# **A2 R2a. Can explain what words suggest about a given subject (and offer synonyms as alternatives to words read to demonstrate understanding)**

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**2a. Can explain what words suggest about a given subject (and offer synonyms as alternatives to words read to demonstrate understanding) – Test 3**

***Read*** *the text and* ***answer*** *the questions below. Use the spaces provided to write your answers.*

“It is Porlock’s writing,” said he, thoughtfully. “I can hardly doubt that it is Porlock’s writing, though I have only seen it twice before. The Greek “e” with the peculiar top flourish is distinctive. But if it is from Porlock, then it must be something of the very first importance.”

He was speaking to himself rather than to me, but my vexation disappeared in the interest which the words awakened.

“Who, then, is Porlock?” I asked.

“Porlock, Watson, is a *nom de plume*, a mere identification mark, but behind it lies a shifty and evasive personality. In a former letter he frankly informed me that the name was not his own, and defied me ever to trace him among the teeming millions in this great city. Porlock is important, not for himself, but for the great man with whom he is in touch. Picture to yourself the pilot-fish with the shark, the jackal with the lion – anything that is insignificant in companionship with what is formidable. Not only formidable, Watson, but sinister – in the highest degree sinister. That is where he comes within my purview. You have heard me speak of Professor Moriarty?

Chapter 1, *The Valley of Fear* by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

1. What impression does ‘*a shifty and evasive personality’* give of Porlock?

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1. What impression does ‘*anything that is insignificant in companionship with what is formidable’* give of Porlock’s relationship with Moriarty?

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1. Offer **two** synonyms for the word *sinister* as used to describe Professor Moriarty.
2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
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**2a. Can explain what words suggest about a given subject (and offer synonyms as alternatives to words read to demonstrate understanding) – Test 3**

**ANSWERS:**

1. What impression does ‘*a shifty and evasive personality’* give of Porlock?

He is devious, dishonest and hard to track down.

1. What impression does ‘*anything that is insignificant in companionship with what is formidable’* give of Porlock’s relationship with Moriarty?

It suggests that Porlock is a henchman to Moriarty – someone who is not the main criminal but is willing to provide help and support to the criminal.

1. Offer **two** synonyms for the word ‘*sinister’* as used to describe Professor Moriarty.

evil, disturbing, menacing, dangerous, threatening, scary