***The Blind Banker***

***Part 1 – The Yellow Code***

*http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/products/8193*

*http://arianedevere.livejournal.com/45111.html*

**Teacher’s Notes**

Level: Pre-advanced – Advanced

Time: 90 minutes

Focus: listening, speaking, vocabulary

Introduction:

This is the second episode of Sherlock, Series 1. You could watch it as a follow-up to *A Study in Pink*, but you don’t need to have seen that episode. However, it is important to watch both parts of *The Blind Banker* in order to get the whole story.

Scene 1 (opening)

Encourage students to answer in full details. They don’t need to write much while they watch, but be observant and try to notice and remember as much as possible.

*Answers: 1. She’s a curator and/or guide at the museum, responsible for looking after some ancient Chinese teapots and carrying out a tea ceremony. 2. She seems reserved, quiet, modest, perhaps cold, conscientious … 3. He’s tried several times to ask her out, but she’s not interested. She says he wouldn’t like her much, but he’d like to get to know her and decide for himself. 4. Accept and discuss all suggestions!*

Scene 2 (at the bank)

Remind students again to notice details – remember that Sherlock is a very observant person, and the clues to the crimes almost always lie in the small details. For the discussion question, encourage students to come up with more than one option and to evaluate the relative likelihood of each one.

*Answers: 1. They were at university together, but they don’t seem to have been in contact much (or at all) since then. Superficially, they get on, but you get the feeling they might find each other annoying. 2. Vandalism: the bank’s founder’s office has been graffitied with yellow paint. 3. He looks at the CCTV footage, looks out of the window, moves around the office (encourage speculation about why these are all important)*

Scene 4 (going to find someone)

When watching the scene for the second time to deduce the meaning of the phrases, it’s probably a good idea to have the subtitles on.

*Answers: 1. His watch: the time was right, but the date was two days out: he’d crossed the dateline twice. The watch is a new model, so he must have done this since he bought the watch in February. 2. It’s a message. 3. Edward Van Coon, a bank employee who traded with Hong Kong. 4. Tricks a woman into buzzing him into the building and letting him use her balcony to climb into the flat below. 5. Whether it’s a suicide: the policeman thinks it must be because everything was locked from the inside; Sherlock thinks not because it’s awkward for a left-handed person to shoot themselves in the right side of the head. 6. He’d been on a short trip away, he had had something packed in his suitcase, there was a black object inside the dead man’s mouth.*

*Vocabulary answers: 1. Look for clues. 2. That means there are a lot fewer possible suspects. 3. Let you in through the main doors using the buzzer system. 4. Bankers, usually young, intelligent, risk-taking, and extremely rich (named after the City of London, the area where London’s banks and stock exchanges are located). 5. Change or spoil evidence. 6. agree with. 7. Twisting, moving uncomfortably. 8. That’s really unlikely.*

Scene 4 (another crime scene):

Encourage students to think laterally, to notice small details, and (especially in the discussion section) to speculate freely, not getting stuck on one possibility.

*Answers: The crimes are connected because in both cases the victim was found in a room that was locked on the inside, they took place on a high floor of a building, and a black origami flower was found there.*

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***Part 2 – The Yellow Code***

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**Watch the opening scene (0:00 – 3:17).**

1. What is the woman’s job?
2. What is her personality?
3. What is going on between her and her colleague?
4. What could it be that scares her?

**Watch the scene in the bank (6:36 – 11:52).**

1. What’s the relationship between Sherlock and Sebastian?
2. What’s the crime?
3. What clues does Sherlock look for?

**Discuss:**

1. *Who could have committed the crime?*
2. *Why might they have done it?*
3. *How might they have done it?*
4. *What kind of person should Sherlock be looking for?*
5. *What kinds of questions should he ask next?*

**Watch the scene where Sherlock goes to find someone (11:52-17:30).**

*What conclusions has Sherlock come to? How did he arrive at them?*

1. How did he know about Sebastian’s travel itinerary?
2. What is the graffiti?
3. Who was it aimed at?
4. How does Sherlock get into the flat?
5. What do Sherlock and the policeman disagree about? Why do they each believe their own version of events?
6. What important clues does Sherlock find at the crime scene?

**Watch this scene again, and deduce the meaning of the following phrases.**

1. *sniff around*
2. *That narrows the field considerably.*
3. *Do you want me to buzz you in?*
4. *City boys*
5. *tamper with evidence*
6. *comply with*
7. *contortion*
8. *What are the chances of that?*

**Watch the scene where Sherlock investigates another crime scene (22:02-25:44).**

List all the connections with the previous crime.

**Discuss:**

How do you think the woman we saw at the beginning of the episode is connected to these other crimes?