

**Jan Stauber Grant Report
Whitesboro High School
Sherlock Holmes Breakout EDU**

With the challenges brought by the COVID-19 pandemic over the past year and beyond, our original plan of an in-person Sherlock Holmes “breakout room” group-building activity with the use of Breakout EDU materials became unattainable. However, as with much in the world of education since 2020, we found a way to meet our goals in a different way.

Since much of the year we were unable to gather together, particularly for after school events in the library, we partnered with our Forensics teacher, John Bertrand. We were able to utilize the online materials and suggestions along with other teacher resources to allow his students, whether remote or in-person (we conducted this activity during our hybrid learning period), the chance to visit 221b Baker Street to assist Sherlock Holmes and Watson solve multiple clues in order to solve the overall crime.

As an introduction to Sherlock Holmes and to tie his creative deduction skills into the Forensics curriculum, we started off by reading aloud a section of The Case-Book of Sherlock Holmes every couple of weeks, pausing at points to have students make predictions. Mr. Bertrand also gave assignments aligned to these readings, offering students the choice of rewriting another possible solution or simply analyzing if they felt that the final deduction was plausible (which oftentimes they agreed was, but picking apart the aspects of the crime to put it all in their own words). This gave the students a connection to the characters and the writing but also tied in their Forensics training and asked them to think critically.

With this background already in place, we continued with our main goal. I started off with the use of the Breakout EDU Digital Resource already in place called “Moriarty Strikes Again!” but we decided to add a new, self-created Google Slide “room” in which students clicked different “clues” and had to provide answers according to the brain teaser clues we provided. Both assignments had their positives and were challenging, depending on the age and experience of the user. (Forensics classes are offered to students in grades 10-12.)

We initially offered students the opportunity to complete one of the two activities, but interest was so high that we ended up having students complete both. There were mixed reactions as to which activity was a favorite (the Google Slide had more of a literary mindbender whereas the Breakout EDU resource was more about

codebreaking), but overall the response was incredibly positive. Mr. Bertrand is planning to integrate these projects into his future Forensics classes.

I hope, next year and annually, to be able to hold an in-person Sherlock Holmes Day in order to get good use out of the physical Breakout EDU kits (and fun photo props and costumes that we had purchased) in order to continue to honor the timeless words and mysteries of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle as well as the generosity of the Beacon Society through the administration of the Jan Stauber Grant Program. We are truly grateful for the support, creativity, and increased student engagement that this grant provided our district.

 Search this site

Moriarty Strikes Again!

You are legendary detective Sherlock Holmes. You have just been summoned to Buckingham Palace to consult with the constables. It seems the crown jewels (and many other items) have gone missing! As you arrive, they tell you they have nabbed a suspect in custody. You approach him, ready to question him with ferocity, when he pulls a dagger from beneath his robes.

He locks eyes with you and yells, "peli varjot elokuva pituus" while plunging the dagger into his chest. You watch him expire before your eyes and decide to search his person.

In a concealed pocket, you find a small cylinder with various dials embedded in it. The cap is branded with an ornate JM. You know this can only mean one man - Professor James Moriarty. You begin to say this, but realize you should open the vial to gather the evidence so you can truly prove your nemesis is behind this theft!

9 Letter Word Lock *

Your answer

Time Lock: *

HH:MM

Your answer

5 Directions Lock *

U-Up, D-Down, L-Left, R-Right (ALL CAPS, no spaces)

Your answer



