

HOLMES FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Vol. 2
No. 3

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FOR THE YOUNG
MYSTERY FAN

WELCOME TO HOLMES FOR THE HOLIDAYS

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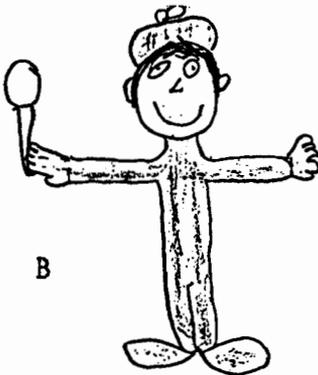
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BILLY'S PAGE

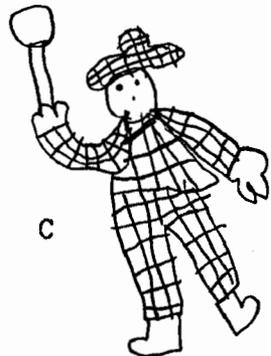


We're proud to display three more first place winners in our 1990 Spring Art Contest. Picture A was submitted by Jed Lackritz, age 12 of San Antonio, Texas; Picture B is by Lara Belcher, age 7 of Chester, Illinois; and Picture C is from Katie Geis, age 6 of Snohomish, Washington. Congratulations on some fine productions!

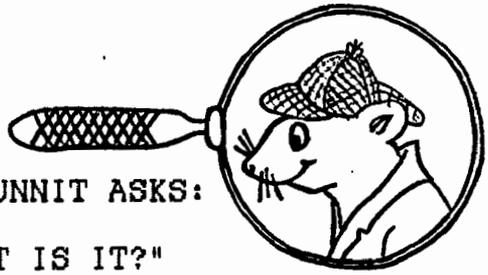
In *The Red-Headed League*, Holmes finds a hollow wall way.



B



C



HUGH DUNNIT ASKS:

"WHAT IS IT?"

Hugh Dunnit, our mysterious mouse detective has listed seven clues to the above question. Using your best detective skills, and a little luck, read one clue at a time (in any order) and see how many clues it takes you to solve the mystery of "What Is It?"

- 1) I've been around at least five thousand years.
- 2) For American Indians I was a native dish.
- 3) Christopher Columbus bought necklaces made of me from West Indies natives.
- 4) My name comes from the Middle English word "poppe", which means "explosive sound."
- 5) I no longer have an ear, but you can certainly hear me when I "get cooking"!
- 6) Although I love the theatre, you'll find me hiding under the seats by the end of the movie.
- 7) The average American eats almost two pounds of me each year.

The answer is on page 27. See how you rate against the Master!

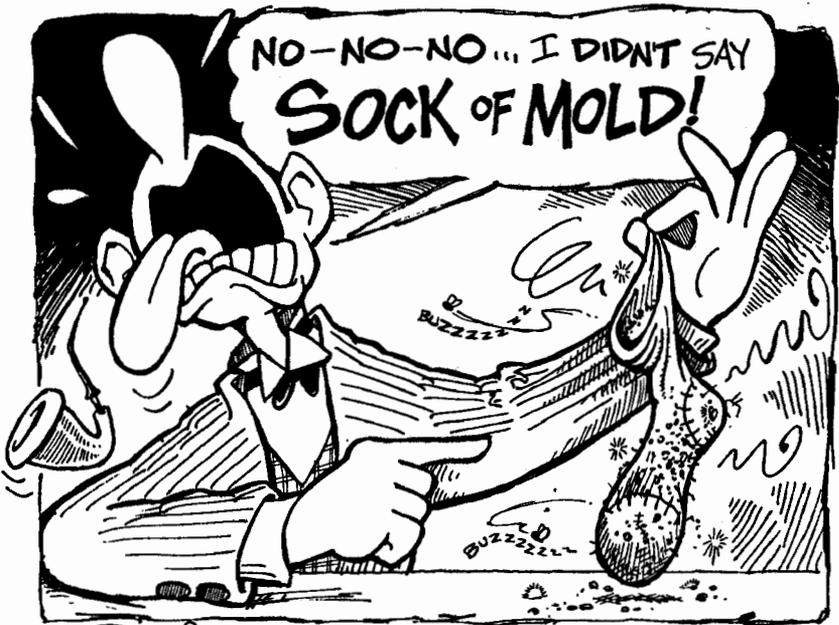
IF YOU SHOULD CATCH ONE ...

NOW THAT I'VE **CAUGHT** YOU,
MR. LEPRECHAUN, YOU MUST
HAND OVER YOUR
POT OF GOLD

- GRANTED -



NO-NO-NO... I DIDNT SAY
SOCK OF MOLD!



J. Decker

See Like Sherlock

by Susan G. McClure

People always thought Sherlock Holmes was a magician or psychic (could read peoples minds). He explained quite often that it was nothing more than observation (paying attention to all that he saw). For example, a conversation between Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson from "A Scandal In Bohemia" goes as follows:

HOLMES: "...you have frequently seen the steps which lead up from the hall to this room."

WATSON: "Frequently."

HOLMES: "How often?"

WATSON: "Well, some hundreds of times."

HOLMES: "Then how many are there?"

WATSON: "How many? I don't know."

HOLMES: "Quite so! You have not observed. And yet you have seen..."

Let's see how well you observe. Have a piece of paper and a pencil ready. Look over the pictures on the opposite page for 1 minute. At the end of the minute turn the book over and see how many of the 21 things you can remember.

You can play this with a friend at home too. Before the game, place ten to twenty different things on a table. Cover them with a cloth. The more things you use the harder - and more challenging - the game will be. Give your friend a piece of paper and pencil and then remove the cloth. Give them 1 minute to look over the items and then cover them back up. Have them try to list as many as they can. Then let them find some objects for you to observe.

"SHERLOCK HOLMES IN THE COMIC BOOKS"
by Charlotte A. L. Erickson

Part Three
A New Comic Era

The 1950's began a new era in comic books with the horror and EC (Entertainment Comics) comic books. The main subjects of EC comics were: horror, weird fantasy, weird science, shock suspense and crime suspense. In 1953, another comic book appeared and Sherlock was satired in a new manner. MAD, which began in the early 1950's with "Humor in a Jugular Vein" and is still cartooning today, wrote the story "Shermlock Shomes" with detectives Sherlock Shomes and Dr. Watsit which appeared in Mad #7. Sherlock Shomes is after Arty-Morty and is asked to look into the death of a girl scout's uncle who died mysteriously in a locked room. Shermlock Shomes and Dr. Watsit appear again in a cartoon entitled "The Hound of the Basketballs" in Mad #16. Mad Magazine has continued to spoof Sherlock Holmes in single panel or short cartoon sequences. In 1986, Mad again satired Sherlock Holmes in the full-length cartoon strip "Young Sureshlock Homely" which was based on the movie "Young Sherlock Holmes".

Another comic book printed during the 1940's and '50s which cartooned Sherlock Holmes a number of times was Madhouse Comics by Ajax. The detectives in this comic were Shilock and Botson and the stories were always written by Hugh Dunit. This comic book had a similar format to the comic books that reprinted newspaper strips, multiple serials generally about four independant

stories per issue. The difference between this comic and the others was that these stories were generally original and not reprints.

Charlton Comics began a new series in the mid '50s that did not last long, in fact there were only two comic books. The Baffling New Adventures of Sherlock Holmes were new stories done in comic book style with a serious tone. Dell Comics also printed two Sherlockian comic books during the early '60s. The New Adventures of Sherlock Holmes were printed in Dell's Four-Color series and each comic book had at least two original stories in it. Both of these comics were written as pastiches rather than comic parodies.

The early 1960's become known as the Silver Age of Super Heroes because of the renewal of interest in super heroes and costumed heroes after the diversion of the late '40s and '50s. Superboy, Superman and Batman as well as others met Sherlock Holmes or Sherlockian characters from time to time. Superboy had his secret identity threatened by detective Sherlock Haymes in Adventure Comics #263. Superman dreams about meeting Sherlock Holmes in Action Comics #283. And, since 1945, Batman has occasionally had Sherlockian encounters. Recently, in Detective Comics #572, Sherlock Holmes comes out of retirement, at the age of 132, and joins forces with Batman to thwart the great grandson of Moriarty.

In 1975, DC Comics published the comic book Sherlock Holmes #1. The two stories printed were "The final Problem" and "The Adventure of the Empty House". These were nicely drawn and accurate



scripts. There was mention of more comics to come but the comic book was canceled after the first issue due to lack of popularity. Similarly, Marvel Comics, in their Marvel Preview Presents series, published a nicely drawn and accurate rendition of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" in a two part series with suggestions of more to come. Unfortunately, that also fizzled out. Sherlockian characters have continued to make appearances in many other comic books. Kamandi: The Last Boy on Earth!, a futuristic jungle boy theme comic, had eight episodes where Mylock Bolldstalker, a bloodhound dressed in a deerstalker and smoking a pipe, is the world's greatest detective and with his assistant, Doile, help Kamandi in his quest for evermore. The Joker #6 featured an actor playing the part of Sherlock Holmes in a theatrical production who gets hit on the head. He begins to believe he is Sherlock Holmes. He then proceeds to hunt down the Joker (Batman's nemesis) whom he believes to be Moriarty.

Funny animals have also not lost their appeal. In the late 1970's a number of Looney Tune animals dressed up in Sherlockian attire. Daffy Duck became Armchair Daffy and, wearing a deerstalker, solved mysteries. Tweety Pie, the little canary Sylvester the Cat is always after, dons a deerstalker. Also, Snooper wears a deerstalker while he and Blabber solve mysteries. Even Willie E. Coyote, of the Road Runner cartoons, wears a deerstalker in one episode.

Recently a number of new comic books have appeared on the scene with

Sherlockian themes. Bozz Chronicles, published in 1986, was a well thought out comic book which depicts an alien creature who crashed his space ship in England during the Victorian Era. He meets Amanda Flynn (a prostitute) who gets him interested in crime detection. Together they start Boswell (Mandy made up this name for Bozz) and Flynn Consulting Detective Agency. Their agency handles cases Scotland Yard won't touch. This keeps Bozz's mind off "home" and Mandy "off the streets". Bozz occasionally wears a deerstalker, dressing gown and, when is seen in public, he wears formal attire. Somerset Holmes is a woman who has losses of memory. She goes to see a doctor, and while waiting in his examinig room, the doctor is murdered. Everyone is after her (the police, the killer, etc) and she does not know who she is. So, she takes the name Somerset Holmes after seeing a bill board about a new housing complex "Summerset Homes, Better Living for a Brighter Future." There seems to be no other similarity to Sherlock other than her name. Another comic book recently published is Baker Street. Baker Street #1 had an opening statement about Sherlock Holmes and that this comic was going to be a modern day detective type comic book set in the hard core punk street scene of England. Cases of Sherlock Holmes is another current comic book in a graphic novel format which began publication in 1985. This comic book is generally comprised of the stories from The Canon in text form with illustrations depicting various scenes from the story drawn around the text. A pastiche appeared in

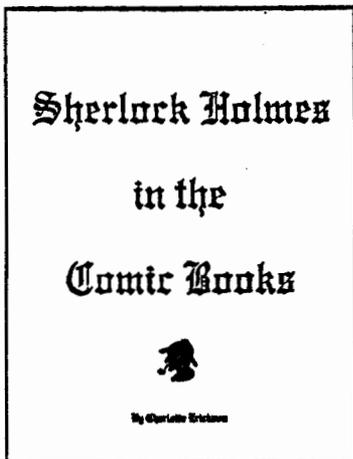
Cases of Sherlock Holmes#3. It was a well written original story entitled "The Strange Adventure of the Vourdalak". Other comic books with original pastiches that are entirely Sherlockian are Scarlet in Gaslight which is a four part series where Sherlock Holmes goes tooth and nail against Dracula, and A Case of Blind Fear which is also a four part series where Sherlock Holmes comes face to face (?) with The Invisible Man.

Reprints of newspaper comic strips of the 1930's thru the '50s have again become popular. Some of the current comic books in this area are Sherlock Holmes which reprints the 1950's Sherlock Holmes newspaper comic strip written by Edith Maser with art by Frank Giacoia. Sherlock Holmes of the '30s reprints the 1930's newspaper comic strip created by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle with art by Leo O'Mealia. Sherlock Holmes Casebook was a two comic book mini-series published in 1989. This comic reprinted Dell's two comic books The New Adventures of Sherlock Holmes originally printed in the 1960's. Reprinting of older story scripts has also come into increasing popularity with the renewal in publishing Walt Disney comics by Gladstone. Mickey, Goofy, Donald and his nephews are showing up in deerstalker caps and other Sherlockian gear. Many of these stories are reprints from earlier comic books, some are from early newspaper comic strips and some are new stories. Disney has recently revoked Gladstone's permit to publish and reprint Disney comics. Disney is publishing the comic books under their own name instead. Hopefully, Mickey,

Goofy, Donald and his nephews as well as other Disney characters will still appear from time to time in Sherlockian attire.

Sherlock Holmes in the Comic Books

by Charlotte Erickson



The updated and revised (October 1989) edition of *Sherlock Holmes in the Comic Books* is a 45 page monograph divided into two sections. The first section has Sherlockian comic books listed alphabetically by the name of the comics book. Also included is information on the comic book number, the publisher, the date published and in most cases either a title of the story with Sherlockian interest and/or a brief description of the story. The second section lists the comics by year published. This monograph is available from Charlotte Erickson for \$10.00 plus \$2 for shipping and handling (Canada add \$4.00, Other foreign countries add \$8.00). Send your check or money order payable to: Charlotte Erickson
1920 Marich Way
Mtn. View, CA 94040.

EXAMPLE:
Sherlock Holmes
(Eternity Comics)

Reprints of the 1950's newspaper comic strips.

- #1 (1988)
"The Problem of Thor Bridge"
part 1
#2 (1988)
"The Problem of Thor Bridge"

The conclusion to THOR runs pages 1-3. There is an error in the printing though, page 3 (according to the flow of the story and the artists date on the strip) should come before page 1. Beginning on page 4 is part 1 of a new story where Sherlock Holmes is called in to investigate the murder of Sir Aubrey Poppin.

Color
Sherlock
Hound
and
Dr.
Woofson



14
by

15
Jeff
Huddleston

The Code Clinic

Everyone enjoys a secret. Lots of people have fun sending and receiving coded messages. These messages are fun to put into their coded form (encipher) and translate back to the original (decipher). Our "Code Clinic" has become a regular feature in Holmes For The Holidays that will explain different ways to use codes and it will also train you in methods used to decipher encoded messages. Soon you may even be able to break a code used by someone else! That's an important step to becoming a super sleuth like Sherlock Holmes.

Chapter 2

- More Substitution Ciphers-

There can be a big advantage in using simple substitution ciphers that are easy to remember (like those in Chapter one from our last issue). If you and your friends can keep the decoding secret in your heads, you can avoid having someone find or steal it. Throughout history, spys have managed to find, copy or steal the encoded alphabet keys of their enemies, which makes the cipher worthless.

The shift cipher, also called the Caesar cipher, was used by Roman emperor Julius Caesar to send secret government messages. The alphabet is written forward, then written again underneath, only the second line is shifted to the right a bit. A key number is agreed upon, so the sender or receiver knows how far to shift the second alphabet. A 5-shift cipher would look like this:

```
ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ  
VWXYZABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTU
```

To encode a message, find your letter in the top row and substitute the letter below it. SHERLOCK becomes NCZMGJXF, using a 5-shift cipher.

You can make a shift cipher harder to break by changing the amount of shift from letter to letter. One clever way is to use the date the message is sent as the key. If the message is sent on February 28, 1991 the date is rewritten 2-28-91. Copy these numbers over your message, repeating the same sequence.

228912 2891 2289

WATSON COME HERE!

To encode the first letter, shift W forward two letters and it becomes Y. A is shifted two letters and becomes C. T is shifted 8 letters and becomes B and so on until your message is completely encoded:

YCBBPP EWVF JGZN!

Notice how our coded message appears to have two sets of double letters in the first word, when in fact each letter is different. The letter E is used three times in our original message but is represented now by three different letters (F, G, & N) in our cipher. To decode a message, simply write the key numbers over it and then shift each letter backward (to the left) by the distance indicated by the number above it.

All of the substitution ciphers we have considered so far use a ciphered alphabet written according to a simple plan. Sherlock Holmes made use of these codes and some harder ones. In our next chapter we will discuss the random substitution cipher and his knowledge of such in "The Adventure of the Dancing Men".

Can you decipher this
message from New Mexico?

answer on page 27

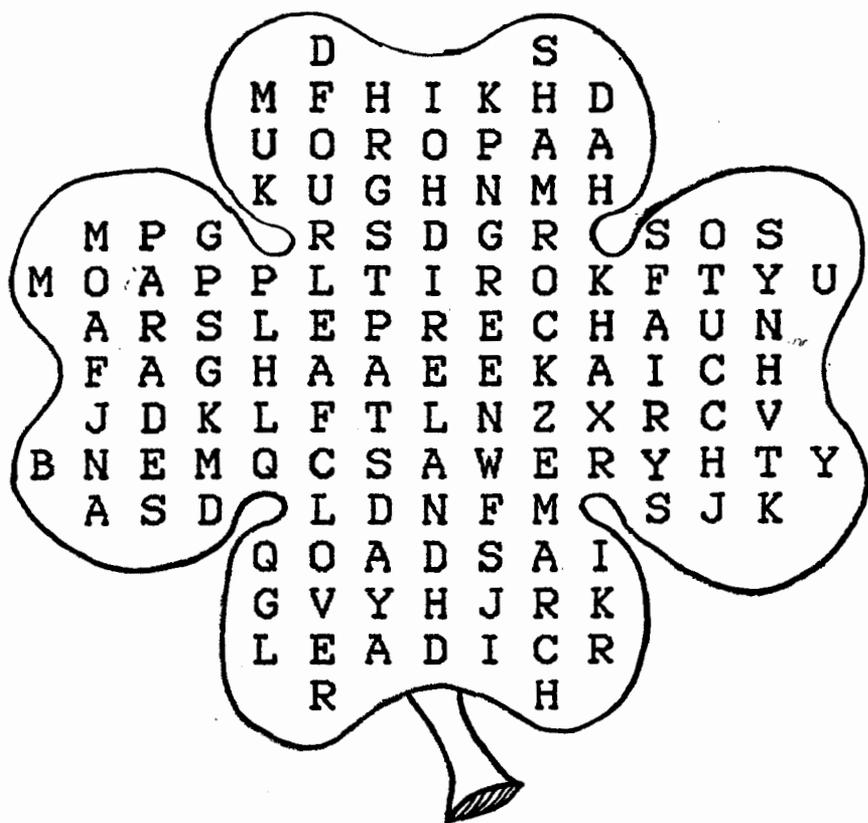
"Bas ilan dl kep
targ uingastowhi
chis the love
liestsun riseor
sunsetan tillong
fello wwis elyp
ointedo utth atsu
chmas terp ieces of
naturewe rebe sten
joyedin aweds ilenc
e."

by J. D. Neff
Grade 2

"The Shadows Of
The Elm"

Luck Of The Irish

In this holiday work search puzzle find and circle words relating to the Irish and their favorite day. With a little luck you should find 10. If you want a hint, see page 27 for our word list.



"MR. FIZZLEFIGS PAJAMAS"
by Jim Vogelsang

Mr. Fizzlefig gave out a YELL
To Holmes and Watson who answered, "Well?"
"You must solve a terrible crime,
Solve it quick in record time!"

"What is it then, what is your case...?"
"My pajamas," Fizzlefig cried, "aren't
anyplace!

I must go on vacation, but how can I pack
When my FAVORITE, FAVORITE, jammies I lack.
I've dozens of jammies, but I say in no
jest.

My black and white jammies are really the
BEST!

They've black and white stripes that go up
and down.

The stripes on my jammies are the best in
the town.

"Your jammies are gone, and you've such a
sad face.

Don't fret, I and Watson, will take on your
case."

"It's not in your pillow, or under your
bed.

It's not in a thimble, or on the moose-
head.

It's not in your closet, it's not in your
drawer.

It's not on the ceiling, or under the
floor.

If it's not in your bedroom, then it must
Be elsewhere in your house I trust.

In most mysteries the 'butler did it.'
We have to find out where he hid it."

Watson sighed, "That is not what you should
do,

Sherlock, Sherlock, find a CLUE!"

Fizzlefig gave a shiver, and a quick blink.
"I haven't a butler, at least, I don't
think."

Holmes looks in the tea-pot, and under the
rug.

He looks in the butter-dish and gives a
slight shrug.

"It's not in the fishbowl, or under your
hat.

It's not up the chimney, or under your cat.
It's not in the mouse-hole, it's not in the
mouse.

Your jammies, I think, are not in the
house."

"If they are not in the house, we'll look
in the yard.

Finding your jammies should not be too
hard."

"It's not in the wheel-barrow, it's not on
your dog.

It's not up the tree, or in this old log.
It's not on the clothes-line, this is
becoming quite hard.

It's not in the garden, or at all in this
yard!"

"If they are not in the yard, we will look
down the road.

We will look under each flower, each leaf,
and each toad!"

At the end of the road? Don't give a
frown.

We'll continue our journey and search the
whole town!"

Watson sighed, "That is not what we should
do,

Sherlock, Sherlock, find a CLUE!"

"We can go to the cleaners, perhaps Fizz
forgot

If he sent them there to remove a cran-
boodle spot!

Here are some jammies in this sack.

Dear me no, this is not right.

These jammies are white and black,

Your jammies are black and white."

"My jammies, my jammies, I need them, you
see,

The clock on the wall says 10 minutes past
3!

If we don't hurry my train will leave me!"

"Lets search the zebras in the Zoo!

They are wearing striped pajamas too!

A monkey suit, a camel-hair coat,

A curly one-smells like a goat.

A night-owl in his sleeping cap,

An alligator napping a nap.

An elephants jammies, very big.

A wild pair on a wild pig!!!"

"My train-time is coming near,

One hour more is all, I fear."

Watson sighed, "Sherlock, I know what to
do.

Stop right now, and find a CLUE!"

"I'll look in the factory where jammies
are knitted,

The finest of jammies, I'll not be out-
witted.

This machine that chuggles and snorts,

Turns out pajamas of all sizes and sorts."

"Are these your jammies, Fizzlefig?"

"I dare say not, they are much too big."

"How about this pair hung by the wall?"
"I dare say not, they are much too small."

Watson sighed, "I really do not want to
scold,
But these jammies are NEW and yours are
OLD!"

"Old jammies like that? Now where would we
see em?
Holmes got an idea, 'THE PAJAMAS MUSEUM'!!"

"A cowboy's pajamas, from the Old West.
A General's jammies, with medals on its
chest.
A caveman's jammies and his night-cap.
An Explorer's pajamas that look like a map.
A knight's pajamas, for a good-knight's
sleep.
A scuba-diver's jammies for down in the
deep.
A birdwatcher's jammies with feathers on
top.
A King's Royal jammies, oh, where will it
stop!"

Watson sighed, "I don't want to nage you
but I have to say,
To search this museum would take us all
day!
This is not what we should do.
Sherlock, Sherlock, find a CLUE!"

"We'll not search the museum. You know
what we'll do?
We'll search the whole city, and country-
side too.
We'll go, if we must, to far off TIMBUKTU!
We will search every nation. We will
travel world-wide.
Your pajamas, forever, cannot from us hide.
We will go down to China if it takes until
June.

If they are not on this planet, we will go
to the moon!
We will search the moon craters, and then
we will ask...
THE MAN IN THE MOON to help with our task!
From the moon we will continue to Pluto and
Mars.
We will search all the comets, and planets,
and stars!!!
Not one spot in the Universe shall go un-
inspected.
Where your jammies have gone to I'll have
surely detected!"

Watson sadly shook his head.
"STOP, STOP, STOP!!" is what he said.
"If we do as you ask, I do have my fears,
It would take us about a kazillion years!
You are running around when you know what
to do.
Go back to the start and find us a CLUE!"

"My train-time time is 10 minutes away."
"You've not found Fizzlefigs jammies this
way."

"Perhaps we SHOULD do as you say."
What is that funny smell I smell?
Someones breakfast, I do tell.
A stain of syrup from Fizzlefigs waffle?"
"A stain you say, oh this is awful."

"Awful, no! It is a CLUE!
A clue, it seems, of sticky goo!"
You put on your clothes, then rushed down
to eat.
You hurried to pack, but you weren't very
neat."

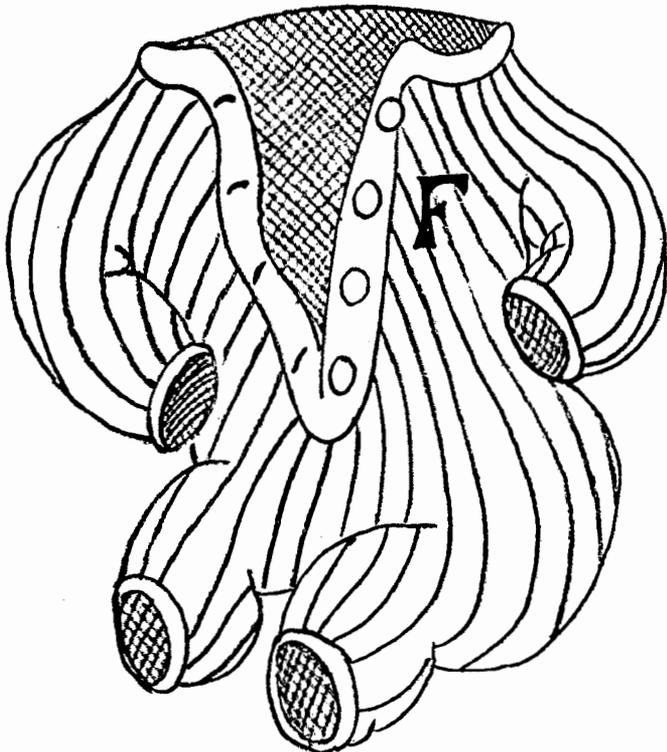
"You still have your jammies on UNDER YOUR
CLOTHES!
Here are your jammies, right UNDER YOUR
NOSE!!

When getting dressed, do not hurry,
Or all the day you will fret and worry."

"I guess I was a sleepy head.
I kept them on when I left my bed.
If I lose them again, I won't despair,
I'll wear my SECOND favorite pair.
They've nice big spots, all bright and
pink..."

Then Watson gave Holmes a quick, sly wink,
"You've both learned a lesson..."

...to STOP AND THINK!!!!"



THE SHERLOCKIAN COLORS
by Richard L. Kellogg

Colors bring joy and beauty to our lives. Think how wonderful it is to see a sunset, a rainbow, or the moon-lit sky at night. It is interesting to find that Arthur Conan Doyle used the name of a color as part of the title for ten of the Sherlock Holmes adventures.

The Mysteries

A) Below are some phrases and story titles which need the name of a color to be complete. From the choices beneath, try to locate the appropriate color to go with the phrase:

1. People are ____ with envy.
2. The Adventure of the ____ Carbuncle.
3. Happy children are tickled ____.
4. ____ can be a girl or a flower.
5. The adventure of ____ Peter.
7. Sherlock Holmes had ____ eyes.
8. The Adventure of the ____ Circle.
9. ____ shoes are difficult to keep clean.
10. The Adventure of the ____ Pince-Nez.

B) Search through the complete collection of Sherlock Holmes stories and see if you can discover more titles which contain the following colors:

- | | |
|------------|-------------|
| 11. orange | 14. scarlet |
| 12. silver | 15. red |
| 13. yellow | |

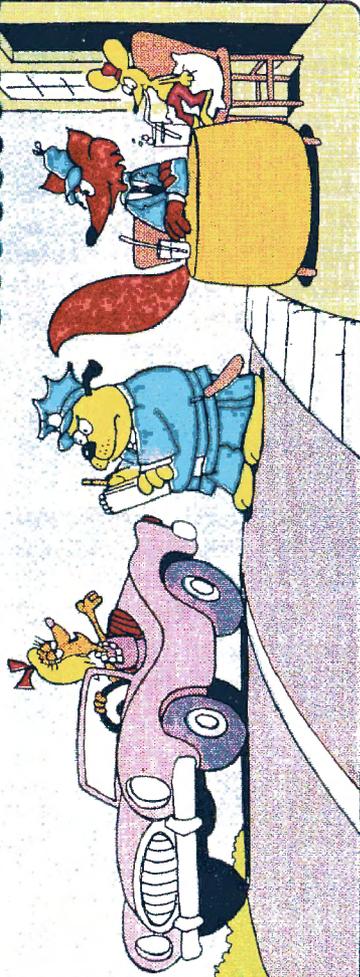
(answers on page 27)

Slylock fox

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SOLUTION — SLYLOCK THINKS WANDA'S SUN STORY IS A DIM EXCUSE, SINCE IT IS NOONTIME, THE SUN WOULD BE DIRECTLY OVERHEAD, AND WOULD NOT HAVE IMPAIRED HER VISION.

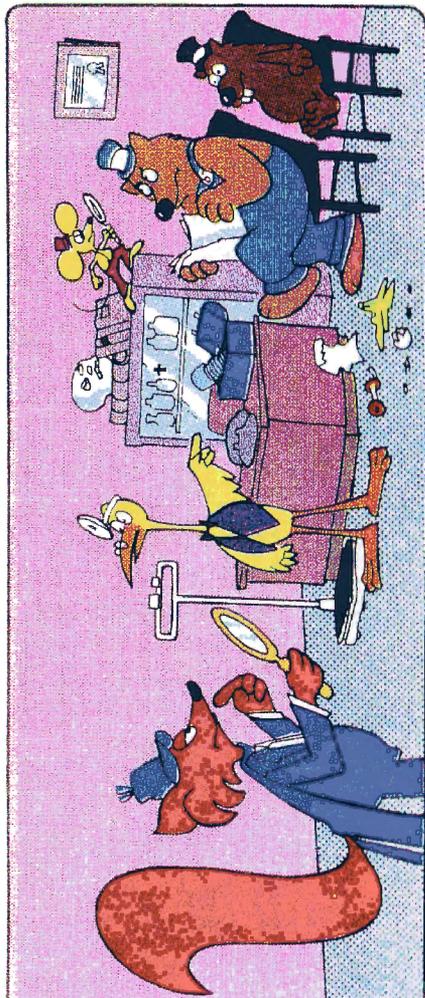
THINK?



Slylock fox

AFTER BLABBER BEAR AND BILLY BEAVER HAD A COMPLETE PHYSICAL EXAMINATION, ONE OF THEM ATE THE DOCTOR'S LUNCH. HOW CAN SLYLOCK FOX PROVE WHICH ONE IS THE MUNCHING MOOCHEER?

SOLUTION — BLABBER BEAR AND BILLY BEAVER WERE BOTH WEIGHED DURING THEIR PHYSICAL EXAM. SLYLOCK WILL WEIGH THEM BOTH AGAIN, THE GUILTY ONE WILL WEIGH SLIGHTLY MORE THIS TIME.



IT'S ELEMENTARY
-Our Answer Page-

Hugh Dunitz Asks: "What Is It?" (page 4)

Our 5000 year old mystery subject is Popcorn!
Sherlock Holmes solved this puzzle with only two clues (#4 & #6), it took Dr. Watson four clues (#1, #3, #4 & #5), Inspector Lestrade only needed two clues (#6 & #7). The Inspector explained that when he goes to see a spooky movie he spends alot of time hiding under the seats.

Code from Shadow of the Elms (page 18)

The solution to the message is:

"Basil and I kept arguing as to which was the lovellest, sunrise or sunset, until Longfellow wisely pointed out that such masterpieces of nature were best enjoyed in awed silence."

(from Basil in the Wild West by Eve Titus
© 1982 by McGraw Hill Book Co.)

Luck Of The Irish (page 19)

The word list for this puzzle is:

Leprechaun	March
Four Leaf Clover	Ireland
St. Pat's Day	Green
Shamrock	Parade
Fairy	Irish

The Sherlockian Colors (page 26)

A) 1. green 6. black
2. blue 7. grey
3. pink 8. red
4. copper 9. white
5. violet 10. golden

B) 11. The Five Orange Pips
12. Silver Blaze
13. The Yellow Face
14. A Study In Scarlet
15. The Red-headed League