



I only quote
this as a
trivial
example of
observation
and
inference.

The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes

Adventure XV -- The Adventure of the Silver Blaze

1. "A clever counsel would tear it all to rags."
2. "A more perfect compound of the bully, coward, and sneak than Master Silas Brown I have seldom met with."
3. "Because I made a blunder, my dear Watson - which is, I am afraid, a more common occurrence than anyone would think who only knew me through your memoirs."
4. "I follow my own methods and tell as much or as little as I choose. That is the advantage of being unofficial."
5. "Improbable as it is, all other explanations are more improbable still."
6. "Inspector Gregory, to whom the case has been committed, is an extremely competent officer. Were he but gifted with imagination he might rise to great heights in his profession."



7. "Is there any point to which you would wish to draw my attention?"

"To the curious incident of the dog in the night-time."

"The dog did nothing in the night-time."

"That was the curious incident."

8. "It is one of those cases where the art of the reasoner should be used rather for the sifting of details than for the acquiring of fresh evidence. The tragedy has been so uncommon, so complete, and of such personal importance to so many people that we are suffering from a plethora of surmise, conjecture, and hypothesis. The difficulty is to detach the framework of fact - of absolute undeniable fact from the embellishments of theorists and reporters. Then, having established ourselves upon this sound basis, it is our duty to see what inferences may be drawn and what are the special points upon which the whole mystery turns.."

9. "Nothing clears up a case so much as stating it to another person."

10. "One true inference invariably suggests others."

11. "See the value of imagination. It is the one quality which Gregory lacks. We imagined what might have happened, acted upon the supposition, and find ourselves justified. Let us proceed."

12. "The horse is a very gregarious creature."