

Case solved!

The answers, and how the cryptic clues work

	Answer	Cryptic clue explained
1	HOLMES	Detective in homes welcoming learner (6) HO(L)MES: HOMES with L (learner) inside.
2	MORIARTY	Mastermind: moment, Rhode Island, skill, unknown (8) MO (moment) + RI (Rhode Island) + ART (skill) + Y (an unknown).
3	BAKER	Bread-maker from backer losing first of cash (5) BACKER without C (first of cash).
4	INSPECTOR	Officer: cop and insert in disorder (9) COP + INSERT, rearranged ("in disorder").
5	ALIBI	Defence from a Liberal and one (5) A + LIB (Liberal) + I (one).
6	INQUEST	Investigation: fashionable pursuit (7) IN (fashionable) + QUEST (pursuit).
7	LANTERN	Lamp from rental with north rearranged (7) RENTAL + N (north), rearranged.
8	CHIMNEY	Flue from my niche rebuilt (7) MY NICHE, rearranged ("rebuilt").
9	CARRIAGE	Vehicle: motor, right, one, era (8) CAR (motor) + R (right) + I (one) + AGE (era).
10	VICTORIA	Queen: winner, one and a (8) VICTOR (winner) + I (one) + A.

The hidden message

THE THIEF IS NOT WHO WATSON
THINKS THE ANSWER IS IN PLAIN
SIGHT

Who took the folio?

The hidden message says **THE THIEF IS NOT WHO WATSON THINKS**, so it wasn't Moriarty, whose name is on the carved sign above the shelves. And **THE ANSWER IS IN PLAIN SIGHT**: right in the middle of the cover, in Holmes's magnifying glass. Ignore the circled SHERLOCK. The little word search inside the glass hides, in red, **MRS** (across), **HUDSON** (down) and **DID IT** (diagonally).

It was Mrs Hudson! She had simply tidied the folio away while dusting.

Did you spot her clue in the story? Things should be "put away where they belong".

The solved grid

I	Y	T	H	N	R	E	T	N	A	L
N	T	I	N	S	P	E	C	T	O	R
Q	R	E	T	H	I	E	C	F	I	E
U	A	S	N	O	T	H	A	R	G	W
E	I	H	O	W	I	I	E	A	A	S
S	R	T	S	M	R	K	I	O	E	N
T	O	T	N	O	A	R	H	M	I	N
K	M	E	T	B	R	S	L	T	H	E
A	Y	C	N	A	S	O	W	E	R	I
S	I	I	C	N	H	P	L	A	I	N
V	S	I	G	H	I	B	I	L	A	T

“You see, but you do not observe.”

The ten answers are shaded. The unshaded letters spell the hidden message.