

Student Name

British Literature

Mrs. Knudsen

30 August 2016

Response Questions

1. I definitely agree with Mr. Holmes when he says that "... there is nothing so unnatural as the commonplace." I think the reason has something to do with the general idea of things being too perfect. Too much solidarity, no disarray, no imperfections, and everything just right. To me, and if I were a detective, that would set off all alarms in my head, signaling to me that something is certainly wrong.
2. I believe that it's up to Miss Sutherland's discretion whether or not she wants to use her money for her family or not. So with that said, I believe that she acted in the right way, out of genuine care for her family. Yet, had she had some sort of prior knowledge, perhaps having a clue towards the true character of her family, then the money she gave would've been ignorantly placed.
3. My personal worldview dictates that a man and a woman should date to a means to an end. That end being marriage itself. If I were getting to know a woman intimately, I would consider spending a couple of years with her before asking for her hand in marriage. Situations like Miss Sutherland's could be avoided if people would stick to how things were originally designed for us by God.

Yet, of course, this is my worldview, and people aren't subject to it. The length of time I described above is justified by the primary purpose of understanding a person enough to want to spend the rest of your life with them. A first date or a couple of weeks or months isn't enough. Time is needed.

4. Mr. Windibank's actions were cruel because he manipulated his own step-daughter for money. He even went to the extent of disguising himself, operating in such a roundabout way to steal from Miss Sutherland. Mr. Windibank's cruel, heartless, and selfish actions were all born from his greedy desire for cash.
5. I do not possess the wisdom to determine whether or not Mr. Windibank deserves capital punishment, but I do know that because of his actions, he does deserve punishment. Even though Mr. Windibank hurt and manipulated his daughter, I don't think he deserves to die. Instead, I would propose that he serve time.

6. Sherlock Holmes, despite his great analytical powers, never could've known how Miss Sutherland would've responded if he revealed to her the information about her step-father. Yet, I do think that Holmes made a good judgement in not telling her; Miss Sutherland even declared that she would wait for Angel for however long it takes. Based off her answer, I'm sure a woman like that wouldn't be receptive to new revelation regarding her crooked step-father.

Extended Response: Body Language

Body language is the process of communicating nonverbally through conscious and unconscious gestures and movements. Everyone observes body language to a certain extent. It can be used to determine the mood of a person, helping us to potentially avoid hurting someone or we could use it to convey feelings to another person, perhaps even giving them a message. But, to the investigator, this provides them with a multitude of information.

In the story "A Case of Identity" by Arthur Conan Doyle, Sherlock Holmes and his friend Dr. Watson solve a case about a missing person. When Holmes conducted an interview with his client, Miss Sutherland, he carefully observed her actions, searching for indicators that would provide him with information. Holmes was only "listening" for one specific thing, and once he found it, it was this information that provided him with the evidence he needed to convict the wrongdoer. Miss Sutherland didn't convey any useful information through her mouth, but during the interview she had said all that she needed to through her body.

When investigators observe body language, they are usually looking for a couple of things. First, body language as a subject is able to be divided into multiple categories. These categories include things like positive behavior, negative behavior or "indicator behavior", and off-shoot categories like truth and deception. It is then from here that specific actions a subject takes during an interview can be filed. For example, when a subject makes and maintains eye contact while listening to questioning, this is usually regarded as a positive action, but if a subject glances away or perhaps rubs his eyes, then that would usually be regarded as a negative action.

Drawing to a close, it is also important to know that investigators aren't just guessing on these things. In the story, Sherlock Holmes was looking for characteristics, he wasn't looking intently without reason. In the 4th paragraph of page 11, Sherlock informs Watson on how he should be looking for clues:

"Never trust general impressions, my boy, but concentrate yourself upon details. My first glance is always at a woman's sleeve... As you observe, this woman had plush upon her sleeves, which is a most useful material for showing traces."

Sherlock and many other investigators alike search for things that normally don't get observed. They look for things like breaks in eye contact during responses, the timing of a response, the characteristic of the voice: it's tone, speed and volume. Body language is a language spoken by all, and as Sherlock Holmes demonstrated, it's all about listening.