In "The Blue Carbunkle," Holmes demonstrates his insights into the criminal mind, and uses his own judgment to let the guilty man go free rather than turn him over to the police. This is partially motivated by his lack of respect for the police, and also because he thinks that people motivated by greed are less likely to reoffend than those who are truly devious and amoral. Sherlock Holmes demonstrates compassion to the criminal when he vows to be good from here on.

Do you agree or disagree with Holmes? Think about what you know of current criminal laws, and our own system of justice, do you think they should be more, or less compassionate?