

A Study in Scarlet

Arthur Conan Doyle

How does Holmes turn the policeman's irrelevant 'drunk' into the most important person in the scene?

TOTAL TIME

PASSAGE

30 minutes	The missed drunk becomes the clue
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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 IV · What John Rance Had to Tell
START	I've seen many a drunk chap in my time, but never anyone so cryin' drunk as that cove.
END	The ring, man, the ring: that was what he came back for.
PASSAGE ID	sec-ss-04

THE MOVE

Reinterpret an earlier detail after a new inference

WHY THIS PASSAGE

The policeman dismisses a drunken man as irrelevant because he does not know what to look for. Holmes revisits that discarded detail after forming a new theory and realizes it fits the murderer returning for the ring. Relevance changes when the question changes.

MARK

Underline the policeman's description of the 'drunk.' Circle the details he treats as unimportant. Then star the moment Holmes connects those same details to the missing ring.

NOTICE

- Why does the policeman fail to recognize the man as important at the time?
- What new inference makes the old detail suddenly valuable?
- How does the scene show that evidence can be present before anyone knows what question it answers?

THINK

Answer provisionally: How does Holmes turn the policeman's irrelevant 'drunk' into the most important person in the scene? Choose the strongest interpretation you can defend from this passage alone.

WRITE

Write a short evidence-based response to: How does Holmes turn the policeman's irrelevant 'drunk' into the most important person in the scene? 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	The 'drunk' becomes crucial after Holmes forms a theory in which the murderer returned for the ring. A detail dismissed under the old question becomes central under a new one.
EVIDENCE	Use the policeman's original description, the ring problem, and Holmes's reinterpretation of the man's behavior.
WATCH FOR	Do not call the policeman foolish for missing it. Explain how relevance depends on the question an investigator is asking.
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.

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How does Holmes turn the policeman's irrelevant 'drunk' into the most important person in the scene?

START ANCHOR	I've seen many a drunk chap in my time, but never anyone so cryin' drunk as that cove.
END ANCHOR	The ring, man, the ring: that was what he came back for.

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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 - Underline the policeman's description of the 'drunk.' Circle the details he treats as unimportant. Then star the moment Holmes connects those same details to the missing ring.
2. NOTICE - Why does the policeman fail to recognize the man as important at the time? What new inference makes the old detail suddenly valuable? How does the scene show that evidence can be present before anyone knows what question it answers?
3. THINK - Answer provisionally: How does Holmes turn the policeman's irrelevant 'drunk' into the most important person in the scene?
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.