

Characters	
<b>Sherlock Holmes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Detective and main character</li> <li>• He solved the Case of Mary Morstan</li> <li>• He is intelligent, very sharp, Workaholic</li> </ul>
<b>Dr. Watson</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Co-Partner of Sherlock</li> <li>• Fall in love with marry proposes to her at the end</li> <li>• very sharp, help Sherlock to solve the case</li> </ul>
<b>Mary Morstan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• She has been searching for her father who disappeared 10 years earlier under mysterious circumstance</li> <li>• She receives a Pearl every year</li> <li>• Mary Morstan is the daughter of Arthur Morstan(father)</li> <li>• Mary Morstan approaches Sherlock Holmes to solve her father's missing case who disappeared 10 years earlier under mysterious circumstance</li> <li>• Mary Morstan accepts Dr. Watson's proposal in the end</li> </ul>
<b>Captain Arthur Morstan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• he was the father of Mary Morstan who disappeared 10 years earlier under mysterious circumstance</li> <li>• British officer serving in India</li> <li>• guard at the Prison on Andaman Island</li> <li>• He was a friend of Major Sholto / Arthur helps his friend Sholto</li> <li>• Died of Heart attack</li> </ul>
<b>Major John Sholto</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• British officer serving in India, he was greedy</li> <li>• guard at the Prison on Andaman Island</li> <li>• Died of Heart attack</li> </ul>
<b>Thaddeus Sholto</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• younger son of Major John Sholto</li> <li>• he sends the anonymous letters and pearl to Mary Morstan</li> <li>• He said my father John Sholto saw Arthur Morstan, He said about the treasure that John Sholto and Arthur Morstan Brought from India</li> </ul>
<b>Bartholomew Sholto</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• elder son of Major John Sholto and Tonga Killed Bartholomew</li> </ul>
<b>Jonathan Small</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• He was a soldier in the British army in India</li> <li>• He is the wooden-legged man who seeks revenge on Major Sholto for the theft of the Agra treasure.</li> <li>• He is one of Four who discovered Treasure in Agra</li> <li>• He collaborated with Arthur and John Sholto</li> </ul>
<b>Tonga</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jonathan's loyal companion/ Jonathan partner/ he is loyal to Small.</li> <li>• He is a native of the Andaman Islands who was helped by Jonathan Small when suffering from ill health.</li> </ul>
<b>Toby</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• (Trained Dog) Toby is Sherlock Holme's dog who helps to track down the steam launch Aurora</li> </ul>

**The Sign of Four by Arthur Conan Doyle: Jonathan Small, Mahomet Singh, Abdullah Khan, Dost Akbar** (piece of paper on Mary Morstan's father's table that was sent from Thaddeus ( four names written by Jonathan Small and kept to Major Sholto)

1. Describe/ Explain/ Compare/ Contrast/ Name/ Discuss [02]
2. Illustrate/ Interpret/ Narrate/ Justify/ Find/ Identify [02]

**Describe/ Explain/ Compare/ Contrast/ Name/ Discuss [02]**

Describe the significance of Mary Morstan's visit to the Lyceum Theatre with Holmes and Dr. Watson. (March 2023)

Mary Morstan had received an anonymous letter asking her to be outside the Lyceum Theatre at 7 o'clock on a specific night. The letter promised it would be good for her. It even said she could bring two friends. So, she asked Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson to join her, and they agreed. That's how Holmes, Watson, and Mary became a team and started their investigation at the Lyceum Theatre.

**Describe The Character of 'Mary Morstan' from the point of view of Sherlock Holmes.**

Mary Morstan was a small, pretty young lady. She dressed nicely but not fancy. She had a sweet and friendly face and seemed calm. Her eyes were big and blue, showing kindness. She kept the letters and pearls safe, and she helped Holmes a lot to solve the mystery.

**Describe how Sherlock Holmes discovered the connection between Miss Morstan receiving precious pearls with Major Sholto.**

Mary's father disappeared mysteriously about ten years ago, and Major Sholto was his only friend in London. Holmes found out that Major Sholto passed away in 1882. Shortly after, Mary started getting a big pearl in the mail on the same day every year, along with a letter suggesting injustice. Holmes thought there was a connection between Major Sholto's death and the strange pearls Mary received each year.

**Elaborate the following line in the light of the novel. 'The Sign of Four'**

**"You really are an automaton- a calculating machine"**

These words are said by Watson to Holmes when Mary Morstan leaves after discussing her case. Watson's approach to the client is different from Holmes's. Watson is attracted to her and full of admiration for her. When he voices his admiration, Holmes, who is focusing on the problem, says without any trace of enthusiasm that he has not noticed if she is attractive or not. Watson is indignant and calls him a calculating machine.

## Illustrate/ Interpret/ Narrate/ Justify/ Find/ Identify

Write in brief the theme of the extract of the novel 'The Sign of Four'.

The theme of the extract revolves around the mystery of the disappearance of Mary Morstan's father, the receipt of expensive pearls by Mary, and the mysterious letter received by her. It also involves the journey of Holmes, Watson, and Mary Morstan to a strange house to meet the writer of the mysterious letter. The theme of the novel revolves around the Agra treasure. The shallowness of wealth and the destruction that can come through it is also emphasized in the novel.

How does the mystery of Bartholomew's murder lead Holmes to track down Small?

Ans. Holmes and Watson find the body of Bartholomew, who has been murdered. After investigating for some time, Holmes concludes from the footprints that two persons, one of whom had a wooden leg, had committed the crime. The wooden-legged person had stepped in creosote, leaving a distinctive scent. To follow this lead, Holmes and Watson use a dog to track the scent, leading them to the Thames River.

It becomes evident that the criminals had hired a boat. With the help of a police barge, Holmes, Watson, and the officers pursue and eventually capture the wooden-legged man, identified as Jonathan Small.

Arrange the following incidents in the correct sequence as per their occurrence in the extract from the novel "The Sign of Four".

- 1) Miss Morstan showed Holmes the pearls and letter.
- 2) Miss Morstan discussed her problem with Holmes and Watson.
- 3) They planned to meet the writer of the letter.
- 4) Miss Morstan met Holmes and Watson at their house.

Ans.

- 4) Miss Morstan met Holmes and Watson at their house
- 2) Miss Morstan discussed her problem with Holmes Watson.
- 1) Miss Morstan showed Holmes the pearls and letter.
- 3) They planned to meet the writer of the letter.

Give the central idea of the novel "The Sign of Four" from the extract given in the text.

The central idea of the given extract is the search for the solution to Mary Morstan's case. Mary meets Holmes to ask his advice about the disappearance of her father, the receipt of expensive pearls, and the mysterious letter received by her. Holmes, Watson, and Mary then make a short trip to meet the writer of the mysterious letter. This is Watson's first meeting with Miss Morstan and the beginning of his attraction towards her.

Describe in brief the importance of the following places in the extract.

(a) London

(b) Lyceum Theatre

(c) Edinburgh

(d) Agra

(e) Andaman Islands

Answer:

(a) London: The case starts here with Mary Morstan meeting Holmes at his place in London. They go to meet Thaddeus Sholto in London. They also chase Jonathan Small and Tonga in London. Tonga is killed and Small is captured. Small then narrates the entire story.

(b) Lyceum Theatre: This is the place near which the writer of the anonymous letter told Mary Morstan to reach if she wished to get justice.

(c) Edinburgh: Mary spent her childhood till she was seventeen at a boarding school in Edinburgh.

(d) Agra: When Jonathan Small was standing guard one night at the Agra fortress, he was overpowered by two Sikh troopers, who forced him to waylay a servant of a Rajah and steal a valuable fortune in pearls and jewels. This was called the 'Agra treasure'.

(e) Andaman Islands: Jonathan Small was arrested and imprisoned on the Andaman Islands for the robbery of the Agra treasure. After 20 years, Small made a deal with John Sholto and Arthur Morstan, who were the prison guards. Sholto would recover the treasure and in return send a boat to pick up Small and the Sikhs. Sholto double-crossed both Morstan and Small and stole the treasure for himself. Small vowed vengeance and four years later escaped from the Andaman Islands with an islander named Tonga after they both killed a prison guard.