

*The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*

“The Red-Headed League” Discussion Questions

1. Describe Mr. Jabez Wilson.
2. What is the purpose of Mr. Wilson’s visit to Sherlock Holmes?
3. What does Holmes deduce from observing Wilson?
4. What is Mr. Wilson’s line of business?
5. How did Mr. Wilson learn of the Red-Headed League?
6. When Wilson is offered the position in the Red-Headed League, what are his duties?
7. Why does Wilson not question the authenticity of the Red-Headed League?
8. Who is Wilson’s assistant? How does Wilson describe him?
9. Describe Wilson’s interview for the position in the Red-Headed League.
10. When Holmes tells Wilson that “graver issues hang from it than might at first sight appear,” what does Wilson think he means?
11. Why does Holmes say that Wilson has no grievance against the league?
12. Why did Wilson pick his assistant over the dozen other applicants?
13. Why does Holmes like German music?
14. What was the difference between the area of Wilson’s business and the area behind it?
15. In recounting the businesses behind Wilson’s, Holmes mentions a Vegetarian Restaurant. Were you surprised by this fact since the year was 1890?
16. Why does Holmes rap on the street directly in front of Wilson’s place of business?
17. Who accompanies Holmes and Watson to Saxe-Coburg Square late that night?
18. What do they discover underground?
19. What is Wilson’s assistant’s real name? What is his line of business?
20. Why did he take the position at Wilson’s business?

21. According to Holmes, why does he bother with “these little problems”?