

## Mystery Genre Comprehension

### An extract from 'Death Cloud' by Andrew Lane

The following extract is from a book about Sherlock Holmes as a teenager. He is out in the woods about to make a gruesome discovery...

Within a few moments, he was out of sight of Amyus Crowe. He kept moving, but apart from a series of brown, plate-like growths emerging from the side of a tree, which he wasn't sure whether to collect or not, he could find nothing.

A flash of colour through the trees caught his attention: red spots on a white background. He moved closer, thinking it was a clump of toadstools breaking through the ground, but there was something about the shape that bothered him. It looked like...

A cloud of smoke began to rise from the object just as Sherlock recognised it for what it was: a man's body, lying twisted on the ground. The smoke wafted away, driven by the breeze, but there was no sign of fire. For a moment Sherlock thought the man was lying there smoking his pipe, his face wrapped for some reason in a red-spotted white handkerchief, but as he got closer he realized that the red blotches were neither markings on a toadstool nor spots on a white handkerchief.

They were bloody boils on the face of a corpse.

