**“The Adventure of the Speckled Band” Reading Questions**

-Please repeat all key elements of the questions in your answers and use specific details from the story to support your assertions.

1. From what point of view is this story told, and who is its narrator?

2. What circumstances roust Dr. Watson from his slumber that April morning?

3. Watson enjoys and admires Holmes’s ability to make “rapid deductions . . . founded on a logical basis.” Using a dictionary to assist you, explain what this means and what is so impressive about Sherlock Holmes.

4. List five early observations of their early morning visitor that are noteworthy to the investigator, Sherlock Holmes.

5. Helen Stoner presents a great deal of information to Holmes and Watson regarding her unfortunate and uncertain situation at Stoke Moran. List the five most potential clues for each of the following topics addressed by by Helen Stoner:

 - Her family history

 - Her stepfather Dr. Roylott

 - Her sister’s death

6. Who is Percy Armitage?

7. What recent event convinced Helen to seek out the assistance of Sherlock Holmes?

8. Who is the next visitor to Holmes and Watson’s apartment? Briefly describe the encounter.

9. Sherlock Holmes returns from a short excursion with information on the will of Dr. Roylott’s deceased wife (Helen and Julia Stoner’s mother). What useful information does he discover in this document that helps Holmes determine a potential motive?

10. After a short train-ride from London, the investigators continue their travel to Stoke Moran by “trap,” or horse-drawn carriage. In order to dissemble their presence on Roylott’s estate, they tell the driver they are of what profession? Explain why it would make sense for them to create that charade?

11. As Holmes and Watson investigate the living quarters at Stoke Moran, list a minimum of five of the most useful, potential clues discovered by the investigators.

12. Briefly explain the plan devised by Holmes and presented to Helen for that night’s events.

13. As the two investigators stealthily make their way back to Stoke Moran from their inn in town, they are startled by a strange creature. What is it and what is it doing there?

14. After Holmes and Watson have snuck back into Helen’s room it is dark and silent. What events break that stillness and lead the story through its climax?

15. In a clear, complete, and concise manner, explain how the crime was to have been perpetrated and, how it was instead foiled by Sherlock Holmes.