

A Study in Scarlet

Arthur Conan Doyle

Why does the word RACHE produce more information when Holmes refuses the obvious interpretation?

TOTAL TIME

PASSAGE

30 minutes	RACHE receives two interpretations
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FIND THE ANCHOR TEXT

Use the Anchor Text Table of Contents in the Enhanced Reader to open the START anchor. Then use the dropdown to select the END anchor.

SECTION / LOCATION	Part I, Chapter III · The Lauriston Garden Mystery
START	Across this bare space there was scrawled in blood-red letters a single word—
END	‘Rache,’ is the German for ‘revenge’; so don’t lose your time looking for Miss Rachel.
PASSAGE ID	sec-ss-03

THE MOVE

Compare interpretations of the same evidence

WHY THIS PASSAGE

Lestrade treats RACHE as an incomplete personal name, while Holmes recognizes it as a complete German word. The physical evidence never changes; what changes is the interpretive frame brought to it.

MARK

Write LESTRADE beside the evidence as he interprets it and HOLMES beside the same evidence under Holmes’s reading. Circle the background knowledge that allows Holmes to generate a different meaning.

NOTICE

- What makes Lestrade's interpretation initially plausible?
- What knowledge does Holmes possess that changes the available possibilities?
- Why does refusing the obvious interpretation produce more information rather than less?

THINK

Answer provisionally: Why does the word RACHE produce more information when Holmes refuses the obvious interpretation? Choose the strongest interpretation you can defend from this passage alone.

WRITE

Write a short evidence-based response to: Why does the word RACHE produce more information when Holmes refuses the obvious interpretation? Use at least two details from the assigned passage and explain how they support your interpretation.

CLOSE

Name the single detail that most changed or sharpened your interpretation, and explain why.

STRONG ANSWER	RACHE yields more information because Holmes treats it as a complete German word instead of an incomplete English name. A different interpretive frame unlocks evidence already present on the wall.
EVIDENCE	Compare Lestrade's 'Rachel' explanation with Holmes's German reading and the background knowledge required for the second interpretation.
WATCH FOR	Do not say Holmes simply knows more. Explain how knowledge changes what counts as a plausible interpretation of the same evidence.
SOLO	Read the exact passage independently.
SUPPORTED	Use narration and sentence highlighting while reading the same passage.
LISTENING	Listen to the exact passage; visual following is optional. Same question and evidence demand.

STUDENT PAGE · SAME PASSAGE, SAME THINKING

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Why does the word RACHE produce more information when Holmes refuses the obvious interpretation?

START ANCHOR	Across this bare space there was scrawled in blood-red letters a single word—
END ANCHOR	‘Rache,’ is the German for ‘revenge’; so don’t lose your time looking for Miss Rachel.

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OPEN THE MARKED PASSAGE IN TUMBLELIT

SOLO: read independently. SUPPORTED: use narration + highlighting. LISTENING: listen to the exact passage. The question and evidence task stay the same.

1. **MARK** - Write LESTRADE beside the evidence as he interprets it and HOLMES beside the same evidence under Holmes’s reading. Circle the background knowledge that allows Holmes to generate a different meaning.
2. **NOTICE** - What makes Lestrade’s interpretation initially plausible? What knowledge does Holmes possess that changes the available possibilities? Why does refusing the obvious interpretation produce more information rather than less?
3. **THINK** - Answer provisionally: Why does the word RACHE produce more information when Holmes refuses the obvious interpretation?
4. **WRITE** - Write a short response using at least two pieces of evidence from this passage.

Use evidence from the assigned passage. Show what you noticed and how the text supports your interpretation.