

Pupils must think like Sherlock Holmes to win contest, books

by Julia Sellers for the Augusta Chronicle
Wednesday, December 20, 2006

North Augusta Middle School pupils received an inspirational visit from Sherlock Holmes on Monday in preparation for an upcoming contest.

Bob Robinson, dressed in houndstooth cloth and carrying a wood cane, brought the detective to life for Laurie Frazier's eighth-grade English I class.

"I'm 150 years old, but I don't show it," Dr. Robinson said.

Dr. Robinson and Detective Tim Thorton, of the North Augusta Department of Public Safety, presented Mrs. Frazier's class with copies of *The Hound of the Baskervilles* to assist them with their projects based on the novel. The pupils' projects will compete against other schools in a contest sponsored by the Sherlock Holmes group in Columbia.

"We've done this for about four or five years," Dr. Robinson said. "We wanted to encourage a whole new generation to read Sherlock Holmes novels."

As part of their presentation, Dr. Robinson set up a mock crime scene for the pupils and had them discuss where to search for clues.

"CSI is just a television show - in short, it's not real," Mr. Thorton said. "We have to take what theories we might develop to the next level with evidence."

Holmes uses the same skills to solve crimes in the novels.

"He relied on the science of observation and deduction to solve the mysteries," Dr. Robinson said.

The pupils will read the novel as part of their curriculum and will have until spring break to work on their projects.

"I hope this is good," said Chelsea Gailliard, 13, when she was handed her book.

The pupils are competing for books for themselves and their school.

"We're looking for originality and adherence to the essence of Sherlock Holmes," Dr. Robinson said of the winning criteria.