

# Contents

How to use this book .....	4
Features of this guide .....	6
An introduction to your AQA 19th-century novel .....	8
Character tree of <i>The Sign of Four</i> .....	9
Timeline of <i>The Sign of Four</i> .....	10

## Chronological section 12

Chapter One .....	12
Chapter Two .....	18
Chapters Three and Four .....	24
Chapter Five.....	32
Chapter Six .....	36
Chapters Seven and Eight.....	40
Chapter Nine.....	46
Chapters Ten and Eleven.....	50
Chapter Twelve .....	60

## Characters 64

Sherlock Holmes.....	64
Dr Watson.....	67
Mary Morstan.....	68
Athelney Jones; Thaddeus Sholto .....	69
Jonathan Small; Tonga the Islander .....	70
Minor characters of the lower classes.....	71
Review it .....	71

## Themes and contexts 72

Empire .....	72
Race .....	73
Women .....	73
Detection and science.....	74
Morality and justice .....	74
Review it .....	75

## Language, structure and form 76

Sentence structures and language choices .....	76
Metaphor and simile.....	76
Alliteration and other sound effects.....	77
Elevated language.....	77
Overview of structure .....	78
Contrast and juxtaposition.....	79
Narrative voices.....	81
Review it .....	83

## Doing well in your AQA exam 84

Understanding the question .....	84
Planning your answer .....	85
What your AQA examiner is looking for.....	86
Writing your answer.....	88
Going for the top grades .....	90
Review it .....	91

## AQA exam-style questions 92

## Glossary 94



**Check your answers on  
the free revision app or at  
[www.scholastic.co.uk/gcse](http://www.scholastic.co.uk/gcse)**