

Jan Stauber Grant Report 2017
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1. Project Description: Sherlock Holmes Breakout.edu

The Sherlock Holmes Breakout.edu activity was a complete success and we look forward to hosting and reimagining this activity for many years to come. The library at Bethel High School used the Jan Stauber Grant money to purchase four Breakout.edu boxes to create an activity that simulated popular “Escape Room” workshops. The library first created and sponsored a student club called the Lockbox Club to bring together a group of students to help design and implement the activity. We had over 20 student from all grades join the club by advertising for members through the school email lists and using school announcements. This group of students joined a Google Classroom established by the library and met twice a month to design the lockbox activity. The club decided to create the “escape” activity around the Sir Arthur Conan Doyle book “The Hound of the Baskervilles” and each club member read the book and watched a classic movie version. We then presented the activity to the English teachers at Bethel High School. A ninth grade English teacher agreed to host the activity in his honors English 9 classes and “The Hound of the Baskervilles” was given as a reading assignment to these classes. The club members created clues, set up the locks and wrote an opening scenario for the activity. I also created a video to introduce the activity the the classes participating based on the club scenario.

The project required students to use information from “The Hound of the Baskervilles” by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle to solve riddles and puzzles created by the club students. Critical thinking skills were not only required to solve problems based on a set of clues, but were required to create the clues. The answers to the riddles and puzzles led the students to the combinations of several locks on a box, which contained a mystery book to keep for each student who participated.

2. Goals of the project:

There were several goals for the Sherlock Holmes breakout.edu activity, which were all successfully met. First, the project created a lasting yearly club open to all members of the student body at Bethel High School. It also included the participation of 3 ninth grade English classes, for a total of over 100 student participants. Second, the activity exposed each student to the character of Sherlock Holmes and the series featuring this character. Participating students read “The Hound of the Baskervilles” by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle in its entirety. Third, the activity required students to use the information from the book

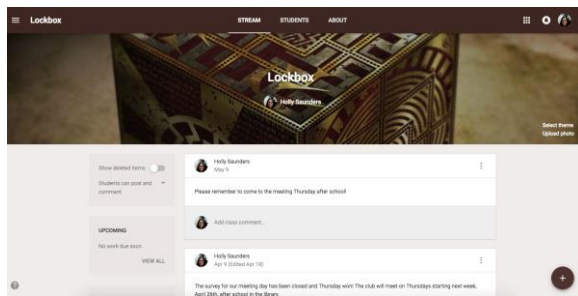
and their critical thinking skills to investigate and solve riddles and puzzles using higher level thinking skills. Lastly, the activity was engaging and interesting to the students and created in them a love of the Sherlock Holmes series and increased their powers of observation, “crime” solving investigation skills, problem solving ability and increased their collaboration with peers.

3. Project’s impact on the grantee, the school or organization, and the participants:

The Sherlock Holmes Breakout.edu activity has had a lasting effect on Bethel High School. First, as the grantee, I have been able to collaborate with students on creating an interesting and fun activity based on the mystery genre that created lasting and positive student relationships. I have learned a whole new teaching strategy that can be applied to any subject and curriculum that is engaging to students. Students have been exposed to the works of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle in the Sherlock Holmes series and will continue to read his works. The students will design future “escape” activities increasing peer collaboration, love of reading, critical thinking skills and problem solving abilities. Bethel High School has benefited from this project through the growth of student engagement, the collaboration of teachers in new teaching strategies and the increase in students’ love of reading and investigations.

4. Copies of materials (pamphlets, handouts, etc.) and photos of displays, activities, etc., from the program:

- Scenario: Why do we need to get the box open? Help! Mr. Saunders is locked in a storage room and the last person known to have the key was the old English teacher, Dr. Fred Watson, who retired several years ago. There are several boxes Mr. Watson left behind in his old classroom that may contain the key, but there are combination locks on the boxes. Dr. Watson’s favorite author is Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and his favorite book is the Hound of the Baskervilles. His filing cabinet had a file on the book, which may contain some clues. Can you figure out the clues to unlock the boxes and save Mr. Saunders? Good Luck!
- Video for Scenario and introduction of activity to class:
<https://www.wevideo.com/view/1160995430>
- Google Classroom:



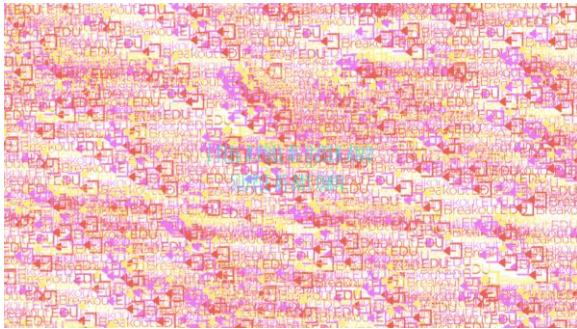
2. Clues: (We also used red lens readers, images hidden around the room and invisible ink with ultraviolet flashlights)
- Clue for combination using 4 numbers (2704): “I feel a foil as quick and supple as my own” on red lense paper.
 - Clue for combination using 3 numbers (221): Deliver to the home of the man on the tor.
 - Clue for combination using 5 letters (TIMES): “Seldom found in any hands but those of the highly educated”.

- Clue for key to lock: “If you value you life and your reason”.... Go back to your homeland (Keys taped to the back of images associated with Canada and posted around the room).
- Clue for combination using 5 arrows (↓←↓↑↓): Directions on Map figured out through the use of invisible ink numbers at the following locations.

- 1 = Grimpen Mire
- 2 = Merripit House
- 3 = Baskerville Hall
- 4 = Coombe Tracey
- 5 = Body of the Hound
- 6 = Sherlock Holmes Hiding place

1. Copies of Materials:

- Red lens clue for cab number:



- Clue for Baker Street address

*Deliver to the home of the
man on the tor.*

- Clue for Times

*Seldom found in any
hands but those of the
highly educated*

- Newspaper cuttings note for Canada Clue and pictures:

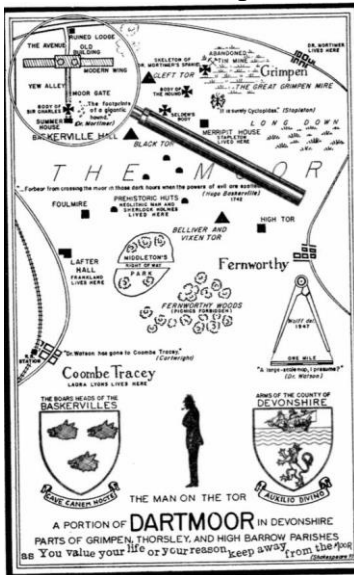


- Map for arrows combination:





○ Map for arrows combination:



We included all the clues in a manila file. Both the files and the lockboxes had a label shaped like Sherlock Holmes with the following words: “Support for this program is provided by the Jan Stauber Grant Program of the Beacon Society”.



Here are some pictures of the students with the book and solving the clues!

