



The Essential Case File : Character Profiles Shirley Holmes : English

NAME : SHIRLEY HOLMES
AGE : 13
NATIONALITY : DUAL. BRITISH / CANADIAN

Shirley Holmes was born in England but moved to North America while she was just a baby, when her father was offered a posting at the British Consulate in Redington.

Her father's work means she's travelled the world extensively, and the photo album has the pictures to prove it. Her experiences have given her a confidence beyond her years : after all, when you've ridden a camel in the Sahara Desert at the age of three, you can probably face up to any challenge !

As much as Shirley adores travelling, she also loves living in Redington. It's a showcase city for business people and government officials, but the rivers and parks also make it a popular tourist venue. Pristine, green, and friendly : normal to the point of being bland - at least on the surface.



But Shirley *never* looks only at the surface. She knows that things that appear normal, rarely are; all she has to do is scratch to find the mystery and intrigue that lurk beneath. Just like her great-great-uncle, the legendary detective Sherlock Holmes Shirley has a keen nose for mystery and loves nothing more than getting to the bottom of a brain busting puzzle. Luckily for her, she is sharp-witted, perceptive and quick-thinking - all vital elements to being a great detective.

Shirley goes to school at the elite Sussex Academy. It's full of kids from around the world, and many of her cases begin there. With her quick brain she doesn't find lessons too much of a problem, and besides, there's always plenty of scope for observation and the latest Redington gossip to catch up on. Plus, lesson time can be valuable for thinking through clues.

Her teachers at Sussex Academy all agree that she's a smart pupil, but often notice that her mind seems to be elsewhere in class. If only they knew ! But as long as she keeps up the good grades they're not too worried. And as Shirley likes to keep a low profile, that suits her just fine !

Shirley fits into school life fairly easily, although she feels it sometimes gets in the way of her real work ! She has friends, and you'll meet some of them later, but occasionally they feel excluded from her world. Which, of course, they often are !

But Shirley is essentially a loner; she realised early on that single-mindedness was an essential part of her mission in life. Conforming to 'normality' in order to fit in would mean giving up - and Shirley never gives up.

Finally, Shirley has set herself several central mottoes which help her through her life, as well as with her detective work. She always tries to be objective and have an open mind towards everything. She knows to look for means, motive, opportunity, and realises the importance of evidence in every case. Last but not least is her belief in the fact that if you look hard enough, there's always something to be found. In the case of Shirley Holmes, this is especially true !

