The Sign of Four Chapter 6

I. Preview question

II. Teaching materials

1. At this instant a horrible change came over his expression; his eyes

stared wildly, his jaw dropped, and he yelled, in a voice which I can never forget, “Keep him out! Keep him out!’”

这里是在描写Major Sholto看到窗外的人脸时惊恐的神情。 「instant」在这里是名词，有“片刻;时刻”的意思;这个单词还经常作形

容词，表示“立即的;马上的”，比如我们平时喝的速溶咖啡就叫 instant coffee，方便面就叫 instant noodles 或者 instant ramen。

2. A face was looking in at us out of the darkness. We could see the whitening of the nose where it was pressed against the glass. It was a bearded, hairy face, with wild cruel eyes and an expression of concentrated hatred.

黑暗中的一张脸，他的鼻子压在窗玻璃上，这是一张长着络腮胡毛发茂密 的脸，脸上还带着仇恨。

3. We searched the garden that night, but found no sign of the intruder, except that just under the window a single footmark was visible in the flower bed.

Sholto兄弟在父亲死后搜查了花园，但是找不到intruder(入侵者，也就 是窗外的那个男人)的任何痕迹，除了在窗台下发现了一个单独的脚印( a single footmark)。

注意是一只脚的脚印，而不是一对脚印，大家有没有想到什么?

4. His cupboards and boxes had been searched, and upon his chest was fixed a torn piece of paper, with the words “The sign of the four” scrawled across it.

第二天Major Sholto的房间被搜了个遍，在父亲的保险箱上还钉这一张纸 ，潦草地写着“The sign of the four”，出现关键证据串联起主线。这里的 chest不是指胸膛，因为Major Sholto已经死了，不可能还在房间里，所以 chest指的是柜子或者保险箱。

大家可以猜一下，这里的四签名是什么?和脚印又有什么关系?

5. My brother and I naturally associated this peculiar incident with the fear which haunted my father during his life; but it is still a complete mystery to us.

父亲临终前窗外出现的人脸、窗外留下的脚印以及第二天早上父亲房间被 彻底搜查这一连串的事，使Sholto兄弟俩自然而然将这些事和他父亲生前 终日的惶惶不安联系起来，但是究竟是为什么，他们却并不知道。

6. At the short account of her father’s death Miss Morstan had turned deadly white, and for a moment I feared that she was about to faint.

「at the short account of...」，在短暂的关于......叙述中，「account」除 了表示“叙述”的意义以外，还有一个常用意义就是“账户”，比如bank account(银行账户)。

「be about to...」，即将，马上，表达非常迫近的情况。这里是 Dr.Watson 担心 Miss Morstan 马上就要晕倒了。

7. Sherlock Holmes leaned back in his chair with a far-away expression and half-closed eyes. As I glanced at him, I thought how on that very same day he had complained bitterly of the boredom of life. Here was a problem which would test his ability to the utmost.

这里是 Dr.Watson 观察到 Sherlock 的表情，半闭着眼睛，带着一种 far- away(遥远而又茫然)的神情。Dr.Watson 看着他，想起今天早些时候他还

在抱怨生活无聊，现在就有了一件极度考验他能力的案件。「to the utmost」，极度，到极致。

8. The pearls were evidently of great value, and he did not want to part with them, for my brother was himself a little inclined to my father’s fault.

因为珍珠价值连城，所以 BS 不是很愿意把珍珠给别人，这一点他跟他父 亲犯的错有点像。「himself」在这里表强调，「be inclined to」表示“倾 向于”。

9. Finally I persuaded him to let me find out Miss Morstan’s address and send her a single pearl at fixed intervals, so that at least she might never be completely out of money.

「at fixed intervals」相当于 regularly，定期地。at least she might never be completely out of money，这样她至少不会遇到完全没有钱的窘 境。看来 TS 还是个好人，能把钱财当身外物。

10. Besides, it would have been very bad taste to have treated a young lady in so mean a fashion.

treat sb. in a...fashion，以......方式对待某人。mean作形容词的意思是“卑 鄙的，吝啬的”的意思。「fashion」有“方式”之意。

in so mean a fashion 也可以表达为 in such a mean fashion，注意一下 so 和 such 以及形容词 mean 的位置在两种表达中有所不同。

11. Our new acquaintance produced from behind a curtain a very long fur coat, which he buttoned tightly up.

Our new acquaintance 指的就是 Mr.Sholto 这位新认识的人。这里的「 produce」意思是“Show or provide (something) for consideration, inspection, or use.”，可以直接理解为“拿出”，这句话也可以写成 produced a very long fur coat from behind a curtain。

12. So he worked out all the space in the house, and made measurements everywhere, so that not one inch should be unaccounted for. Among other things, he found that the height of the building was seventy-four feet, but on adding together the heights of all the separate rooms, and making every allowance for the space between, he could not bring the total to more than seventy feet. There were four feet unaccounted for.

这里是讲Mr. Sholto的哥哥为了找到宝藏，精确测量了房子里的每一个尺 寸，最后发现房屋的总高是74英尺(约22.5米)，而他量来量去房子总高 加起来只有不到70英尺(约21.3米)，于是他就在这消失的4英尺里找到 了宝藏。

「unaccounted」的意思是“Not included in (an account or calculation) through being lost or disregarded.”(因为丢失或忽视而导致未被纳入计 算或者叙述中)，可以简单理解为“不知所踪的”“未被说明的”，常常和for 连用，比如A substantial amount of money is unaccounted for. (一大笔 钱不知所踪。)今天account出现了两次哦，快去把这个单词所有意思都 查一下。

「make allowance(s) for sth」.这个短语的意思是“Take into consideration when planning something.”(计划的时候考虑到......)，可 以理解为“为......留有余地”，这里是说 Bartholomew 在测量的时候考虑到 了每一层之间的空间高度，也就是强调他计算得非常精确。

III. Class discussion

1. It was **maddening** to think that the hiding-place was on his very lips at  the moment that he died. Maddening 来自于哪个词?
2. He thought, too, that if we parted with the necklace it might **give rise to**  gossip and finally bring us into trouble. give rise to 是让...增长吗?
3. We **had better** resolve this issue without delay. 将这句话改为反问句。