

Year 8: “Ruby in the Smoke” knowledge organiser

Key vocabulary	Contextual information	Characters
<p>Wizened: Shrivelled or wrinkled with age <i>Mrs Holland was a wizened old woman.</i></p> <p>Imperialism: A policy of extending a country's power and prestige through colonisation and other means. <i>From the 1870s onwards, Britain's pursuit of Imperialism became more ambitious.</i></p> <p>Monopoly: The exclusive possession or control of the rights of or trade in a commodity or service. <i>The East India Trading Company had a huge trade monopoly with India and China.</i></p> <p>Context: The circumstances that form the background, the setting for an event, story, idea and in terms of which it can be fully understood. <i>We need to understand the context of Victorian England in order to understand completely 'The Ruby in the Smoke'.</i></p> <p>Feminist: A person who advocates women's rights and the equality of the sexes. <i>'The Ruby in the Smoke' could be described as a feminist novel.</i></p> <p>Archetypal: A typical example. <i>Sherlock Holmes is the archetypal detective.</i></p> <p>Bohemian: A socially unconventional person, especially someone who is involved in the arts. <i>Rosa and her brother Fred lived a Bohemian lifestyle together.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The story is set in 1872, at the height of the Industrial Revolution, when Britain's Empire spread far across the globe, bringing in wealth, jewels, spices and drugs. Women had fewer rights than men during the Victorian Era, despite Queen Victoria being a woman. Mostly a woman's place was 'in the home' or revolved around motherhood. With the dawn of the Industrial Revolution women and men were encouraged to keep separate - men focusing of business. This meant that women who didn't have a male or senior chaperone were vulnerable and were at risk of damaging their reputation. 	<p>Sally Lockhart: The female protagonist who has recently lost her father.</p> <p>Mrs Holland: the wicked antagonist. She runs a lodging house and has the young Adelaide working for her. She is obsessed with getting hold of the ruby.</p> <p>Frederick Garland: A handsome photographer who meets Sally by chance.</p> <p>Jim Taylor: A young man who works at Lockhart and Selby shipping firm. He is a great amateur detective.</p> <p>Rosa Garland: Fred's outspoken sister.</p> <p>Adelaide: She works for the terrifying Mrs Holland. She finds friends and safety in Sally and Fred.</p> <p>Matthew Bedwell: He worked for Sally's father and was on board the ship that sank which downed Mr Lockhart. He has become an opium addict.</p> <p>Nicholas Bedwell: Twin brother to Matthew. He is a religious man and an expert boxer</p>
	<h3>Plot</h3> <p>'The Ruby in the Smoke' is a mystery novel set in Victorian London. Sally Lockhart's father has just died. Sally goes to the offices of her father's shipping firm, Selby and Lockhart.</p> <p>She has received a letter that warns her about the 'Seven Blessings.' She asks the company secretary about this and he immediately dies of fright. A boy called Jim overhears this and decides to help Sally with her mystery. Sally returns to Mrs. Rees' house, a relative whom she has been living with since her dad died.</p> <p>Sally begins to investigate and is soon drawn into two dangerous mysteries, one revolving around a much-desired ruby and the other concerning her father's death.</p>	<h3>Subject-specific terminology</h3> <p>Figurative language - The author uses features such as similes, metaphors and atmospheric language to describe the setting.</p> <p>Pathetic fallacy - This is when the weather or environment reflect the emotions of the character. Pullman uses the image of smoke to reflect the pollution of the industrial revolution and hint at the smoke created by opium</p> <p>Foreshadowing - Giving a hint at an event that will happen later in the narrative</p> <p>Narrative Hook - This is something that grabs the attention of the reader. It could be an introduction to a character, a mention of a future event, a shocking revelation or atmospheric description. Usually at the start of a novel or chapter.</p>