

The Mary Celeste

1. Read the story of the *Mary Celeste*. There are sixteen lines. Twelve of them contain one extra word. Find the extra words and write them in the column on the right. The first two lines have been done as examples.

1	The ship <i>Mary Celeste</i> was launched in the Canada in 1860 under her original name,	<u>the</u>
2	<i>Amazon</i> . At around 32 metres long and weighing 285,000kg, she was designed to	<u>✓</u>
3	carry trading goods around the world. For more ten years she was in constant service,	<u> </u>
4	and by the time she was auctioned in New York in 1871, she has only fetched \$3,000.	<u> </u>
5	Her new owners spent almost four times that amount to restore and for improve her.	<u> </u>
6	She was registered as an American vessel and she renamed <i>Mary Celeste</i> . Her new	<u> </u>
7	captain was a 37-year-old Benjamin Briggs, an experienced seaman. On November	<u> </u>
8	7 th , 1872, Captain Briggs was left New York aboard the <i>Mary Celeste</i> with his wife,	<u> </u>
9	young daughter and a crew of seven men. The ship was carrying a cargo of 1,700	<u> </u>
10	containers of alcohol and was bound up for Genoa, Italy. None of them was ever seen	<u> </u>
11	again. On December 5 th , 1872, the captain of the <i>Dei Gratia</i> , which it had left New	<u> </u>
12	York eight days after them, found the <i>Mary Celeste</i> drifting abandoned between of	<u> </u>
13	the Azores and Portugal. The ship showed signs of having been hit by a storm and	<u> </u>
14	there were no lifeboats at present, indicating that they had been launched. The	<u> </u>
15	accepted explanation was that, thinking the ship was sinking, the captain ordered	<u> </u>
16	everyone get into the lifeboats, which were immediately sunk in the storm.	<u> </u>

2. Complete the rest of the story using *a/an, the* or nothing.

Twelve years later, in 1884, 1) _____ unknown writer named Arthur Conan Doyle wrote 2) _____ fictional story about 3) _____ ship he called the *Marie Celeste*. In his story the ship is found abandoned in 4) _____ middle of 5) _____ Atlantic, just like the real-life *Mary Celeste*. However, Conan Doyle added a lot of detail to 6) _____ story to make it more mysterious; in his story when the ship was discovered 7) _____ table had 8) _____ meal on it which had only been half eaten and there were hot cups of tea on the table. The ship's clock was turning backwards and 9) _____ only living soul on the ship was the cat.

Since the story was written it has become more famous than the original events and people truly believe that the fictional story is 10) _____ factual mystery. And what of Conan Doyle? Three years after he wrote the story of the *Marie Celeste*, he introduced the world to 11) _____ new fictional character, named Sherlock Holmes. The rest is 12) _____ history.