



## READING

### Elementary

Dears, last week we started to read 'Sherlock Holmes Investigates' by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. Here we can continue.

### Sherlock Holmes Investigates

#### *The adventure of the speckled band.*

The hand of our visitor was on her knee. Holmes took her sleeve, and lifted it. On her wrist we could see five red marks. They were the marks of four fingers and a thumb.

"Did he hurt you?" asked Holmes.

The lady went red, and she put her other hand on her wrist. "He is a strong man" she said. "Sometimes he's stronger than he thinks."

Holmes put his chin on his hands. For a long time he looked into the fire. Nobody spoke. In the end Holmes said "this is very serious. I need to know thousands of very many things before I decide what to do. But there is no time. I want to go to your house today. Can we look at your room? I do not want your stepfather to know we are there.

"Well," said the lady, "he is also coming into town today. He said he had some important business. I think he will be away all day. They won't be any one at the house except for a servant. I will make sure she doesn't worry you."

"Very good. Will you come with us Watson?"

"Yes of course. What will you do this morning Miss Stonor?"

"Well, I am in town now. So there are some things I would like to do before I go home. But at 12 o'clock I will take the train to my home. I am sure I will be there when you come."

"We will come in the first part of the afternoon. There are some things I must do in town first. Would you like to eat breakfast with us?"

"No. I must go now. But I am happy that I have told you about my problem. I will see you again this afternoon". She stood up and walked out of the room.

When she had gone, Holmes sat back in his chair.

"What do you think about the woman's story, Watson?" he asked.

"It all seems very strange."

"Yes, it is very strange indeed."



"If the woman is right, no-one could come through the walls or floor. The door and windows were locked, and nothing could go through the chimney. So the sister was alone when she died. It's very strange."

"And what do you think of the whistles at night. Also what do you think about the sister's strange words before she died?"

"I really don't know".

"We must think about the whistles at night. Also we must think about the gypsies who are very friendly with this doctor. And we know that the doctor will lose quite a lot of money when his stepdaughter gets married."

"Then" said Holmes "the sister talked about a band. Finally there was a sound like metal hitting something. Maybe it was the window being closed? If we think about these things, we will find the answer to the mystery."

"But what do you think the gypsies did?"

"I don't know"

"I am not sure that you are right."

"I am not sure either. That is why we are going to Stoke Moran today. I want to see if there is an answer to the problem, or if we have to start again. But what on earth!"

Holmes was surprised because the door was opened suddenly. A very big man stood there. Some of his clothes were a doctor's and some of his clothes were a farmer's. He had an expensive black hat, a long coat, and a stick in his hand.

Source: <http://www.english-online.org.uk/reading/elementread.htm>

## Intermediate

Last week you continued reading Gulliver's Travels by Jonathan Swift. I am using the Oxford Bookworms Library Green Series, Adaptations of classic and modern stories for younger readers. In this Library Gulliver's Travels is classified as stage 4 (of the 6 stages), which means approximately 1400 headwords, ideal for intermediate learners. The story is retold by Clare West and is divided into 12 chapters. Today you are going to read the first part of the seventh chapter. After the last chapter you will be given a glossary.

## CHAPTER SEVEN – PART ONE

### AT THE KING'S PALACE

Although Glumdalclitch tried to make things as comfortable as possible for me, such an exhausting life was beginning to have a bad effect on my health. I was becoming thinner and thinner. When my master noticed this, he thought I would not live much longer. But it was clear that he wanted to make as much money out of me as he could. While he was thinking how to do this, he was asked to bring me to the palace. The Queen and her ladies had heard about me and wanted to see me. When we arrived in front of the Queen, I fell on my knees and begged to be allowed to kiss her

foot. But she kindly held out her hand to me. I took her little finger in both my arms, and put it very politely to my lips.

She seemed very pleased with me, and finally she said, 'Would you enjoy living here in the palace, do you think?'

'Great Queen,' I answered, 'I must do what my master wants, but if I were free, I would want to spend my whole life obeying your orders.'

She immediately arranged to buy me from my master. He was delighted to receive a good price for me, especially as he felt sure I would not live longer than a month. I also begged the Queen to let Glumdalclitch stay with me, because she had always taken good care of me. The Queen agreed, and Glumdalclitch could not hide her happiness.

When my master had left the palace alone, the Queen said to me, 'Why didn't you say goodbye to him? And why did you look at him so coldly?'

'Madam, I must tell you,' I replied, 'that since he found me, my master has used me as an easy way of making money for himself. He's made me work so hard that I feel tired and ill. He's sold me to you only because he thinks I'm going to die soon. But I feel better already, now that I belong to such a great and good queen.'

The Queen was clearly surprised to hear such intelligent words from such a small creature, and decided to show me to her husband. When the King saw me, he thought at first that I must be a mechanical toy. However, when he heard my answers to his questions, he realized I must be alive, and he could not hide his astonishment.

To discover what kind of animal I was, he sent for three of his cleverest professors. After looking at me carefully, they decided that I was a creature outside the laws of nature. I was much too small to climb their trees, or dig their fields, or kill and eat their animals. They could not understand where I had come from, or how I could possibly survive. And when I told them that in my country there were millions just like me, they did not believe me, but just smiled. However, the King was more intelligent than they were. After speaking to Glumdalclitch and questioning me again, he realized that my story must be true.

They took very good care of me. The Queen's workmen made a special bedroom for me. It was a wooden box, with windows, a door, and two cupboards. The ceiling could be lifted off, so that Glumdalclitch could change my sheets and tidy my room. The workmen even made two little chairs and a table, and a lock for the door, so that no rats could get in.

The Queen became so fond of me that she could not eat without me. My small table and chair were always placed on the dinner table near her left elbow, and Glumdalclitch stood near me, in case I needed her help. I ate off tiny silver plates, with silver knives and forks. But I never got used to seeing the Queen eat. In one mouthful she ate as much as twelve English farmers could eat in a whole meal. She drank from a cup as big as one of our barrels, and her knives were like huge swords. I was quite frightened of them.

On Wednesday, which is a day of rest in Brobdingnag, like our Sunday, the King and Queen always had dinner together, with their children, in the King's room. I was usually invited too. My little chair and table were at the King's left elbow. He enjoyed very much hearing me talk about England – or laws, our universities, our great buildings. He listened so politely that I perhaps talked a little too much about my dear country. In the end he looked at me kindly, but could not stop himself laughing. He turned to one of his lords.

'How amusing it is,' he said to him, 'that an insect like this should talk of such important matters! He thinks his country is so highly developed! But I suppose even tiny creatures like him have a hole in the ground that they call a home. They argue, they love, they fight and they die, as we do. But of course the poor little animals aren't at our level.'

TO BE CONTINUED

### **Advanced**

Languages and area studies portal  
Advanced level EFL resource

### **Environment & wildlife: America's Bald Eagles**

#### **A REMARKABLE STORY OF SUCCESS**

When it comes to wildlife, the stories that are told in magazines and on television tend to be stories of catastrophe and destruction – stories about the disappearance of species in the face of ever-more destructive human activity.

So it comes as nice change to learn that there are exceptions - some of them quite remarkable; and as far as the United States is concerned, there can surely be no more encouraging story than that of the famous "bald eagle", which has been saved at the eleventh hour from the possibility of total extinction in all but the most isolated of regions.

No doubt the fact that this magnificent bird of prey is America's national symbol has something to do with it; but for over a hundred years, these great birds' symbolic status did little to save them from destruction.

It is estimated that there were in the region of 100,000 bald eagles in the USA in the year 1782, when their image was first adopted as a national symbol by the young States. This great bird, which has a wingspan of almost two metres, was almost a natural choice for those who were looking for a symbolic beast to stand alongside the lion of England or the Russian bear. After all, it could be found virtually throughout North America, and was also the only eagle unique to the continent.

Yet although they had chosen it as a proud national emblem, Americans did little to ensure its survival; in the course of the nineteenth century and the first half of the twentieth, the bald eagle slowly but surely disappeared from state after state, a victim of spreading urbanization, new farming techniques, and the shotguns of indiscriminate hunters.

In 1940, noting that the national bird was "threatened with extinction," Congress passed the Bald Eagle Protection Act, which made making it illegal to kill, harass, possess (without a permit), or sell bald eagles; but that was not enough to save the bird. By the early 1960s there were fewer than 450 nesting pairs in the contiguous USA; only in Alaska was their survival still guaranteed.

In 1967, bald eagles were officially declared an endangered species throughout the United States south of the 40th parallel; and a massive information campaign was launched by the federal government and by wildlife organizations, to try and save the nation's emblem, and protect its habitat from further destruction.



Among all factors that had led to the eagle's destruction, the greatest was almost certainly the massive use of pesticides by American farmers, from the 1940's onwards. One such pesticide, DDT, was sprayed on croplands throughout the USA and its residues washed into lakes and streams, where they were absorbed by fish. , which, in turn, The contaminated fish, in turn, were consumed by bald eagles.

The chemical interfered with the eagle's ability to develop strong shells for its eggs. As a result, bald eagles and many other bird species began laying eggs that had with shells so thin they often broke during incubation or failed to hatch. Their reproduction disrupted, bald eagle populations fell sharply. It was not until after the dangers of DDT became known, in large part due to Rachel Carson's famous book Silent Spring, that this chemical was banned for most uses in the United States in 1972.

As the extent and speed of the decline in eagle populations became apparent, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service developed a captive-breeding program at its Research Center at Patuxent, Maryland. Here scientists increased the species' breeding potential by removing each first clutch of eggs as soon as they were laid, and incubating them artificially. The bald eagles would usually then lay a second clutch, which they were allowed to incubate themselves. In all, 124 bald eagles were hatched at Patuxent, and subsequently returned to the wild, during the critical years.

Today, thanks to years of protection and breeding programs, the decline in the eagle population has been reversed, and numbers have begun to grow again. There are now over 4000 breeding pairs south of the 40th parallel, and the bald eagle has been officially taken off the list of endangered species in the USA. Nevertheless, it remains officially classified as a "threatened" species, and one which is protected by no fewer than three acts of Congress - with two other acts banning theft, sale or possession of its eggs.

Perhaps that is in the end the only way in which to ensure the survival of America's most famous bird can be ensured. Even this high degree of protection is not enough to save the bald eagle from the most ruthless or thoughtless of hunters; there are those who will shoot anything for pleasure.

Last year, a Florida man was fined \$1500 for shooting an eagle; he got off very lightly, given that federal law allows prison sentences and fines of up to \$100,000 dollars for those who knowingly kill or capture these magnificent birds.

## WORDS

a species: a variety of creature or plant - isolated: distant, inaccessible - bird of prey: bird that eats small animals - wingspan: width across the wings - unique to: found nowhere else but in - contiguous USA: continental USA excluding Alaska - 40th parallel: the Canadian border (in the west) - crops: plants cultivated as food - shell: hard outer casing - incubation: period when the mother bird sits on her eggs - hatch: produce a baby bird - to breed: to produce young - clutch: group - theft: stealing, taking - ruthless: without compassion, determined - got off: escaped - knowingly: intentionally –

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## WORKSHEET

### ► Text contraction.

Students should reduce each paragraph of this article to no more than 20 words, attempting to keep all the essential information.

### ► Rephrasing.

What expressions, used in the original article, mean:

To make sure that it survived .....



It was still certain that they would survive .....  
 The number of bald eagles decreased very rapidly .....  
 How widely and quickly the number of eagles was falling  
 .....

► Word endings.

Add the necessary word endings, and words, to complete this extract from the article. Take care! In four cases, no ending or extra word is needed.

The chemic\_\_\_ interfer\_\_\_ with the eag\_\_\_ ab\_\_\_ to deve\_\_\_ strong shells for its eggs. As a result, bald eagles and many other bird species be\_\_\_ lay\_\_\_ eggs that had shells \_\_\_ thin they often br\_\_\_ during incub\_\_\_ or fail\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_. Their reproduction disrupt\_\_\_, bald eagle populations fell\_\_ sha\_\_\_\_\_. It was not until after the dangers of DDT bec\_\_\_ know\_\_\_, in large part due \_\_\_ Rachel Carson's famous book Silent Spring, that this chem\_\_\_\_\_ was ban\_\_\_\_\_ for most uses.

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