

**Clearview Elementary School**  
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Clearview Elementary School

Final Report for the Jan Stauber Grant as Sponsored by  
The Beacon Society

Clear Lake  
Clearwater  
Collegeville  
Luxemburg  
Pleasant Lake  
St. Augusta  
St. Cloud  
St. Joseph  
Waite Park

I would very much like to thank the Beacon Society for its grant to Clearview in the amount of \$250.00. This grant has allowed me to open the fascinating world of Sherlock Holmes to my fourth grade students. With the support of a matching amount of \$250.00 from the PTA of Clearview we now have a unit of learning that will be part of our curriculum for years to come.

Our project was put together to cover a five week period of time to introduce the students to Sherlock Holmes. During this time each of the 33 students in my class and another group of 32 Spanish Immersion students read at least three books dealing with Holmes detective work. With this foundation of knowledge we created a number of activities that explored and allowed the children to discover the world of detective work. The climax activity was having Dr. Paul Martin of Marshall, Minnesota come to our school and make a major presentation on Holmes to the students. To see these 65 students "hang on every word" that Dr. Martin made was wonderful.

We more than achieved the goals we set out for this project. It has opened an entire new world of learning that impacts so many areas of learning. To see the reluctant readers just plunge into reading about Homes was very special to me. The minds of the children just came alive as they were introduced to the field of mystery books.

As described above the children each read three books involving Homes. To bring the area of detective work alive we created several lessons on solving a mystery. Our lesson on finger printing was a major hit with the students as they learned the many aspects of using finger prints to solve crimes.

Dr. Martin in his presentation brought together many of the points the students learned. He had a movie presentation, slides of unusual Holmes statements, and a number of observations about books that the students read. To see the many questions asked was tremendous.

Our writing activity out of this unit was the writing of a mystery story by each student. We had a special ceremony to recognize the student's work.

The impact of this project on our fourth grade students was tremendous. We were able to open an entire new world of learning to them. For the Spanish Immersion students to be able to learn about a major figure in English Literature from a foreign perspective was good.

Please find enclosed some pictures from Dr. Martin's presentation to the students. Once again thank you for giving this grant to our school and my students.

Andrea Coulter.



As a class we learned about Sherlock Holmes. We read a few of the Sherlock Holmes books and expanded our vocabulary by learning that a speckled band is actually a snake. We identified with the characters Watson, who was Sherlock Holmes helper and of course Sherlock Holmes himself. We were informed that Sherlock Holmes may or may not be dead. It is intriguing to think that he may be alive. If he is I would love to meet him! The Sherlock Holmes speaker, Dr. Paul Martin, was paid for by a grant and an amazing opportunity to have in our classroom. He was a perfect presenter to wrap up our mystery unit. We also were able to get 45 graphic novels and chapter books to read. These books are now in our library for you to check out! Support for this program is provided by the Jan Stauber Grant of the Beacon Society, and we thank Dr. John Bowden for assisting us in getting this grant.

Justin DeGuisseppi, Morgan Ness, and Cam Edmundson