Lit. Notes

Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Reader’s Guide Questions for “The Adventure of the Red-Headed League”**

**by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle**

Characters—

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the detective
2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the narrator
3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the client
4. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the assistant

1. Watson finds Holmes with a visitor, Mr. Jabez Wilson. Give details about his

appearance.

2. Holmes lists the “obvious facts” that he deduces from Mr. Wilson’s appearance. What are they and how did Homes know?

3. What is the “mystery” to be solved? What makes it unusual in detective fiction?

4. What is the only requirement needed to apply for a vacancy in the Red-Headed League?

5. How does Mr. Wilson learn of the newspaper ad? Describe how he gets the job.

6. Describe the work Mr. Wilson must do for the League. What exactly is it? When

must he do it? What important condition was Mr. Wilson given about his job?

7. Explain how his job suddenly ends. What does Mr. Wilson learn from the landlord?

8. Holmes begins to question Mr. Wilson about his assistant. List here some of the

things that he learns.

10. What detail suggests that Holmes already knows who this man is?

11. Why does Holmes visit Mr. Wilson’s shop?

12. List **five** clues that Holmes uses to deduce the solution.

13. Who is Mr. Jones? Who is Mr. Merryweather?

14. Why did Mr. Spaulding take the job of Mr. Wilson’s assistant?

15. What is the solution?

16. What was the motive?

17. Who pays Sherlock Holmes for his detective services?

18. Did Doyle “play fair” in this mystery? Explain your view.