities. This emotional investment in the narrative is sustained by the sudden contrast of the 'blaze of yellow light' that emanates from the opened door. This stark juxtaposition of light and darkness not only heightens the suspense but also symbolises the duality of human nature, which was a prevalent theme in Victorian literature. Furthermore, Doyle's purpose in eliciting these emotions and thoughts may be rooted in the historical context of Victorian England, a period marked by rapid industrialisation, social inequality, and moral uncertainty.
WHY? Concluding sentence(s) AO2/AO3 <input type="checkbox"/> author's purpose <input type="checkbox"/> (final thought / context about the key idea)	<div>Complete ▾</div> (only mark complete when steps 1-5 are ALL complete)	The prevailing public fascination with crime and detection, exacerbated by high-profile cases such as the Jack the Ripper murders, provided a fertile ground for Doyle to explore the darker aspects of humanity while also shedding light on the challenges faced by the burgeoning detective profession.
Criteria	Status	BODY PARAGRAPH 2 - only focus on KEY IDEA #2
WHAT? Topic sentence AO1 <input type="checkbox"/> key idea 2	<div>Complete ▾</div> (only mark complete when steps 1-5 are ALL complete)	Doyle's use of light and darkness serves to symbolise the dual nature of humanity and create suspense.
HOW? Supporting sentences AO2 <input type="checkbox"/> terminology <input type="checkbox"/> evidence <input type="checkbox"/> close analysis <input type="checkbox"/> effects*	<div>Complete ▾</div> (only mark complete when steps 1-5 are ALL complete)	The passage's description as 'ill lit' evokes a sense of danger lurking in the shadows, amplifying concern for the protagonists, which serves Doyle's purpose of immersing the reader into the suspenseful world of the novel. This motif of light and darkness pervades the novel, symbolising the dual nature of man and the struggle between good and evil, reflecting Doyle's desire to explore the complexities of human nature. When the door opens, revealing a 'blaze of yellow light,' the stark contrast effectively underscores this theme while simultaneously offering temporary relief as the characters enter a seemingly safe space. However, Doyle's purpose extends beyond merely providing respite; he skillfully sustains the tension by imbuing the central figure within the 'glare' with an air of ambiguity. This uncertainty serves to maintain the reader's emotional engagement and contributes to the unfolding mystery, demonstrating Doyle's mastery in crafting a captivating narrative. The man they encounter is depicted with striking detail, his peculiar appearance likened to 'a mountain-peak from fir trees' through an incongruous simile. This description emphasises his strangeness and further heightens





		the sense of enigma surrounding him, aligning with Doyle's objective of creating an atmosphere of uncertainty. Doyle's portrayal of the man's behavior reinforces this aura of mystery and untrustworthiness, which aligns with his purpose of exploring moral ambiguity in the Victorian era. His writhing hands imply anxiety, while his perpetually jerking facial features, alternating between smiles and scowls, underscore his duplicitous nature.
<p><u>WHY? Concluding sentence(s) AO2/AO3</u></p> <p><input 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>This emphasis on duality would have been disconcerting to Victorian readers, challenging their assumptions about the discernibility of good and evil in others, and reflecting Doyle's intent to provoke thought and reflection on societal norms and values.</p>
Criteria	Status	BODY PARAGRAPH 3 - only focus on KEY IDEA #3
<p><u>WHAT? Topic sentence AO1</u></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> key-idea-3</p>	<p>Complete ▾</p> <p>(only mark complete when steps 1-5 are ALL complete)</p>	<p>Additionally, deception and intrigue serve as vital elements in creating mystery, facilitating the unfolding of plots in surprising and unexpected ways.</p>
<p><u>HOW? Supporting sentences AO2</u></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> terminology</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> evidence</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> close analysis</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> effects*</p>	<p>Complete ▾</p> <p>(only mark complete when steps 1-5 are ALL complete)</p>	<p>'The Sign of the Four' exemplifies this, as Arthur Conan Doyle skillfully weaves a narrative laced with layers of truth and falsehood for Holmes and his associates to unravel. Set against a backdrop of historical betrayal, Jonathan Small's intricate schemes entangle unsuspecting characters like Mary Morstan and the Sholto brothers, whose quest to uncover their fathers' secrets is fraught with half-truths and misconceptions. Small, whose life was irrevocably altered by Indian rebels compelling him to steal a rajah's treasure, ultimately discloses the decade-long conflict that drives his actions. Captured by Holmes's astute deductions, Small's confession unveils a tale of human greed, revenge, and justice, intricately interwoven into Conan Doyle's multifaceted mystery. As the pieces fall into place, the obscured truth is finally laid bare, in keeping with the conventions of detective fiction. Doyle's manipulation of emotions through deception and intrigue not only sustains the reader's curiosity and engagement but also provokes deeper reflections on the complexities of human nature and morality.</p>





<p><u>WHY? Concluding sentence(s) AO2/AO3</u></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> author's purpose</p> <p><input 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>Set within the Victorian era, this exploration of hidden truths and moral dilemmas aligns with contemporary concerns, offering readers a thought-provoking and immersive literary experience that transcends mere entertainment.</p>
Criteria	Status	CONCLUSION - <u>CRUCIAL!</u>
<p><u>Restated thesis AO1</u></p> <p>(Re-write your thesis statement in different words.)</p>	<p>Complete ▾</p> <p>(only mark complete when steps 1-5 are ALL complete)</p>	<p>In conclusion, Doyle utilises vivid imagery, the symbolism of light and darkness, and the incorporation of deception and intrigue to engage readers in the narrative, stimulate contemplation on human nature and morality, and represent the historical backdrop of Victorian England, ultimately providing an enthralling and intellectually stimulating literary experience.</p>
<p><u>Summary of controlling concept AO1</u></p> <p>How does your thesis link to the central theme of the text?</p>	<p>Complete ▾</p> <p>(only mark complete when steps 1-5 are ALL complete)</p>	<p>'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.</p>
<p><u>Summary of author's central purpose AO1/AO3</u></p> <p>How does the controlling concept reflect the MAIN reason that the author wrote the text?</p>	<p>Complete ▾</p> <p>(only mark complete when steps 1-5 are ALL complete)</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p><u>Universal message AO1</u></p> <p>(What is the MAIN message of the text? Focus on the end.)</p>	<p>Complete ▾</p> <p>(only mark complete when steps 1-5 are ALL complete)</p>	<p>The novel also showcases the deductive prowess of Sherlock Holmes, highlighting the importance of critical thinking and logical analysis in solving complex crimes. This focus on the detective profession reflects the public fascination with crime and detection during the era.</p>

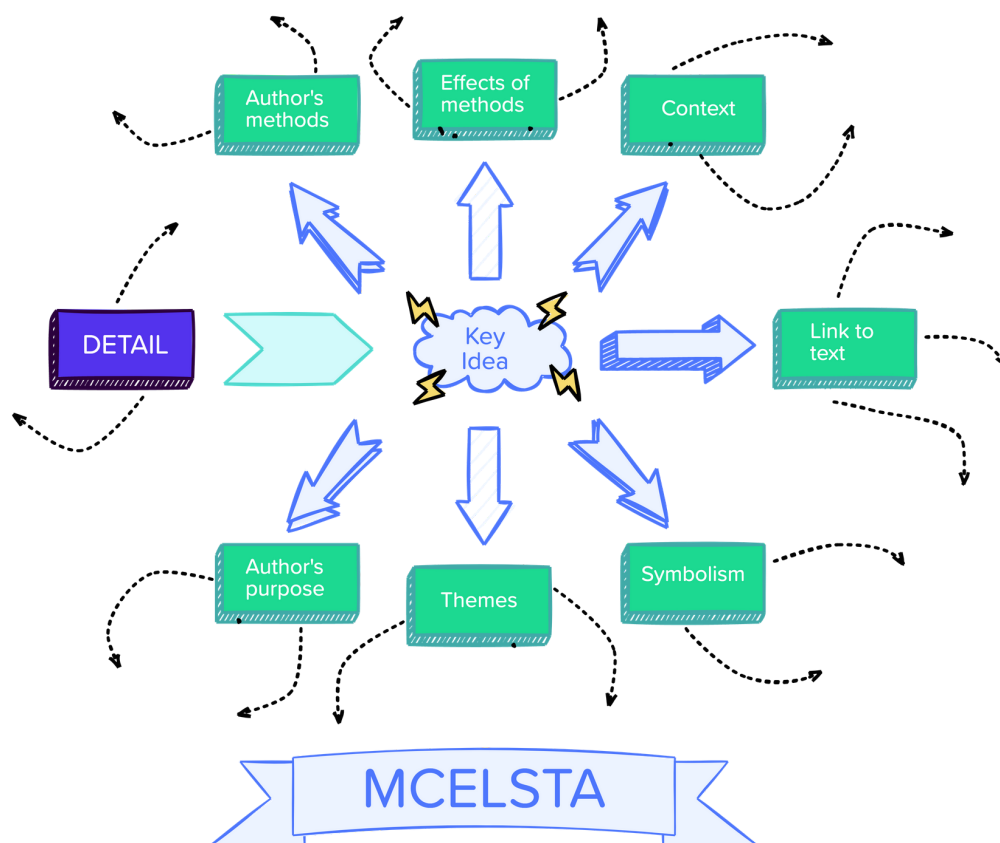




STEP 2: ADDING DETAIL-Complete the TTECEA Checklist for Detail

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

The iconic character of Sherlock Holmes and the infamous Jack the Ripper both inhabited the same urban landscape. Holmes' debut in 1887 occurred merely a year prior to the Whitechapel murders, which incited significant public outrage due to the lack of progress in solving the case. Additionally, the police force was widely perceived as inept, and their failure to apprehend the culprit elicited disdain from various segments of society, ranging from the impoverished residents of the East End to Queen Victoria herself. In fact, the queen expressed her dissatisfaction by asserting that the 'detective department was not as efficient as it might be.' Therefore, this essay will explore Doyle's use of vivid descriptions, light and darkness as symbolic motifs, and deception and intrigue to immerse readers in the narrative, provoke thought on the complexities of human nature and morality, and reflect the historical context of Victorian England, offering a captivating and thought-provoking literary experience.

Arthur Conan Doyle employs vivid descriptions to immerse readers in the story, allowing them to experience the unfolding events alongside the characters. For example, the narrator recounts the journey down a 'sordid and common' passage, evoking an atmosphere of mystery and unease. The term 'sordid' conjures images of filth and moral degradation, while 'common' implies a space accessible to all, eliciting the suspicion and fear of the Victorian upper class towards the lower class or the commoner. This historical context heightens the tension, as the passage is deemed unsuitable for refined gentlemen and ladies. Doyle's intricate descriptions serve to engage the reader on an emotional and psychological level, inviting them to share in the characters' apprehensions and curiosities. This emotional investment in the narrative is sustained by the sudden contrast of the 'blaze of yellow light' that emanates from the opened door. This stark juxtaposition of light and darkness not only heightens the suspense but also symbolises the duality of human nature, which was a prevalent theme in Victorian literature. Furthermore, Doyle's purpose in eliciting these emotions and thoughts may be rooted in the historical context of Victorian England, a period marked by rapid industrialisation, social inequality, and moral uncertainty. The prevailing public fascination with crime and detection, exacerbated by high-profile cases such as the Jack the Ripper murders, provided a fertile ground for Doyle to explore the darker aspects of humanity while also shedding light on the challenges faced by the burgeoning detective profession.

Doyle's use of light and darkness serves to symbolise the dual nature of humanity and create suspense. The passage's description as 'ill lit' evokes a sense of danger lurking in the shadows, amplifying concern for the protagonists, which serves Doyle's purpose of immersing the reader into the suspenseful world of the novel. This motif of light and darkness pervades the novel, symbolising the dual nature of man and the struggle between good and evil, reflecting Doyle's desire to explore the complexities of human nature. When the door opens, revealing a 'blaze of yellow light,' the stark contrast effectively underscores this theme while simultaneously offering temporary relief as the characters enter a seemingly safe space. However, Doyle's purpose extends beyond merely providing respite; he skillfully sustains the tension by imbuing the central figure within the 'glare' with an air of ambiguity. This uncertainty serves to maintain the reader's emotional engagement and contributes to the unfolding mystery, demonstrating Doyle's mastery in crafting a captivating narrative. The man they encounter is depicted with striking detail, his peculiar appearance likened to 'a mountain-peak from fir trees' through an incongruous simile. This description emphasises his strangeness and further heightens the sense of enigma surrounding him, aligning with Doyle's objective of creating an atmosphere of uncertainty. Doyle's portrayal of the man's behavior reinforces this aura of mystery and untrustworthiness, which aligns with his purpose of exploring moral ambiguity in the Victorian era. His writhing hands imply anxiety, while his perpetually jerking facial features, alternating between smiles and scowls, underscore his duplicitous nature. This emphasis on duality would have been disconcerting to Victorian





readers, challenging their assumptions about the discernibility of good and evil in others, and reflecting Doyle's intent to provoke thought and reflection on societal norms and values.

Additionally, deception and intrigue serve as vital elements in creating mystery, facilitating the unfolding of plots in surprising and unexpected ways. 'The Sign of the Four' exemplifies this, as Arthur Conan Doyle skillfully weaves a narrative laced with layers of truth and falsehood for Holmes and his associates to unravel. Set against a backdrop of historical betrayal, Jonathan Small's intricate schemes entangle unsuspecting characters like Mary Morstan and the Sholto brothers, whose quest to uncover their fathers' secrets is fraught with half-truths and misconceptions. Small, whose life was irrevocably altered by Indian rebels compelling him to steal a rajah's treasure, ultimately discloses the decade-long conflict that drives his actions. Captured by Holmes's astute deductions, Small's confession unveils a tale of human greed, revenge, and justice, intricately interwoven into Conan Doyle's multifaceted mystery. As the pieces fall into place, the obscured truth is finally laid bare, in keeping with the conventions of detective fiction. Doyle's manipulation of emotions through deception and intrigue not only sustains the reader's curiosity and engagement but also provokes deeper reflections on the complexities of human nature and morality. Set within the Victorian era, this exploration of hidden truths and moral dilemmas aligns with contemporary concerns, offering readers a thought-provoking and immersive literary experience that transcends mere entertainment.

In conclusion, Doyle utilises vivid imagery, the symbolism of light and darkness, and the incorporation of deception and intrigue to engage readers in the narrative, stimulate contemplation on human nature and morality, and represent the historical backdrop of Victorian England, ultimately providing an enthralling and intellectually stimulating literary experience. '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. 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. The novel also showcases the deductive prowess of Sherlock Holmes, highlighting the importance of critical thinking and logical analysis in solving complex crimes. This focus on the detective profession reflects the public fascination with crime and detection during the era.

