

SHERLOCK'S SPOTLIGHT

A Quarterly Gazette for Young Sherlockians Everywhere

Autumn 2021

"The Five Orange Pips"



Your original artwork could be on the cover of our next issue...

See page 2 for more details!

Welcome to

SHERLOCK'S SPOTLIGHT

Volume 2, Number 4 Autumn 2021: "The Five Orange Pips"

Published four times a year by The Beacon Society, a society providing educators with resources to bring the magic of Sherlock Holmes to life.

Editor: Steve Mason

Associate Editors: Rob Nunn and Michael McClure

Submit Your Original Artwork for our Gazette Cover

We would love to use a student's artwork for the cover of each issue.

If you would like to submit a .jpg, .png or .pdf of an original artwork, please follow the simple rules:

- You must be between the ages of 8-13.
- You must have your parent's or guardian's permission to submit the artwork.
- The artwork must be Sherlock Holmes based.

You may send the artwork by email directly to Steve Mason at mason.steve8080@gmail.com

Either have your parent or guardian email the artwork to us or have them include a statement authorizing the use of your artwork in our Gazette.

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Welcome to

SHERLOCK'S SPOTLIGHT

Volume 2, Number 4

Autumn 2021 – “The Five Orange Pips”

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Highlights from the Head-Light

Nights are chilly, days grow shorter, and tree leaves turn bright colors: it's fall! That means it's time for issue number 5 of *Sherlock's Spotlight*. In addition to our usual fun-filled pages of games, puzzles, mini-mysteries, and cartoons, you can learn how to make and read secret messages using codes.

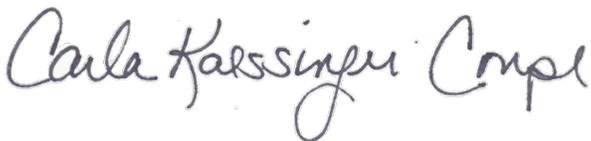
Who wrote the Sherlock Holmes stories? Sir Arthur Conan Doyle didn't start life as a writer but as a doctor. During his medical studies, he met the man who inspired the character of Sherlock Holmes. The Sherlock story in this issue is "The Five Orange Pips." Pips are orange seeds, and when a client of Sherlock's receives them in the mail, he knows there's trouble brewing. Another famous Sherlock Holmes novel is *The Hound of the Baskervilles*. We include recommendations for books and graphic novels that tell the tale of the Hound.

A pastiche is a Sherlock Holmes story that isn't written by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. "Sherlock Holmes and the Missing Kentucky Derby Horse" was written by first-grader Jack D. Read part one in this issue. Why not write your own pastiche? We'd love to read it!

People all over the world enjoy talking about Sherlock Holmes. Sometimes they are close enough to meet and spend an afternoon or evening together. We include some websites and organizations that can help you find out more about Sherlock Holmes and his adventures.

Why does The Beacon Society publish *Sherlock's Spotlight*? We want to bring the Sherlock Holmes stories to young people, and hope you enjoy them as much as we do. Do you like to write? Our essay contest gives prizes to students who write about Sherlock Holmes [www.beaconsociety.com/joel-senter-essay-contest.html]. How did Sherlock Holmes solve all those mysteries? The Junior Sherlockian Society [juniorsherlockian.com] shows you how. Are you an artist? Then send us (with your parents' or guardians' permission) your drawing of Sherlock Holmes [www.beaconsociety.com/sherlocks-spotlight-gazette.html]. You might see your creation on the cover of a future issue of *Sherlock's Spotlight*!

Have fun reading issue 5, and don't forget to share *Sherlock's Spotlight* with your friends!

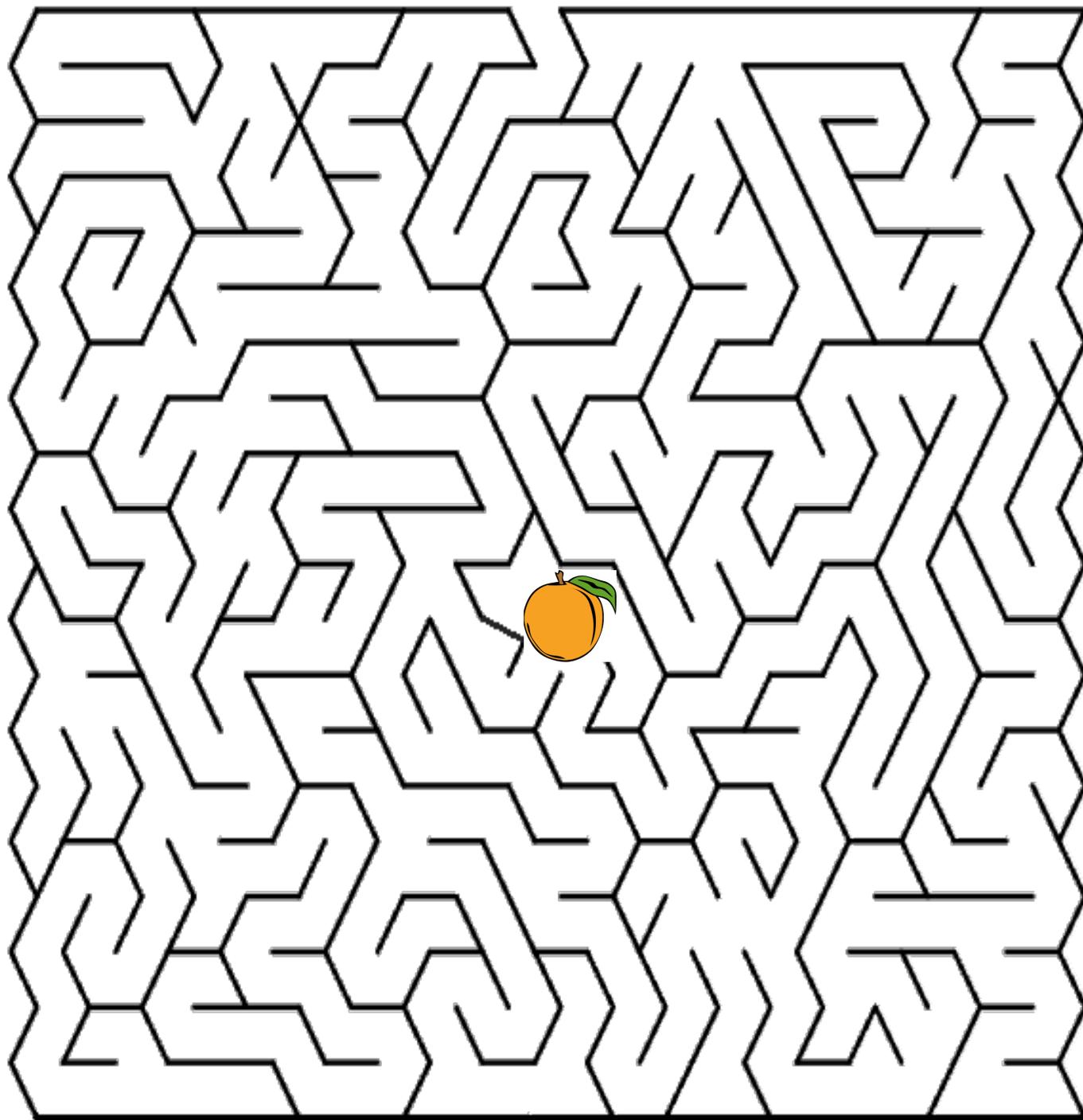


Head-Light, The Beacon Society

That's-A-Maze-ing

In "The Five Orange Pips," an orange may help Sherlock Holmes solve the mystery. Can you help Sherlock find the orange?

Find the answer on page 30



Profile: Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

Sherlock Holmes, Dr. Watson, and all of their adventures were created by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. But Doyle did not originally plan to become an author. Arthur Conan Doyle graduated from medical school in 1881 and worked as a doctor on sailing ships before opening his own small medical office in England. But being a new doctor didn't give him many patients, so Doyle began writing stories to fill the time.

In 1887, one of these stories would become a novel titled *A Study in Scarlet* and introduce the world to Sherlock Holmes. Doyle wrote a sequel to *A Study in Scarlet* four years later called *The Sign of Four*. These novels were well-liked but not read by very many people. But when a new magazine called *The Strand* started publishing short stories a few years later, Doyle used Holmes and Watson in this format. These stories were instantly popular and would make Arthur Conan Doyle one of the most famous authors in the world.

Arthur Conan Doyle was born on May 22, 1859 in Edinburgh, Scotland. He was raised by his artist father and book-

loving mother. While at boarding school, Doyle found that the other students enjoyed his storytelling, and he would often have a group of younger students sitting around him as he made up funny and entertaining tales. After graduating from college, Doyle attended medical school where he met Dr. Joseph Bell, a professor of medicine. Dr. Bell would become very influential in Doyle's life, but not in the medical sense.

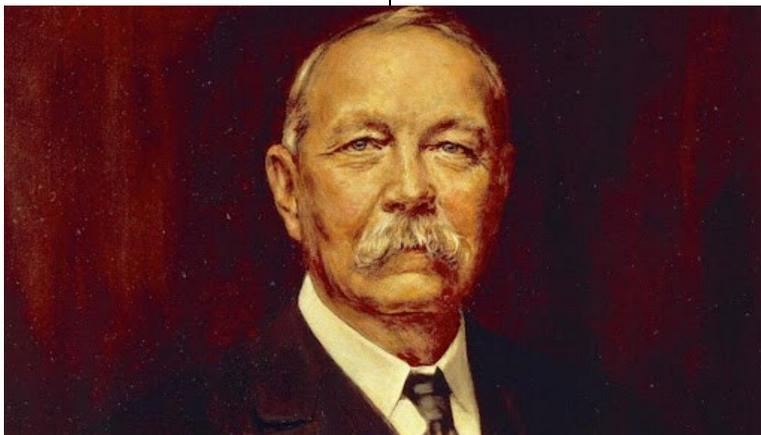
Dr. Bell was able to see a new patient for the very first time and, before they ever spoke a word to him, he could tell the patient their occupation by the way that they walked or dressed and could tell where they lived by the color of mud on their shoes. Dr. Bell also helped the local police in some investigations. Does this sound familiar? Not only was Dr. Joseph Bell one of Doyle's instructors at medical school, but his methods would become the basis for Sherlock Holmes!

Although Arthur Conan Doyle created the world's most popular detective, he was not the first to write mystery stories. Mysteries had been written before, but many of these stories



were solved by the criminal making a mistake, the detective getting a lucky break, or by some amazing information that the readers only found out about at the end of the story. Doyle believed that all of the information to solve the problems in his stories should be there for the readers to see just as Holmes did. This use of information in his stories is one of the reasons that the Sherlock Holmes tales were

so popular. In “The Adventure of the Speckled Band” the reader is told that Grimesby Roylott has exotic pets, keeps a safe in his room, and there is



a saucer of milk on top of the safe. Holmes also points out to Watson that the room the crime was committed in had a bed bolted to the floor, a rope pull that did not work, and a vent leading to Roylott’s room. So when Holmes gives his explanation at the end of the story, the reader had all of the information to work with, and there were no surprises or unknown factors.

Doyle wrote 60 Sherlock Holmes stories between the years 1886 and 1917. Many times during this period, he would become tired of writing about the

detective. He felt that people paid too much attention to his Sherlock Holmes stories but not his other writings. Doyle also wrote historical fiction and science fiction, but nothing was as popular as Sherlock Holmes. In fact, Doyle got so tired of Holmes that he decided to kill him off in 1893! But the public was so upset the stories were over, and magazines offered Doyle so much money

to write more, that he eventually brought Sherlock Holmes back from the dead for more adventures.

Arthur Conan Doyle became famous for writing

the Sherlock Holmes adventures, but he was busy with other activities as well. He played many sports throughout his life, travelled around the world, and was made a knight by the Queen of England. Later in his life, Doyle became very active in spiritualism and believed that he could speak to the dead. He was friends with the author of *The Jungle Book*, Rudyard Kipling, J.M. Barrie, the author of *Peter Pan*, and magician Harry Houdini. Arthur Conan Doyle died on July 7, 1930.

Rob Nunn

PORTRAYALS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES IN ART AND ANIMATION

With permission from the collection of Jerry Margolin



Sherlock Holmes and the Missing Kentucky Derby Horse

By Jack D., 1st grade

Franklin, TN

April 30, 2021

I was at 221b Baker Street with my friend, Sherlock Holmes. It was 1896, and we had just solved another case. Then, Holmes had an idea.

"Watson," he began, "would you like to go to America with me?"

"What is there to do there?" I asked.

"The Kentucky Derby," Holmes answered.

"Of course! I'd love to!" said I. "When is the next boat departing?"

"At 5:30 PM sharp," Holmes replied, "unless you use a hansom cab."

Laughing, I responded with, "There is a sea that separates Britain and America." We had considered going to America for a while. It had been a bit since we had last traveled to a foreign country.

At 5:15 PM, we were still packing.

"Oh great," I started, "it's fifteen minutes until the boat departure. Holmes, is---"

"Ready, Watson," Holmes interrupted.

"How much time until we depart?"

"Now, only fourteen minutes and we are two miles away!" I exclaimed.

"Could we delay the trip to ask Queen Victoria if my unofficial detective squad, the Baker Street Irregulars, can come with us?" Holmes asked.

"Why ask the queen?" I responded.

"Sometimes she doesn't allow people to travel with other families," Holmes answered.

"Oh, dear," I said.

"Well, let us go," Holmes said.

He was out the door when...

"Holmes," I started, "when they're here, they sound like someone released a herd of wild buffalo onto the streets of London."

"That is so," Holmes replied.

"Could the Irregulars stay at 221b with Mrs. Hudson?" I asked.

"Well, buffalo on a street are bad," Holmes chuckled. "But on our last boat trip, they were as quiet as mice."

"That was so long ago," I responded, "so I don't remember much."

It was time to seek permission from Queen Victoria as we spoke.

"Mrs. Hudson," we called, "we're going out!"

A few days later, our boat docked.

"Her Majesty said, 'Yes?'" Horton, an Irregular, asked.

"Yes, Horton, she did."

"Hooray!" Maria, another Irregular, exclaimed.

"Yes, but only twenty may sail with us and there are twenty-five of you," Holmes said.

"Who's not going?"

Jerry, Tommy, Lenny, Max, and Joe all raised their hands indicating to stay behind.

"Fine," I said. "Boat departure in fifteen minutes."

"Why can't Billy and Wiggins come?" Horton and Maria asked.

"They are ill," I said.

Then, Holmes continued my sentence. "But from home, they will keep in contact with us by telegram." That was my friend's answer.

"Attention," a voice boomed, "the *Gold Dunker* departs in five minutes." The *Gold Dunker* was formally a shipwreck searcher boat.

"Let's go," Holmes replied, "or, we'll be late."

I helped the Irregulars onto the ship.

"Please, sit back and enjoy the ride," the voice said. "We will arrive in southern Alabama in six weeks."

"Who was born in America?" I asked. Maria, Juan, and Jose were the only three not raising their hands.

"Excellent," I said.

Suddenly, the ship jerked. Bruno, an Irregular, laughed. We were off. Then, Bruno boomed, "Big boat!"

Later...

"How long have we been sailing?" Horton wailed. He was very bored.

"Six weeks. Now, we are only two hours away," my friend answered.

Even later . . .

The voice boomed, "We will dock in five minutes."

Bonnie said, "Well, that took forever!"

"Let's get packing," I said, "or we will miss the docking."

Horton and Maria led the group off.

"IT'S TENNESSEE'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY!" Horton yelled. He was from Lebanon, Tennessee, and was excited to be on American soil again.

Suddenly, John Hollenback, a jockey from Kentucky, appeared.

"Where is he?" John worried to himself.

"Where is who?" Holmes asked in confusion.

"My horse, Bolt," responded John. "I am John Hollenback, Kentucky Derby jockey."

"I am Sherlock Holmes, just sailed from England. It is my business to know what other people do not know. Maybe I can help you. Let's go with John to see where he last saw Bolt."

Holmes, turning to me, continued, "But first I need to ask a question of my Irregulars. Are you coming?"

But there was no answer. They had fallen fast asleep on the side of the road.

"Oh dear, my man. That's bad," I said.

"You can say that again," John and Holmes responded.

"Oh dear, my man. That's bad."

They blinked.

"Stronger! One more time!" they yelled.

The Irregulars awoke.

"What's going on?" Jose asked.

"Never mind," Holmes said. "Just go back to sleep."

Suddenly, we heard the words "Wagon crash!" We turned and saw our American friend, Dave. He then called out again, "Wagon crash!"

Last year, Dave had visited 221b Baker Street while in London to view the Queen's procession through the streets. We had invited him so we could meet in person. We

had been telegraph penpals. How fortunate that we saw him!

“Oh, my great sizzling hansom cabs!” Holmes cried. “Look!”

Dave’s wife, Bethany, had crashed their wagon into Max and Malaysia Boone.

“Well, little pitchers have big ears,” said Horton, “so be mindful of what you say.”

“Sorry,” Dave and Bethany said.

“It’s OK, Nolans,” the Boones answered.

Well, with that, we traveled from the Port of Mobile to the train station. John had last seen his horse in Huntsville. We boarded a Mobile and Ohio Railroad car and headed north to Jackson, Mississippi. As we traveled, the Irregulars read about Henry Ford’s unveiling of the quadricycle in the news.

It was Ford’s first-ever automobile design. An engine drove the back wheels, and it ran on bicycle tires. Not going in reverse was the quadricycle’s Achilles’ heel. And also, they read about the first marathon ran at the Olympics in Athens, Greece. They also visited the souvenir shop. The train’s smokestack

whistled as we moved. It was a piano piece, relaxing.

Screech! I woke up. The engineer had hit the brakes. I realized we were now in Jackson. Then, we took horse and carriage to Huntsville.

As we traveled, Holmes asked if there were any suspects.

John said, “Well, there’s my good friend Ron Satuli Carinos. As of today, he is a reporter and a thirty-five year, one hundred seventy-one-day-old man.” We planned to follow this lead throughout the city.

We found horse trailer tracks near his house.

“Holmes and Hollenback, are these Bolt’s trailer tracks?” John nodded. “I showed Holmes drawings of his trailer’s tracks, and they look exactly like that,” he said.

We also found fingerprints in the dried mud near the tracks, but they weren’t Ron’s! Ron’s prints are smaller! That proved that Ron was innocent.

To be continued... Investigating Todd Lemming, suspect #2, in Tennessee.

Attempt the six question quiz by accessing the link
or scanning the QR code.

<https://bit.ly/3oVknzt>



SCAN ME

Story Profile: "The Five Orange Pips"

First published in

- *Strand Magazine*, United Kingdom, November 1891
- *Strand Magazine*, United States, December 1891

When the story takes place

- September 1887

Primary Cast of Characters

- SHERLOCK HOLMES, the first consulting detective
- JOHN WATSON, friend, companion, and chronicler of Holmes's efforts
- JOHN OPENSHAW, a client who is in fear for his life
- ELIAS OPENSHAW, John's uncle who has a hidden past

John Openshaw's uncle Elias moved to America many years ago and fought for the south in the Civil War. After the war, Elias

returned to England but stayed away from other people.

Elias liked his nephew John, so he allowed John to stay with him. One day, four years ago, his uncle received a strange piece of mail.



The letter came from Pondicherry, India. The envelope had three K's on the outside, and inside of the envelope were five orange seeds (or pips as they are called in England).

There was also a note, but Elias wouldn't let John see it.

Whatever the note said, it terrified Elias Openshaw so much that he got a box full of papers from the attic. Elias burned all of the papers and had a lawyer write up a will that would leave everything to John's father.

After that, Elias Openshaw was a different man, spending most of his time locked in

his bedroom. Other times he would burst out of the house and run around the large garden with a pistol, screaming that he wasn't afraid of anyone. But he would soon run back to his room and lock the door. This went on for weeks until one day Elias Openshaw ran outside and didn't return.

He was found dead in a small garden pool. The police said that the death was accidental, but John Openshaw didn't believe it.

John's father moved in to the property. Things were fine for John and his father for over a year, until John's father received a letter from Dundee, Scotland with three letter K's on the envelope, five orange seeds inside, and a note that said, "Put the papers on the sundial."

John's father had always thought his son's story about Elias's final days were silly, and he thought this letter was some sort of joke. Even though John tried to convince his father to alert the police, he said it was nonsense.

Three days later, his father was dead.

The police ruled that the death was an accident and John inherited the property. For two years he lived there peacefully.

But two days ago, John Openshaw received the same letter as his father: three K's on an envelope, five orange seeds, and a note

saying to put the papers on the sundial. The only difference was that this letter had been mailed from London.

Openshaw went to the police but they said it was just someone playing a joke. Holmes asked for any information on his uncle's life in America. Openshaw said he'd found one page from his uncle's papers that talked about orange pips and visiting people, but he couldn't tell what it meant.

Holmes knew immediately that Openshaw was in danger and told him to go home, put that one piece of paper on the sundial, and leave a note saying that his uncle had burned his papers years ago. Holmes planned to uncover what he could and visit Openshaw in a day or two.



Openshaw left and the detective explained to Watson that Elias Openshaw was afraid of someone from his past. Holmes also knew that the villains were on a sailing ship because of from where the letters were mailed. The fact that John Openshaw's letter had come from London, told him that this young man was in danger right now.

And he was. The next morning the newspaper reported that John Openshaw had drowned in the Thames River.



Holmes knew that this was no accident. John Openshaw had come to him for help and was now dead. This was more than a case for Sherlock Holmes; now it was personal.

Holmes will find the killers of the Openshaw family, but not even he can bring them to justice. Nature has a different ending in store for them...

Rob Nunn

Word Search Challenge

You and a friend can now test your clue-finding skills in the fog-shrouded streets of London.

1. One player will take Holmes's team, the other player will take Watson's team.
2. Each player shall search his letter grid for the 5 names from "The Five Orange Pips" listed next to the grid.
3. Circle each letter of the name. The letters not circled will fill out a Sherlock Holmes quote from the story.
Place each letter in the spaces below the word search.
4. The first player to find all 5 names and complete the quote wins.

Holmes's Team

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| W | W | Y | D | O | B | E | E | R | F |
| H | A | E | N | I | H | A | V | E | S |
| P | U | T | N | T | H | E | C | W | E |
| S | B | T | S | H | E | Y | A | M | A |
| E | Y | T | A | O | K | E | L | T | H |
| M | E | O | P | E | N | S | H | A | W |
| L | F | L | I | E | S | B | O | U | T |
| O | N | O | T | B | E | F | U | O | R |
| H | E | Q | N | O | D | Y | N | U | M |
| H | K | I | S | C | Y | J | W | S | O |

CALHOUN

FREEBODY

HOLMES

OPENSHAW

WATSON

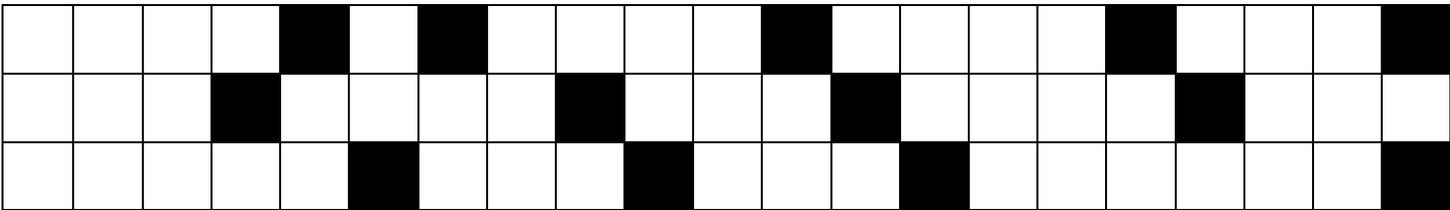
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Watson's Team

C W H E N I H A V E
S A P U W A T S O N
N T L H E W E B P T
H E Y H M A Y T E A
S E M L O H K E N T
H E F L I U E S S B
U T N O T B N E H F
O R E G C J O K A S
G N O W S O K S W S
H Q Y D O B E E R F

CALHOUN
FREEBODY
HOLMES
OPENSHAW
WATSON



Find the answers on page 32

Entertainment Resources for Younger Sherlockians

The Hound of the Baskervilles: Four Adaptations

“Mr Holmes, they were the footprints of a gigantic hound!”

With those words, Dr Mortimer convinces Holmes to take a case he was ready to dismiss with a yawn. *The Hound of the Baskervilles* is frequently named as a favorite among the stories, and with good reason. It has adventure, mystery, a little bit of romance, and fantastic gothic atmosphere. It has been translated into many languages and scripted for movies and television. It has been abridged, illustrated, and otherwise adapted for a range of audiences.

In the original novel, Holmes is visited by Dr Mortimer, who tells him of his friend, Sir Charles Baskerville, whose sudden death seems to be part of a family curse. He is afraid that Sir Charles’s heir, Sir Henry, will fall victim to the same curse. Holmes and Watson meet Sir Henry in London, where a few strange encounters eliminate any final doubts about whether he is in danger. Holmes sends Watson to Dartmoor with Sir Henry to protect him.

At Baskerville Hall, things only become more mysterious. There is an escaped convict somewhere nearby, the household servants seem to be hiding something, and when Sir Henry falls in love with a young lady, her brother is strangely jealous. Everyone has secrets, and they all come out in dramatic fashion before the Baskervilles

can finally be safe from the legendary beast.

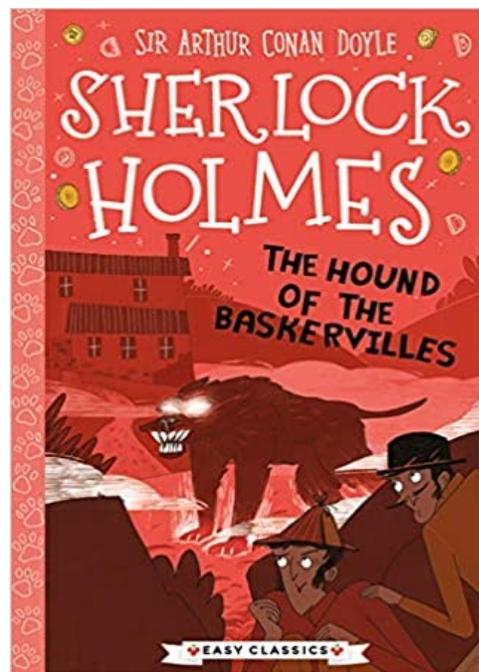
Here are four different adaptations of that one story.

***Sherlock Holmes: The Hound of the Baskervilles*, adapted by Stephanie Baudet, illustrated by Arianna Bellucci**

Sweet Cherry Publishing produces its Easy Classics line for readers age 7 and up. Three 10-book box sets of Holmes stories have been released in the UK, and they are gradually appearing in the US. *The Hound of the Baskervilles* is part of the “Creatures, Codes and Curious Cases” collection.

The story is told with simplified language and context clues for some of the historical details.

The illustrations are black-and-white line drawings that are more cartoony than realistic, and they also help in understanding the story. Letters and

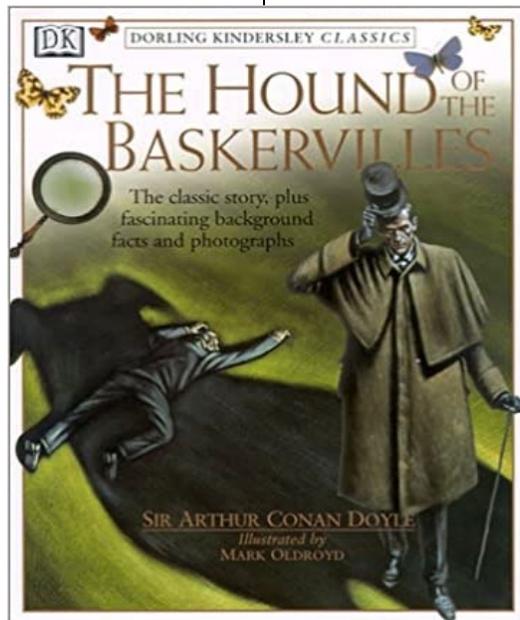


telegrams are separated from the rest of the text by visual cues. Holmes is instantly recognizable in his deerstalker and Inverness cape. He is particularly tall and thin, with a sharply pointed chin and nose. Watson looks rather dashing in striped trousers, black gloves, and bowler hat. The hound, when it appears, is terrifyingly huge, with a mouth full of sharp teeth.

For readers getting started with chapter books, this is an excellent introduction.

***Dorling Kindersley Classics: The Hound of the Baskervilles*, adapted by Marie Greenwood, illustrated by Mark Oldroyd**

Readers familiar with the DK Eyewitness books will find this adaptation a treat. This text is the closest to the original, with a few abridgments rather than complete rephrasing. Full-color acrylic paintings with rich details illustrate many scenes. In addition, sidebars throughout the book explain unfamiliar terms in brief notes with relevant photographs. Victorian coins, a hansom cab, and a quilted dressing gown are just a few examples.

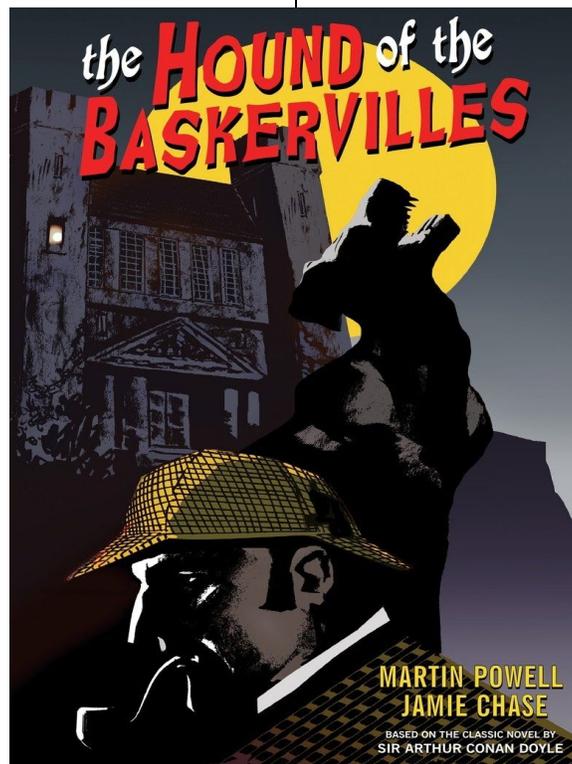


At the beginning of the book, a two-page spread on “The Art of Detection” draws the connections between Holmes’s work and that of modern detectives. At the end, another spread on “Conan Doyle & Sherlock Holmes” touches on Conan Doyle’s biography, the original publication of the Holmes stories, and some of the screen adaptations.

For middle grade and middle school readers, the pairing of DK style and mostly-original text is ideal.

***The Hound of the Baskervilles: A Graphic Novel* by Martin Powell and Jamie Chase**

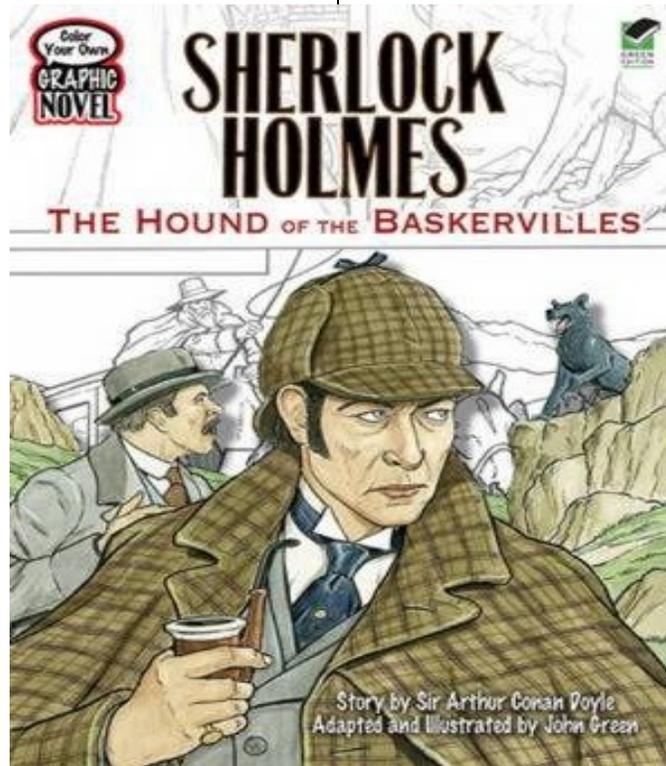
This graphic novel adaptation, published by Dark Horse, really emphasizes that gothic atmosphere. The dark palette of the artwork is composed of browns, dark blues, and black; the green glow of the hound is creepy indeed against this background. The story moves briskly, evoking long narrative passages with just a panel or two. Information comes through dialogue that retains the feel of the original text.



While tracing the major plot points of the novel, there are a few dramatic liberties taken. Some are very small, like changing Frankland's name to Franklin. Some are literal illustrations of events only related second-hand, heightening their impact and setting the mood. Sir Charles Baskerville's death, the details suggested by Dr Mortimer's description of the scene, is rendered in the opening pages. There, a gentleman in top hat and overcoat stands alone on a dark night. A large black dog, surrounded by a green glow, appears from the shadows and chases him through the fog. As the red eyes and sharp teeth close in, the action abruptly shifts to Baker Street, where Holmes and Watson are about to hear the tale of the hound from Dr Mortimer. Still others seem to draw from other sources. Stapleton's fate, left ambiguous in the novel, is given on-page detail that seems to draw from at least one film version.

For teens, this dark and moody adaptation gives a taste of the tale that will

likely whet their appetite for the original book.



Color Your Own Graphic Novel: Sherlock Holmes: The Hound of the Baskervilles, adapted and illustrated by John Green

Large detailed comic panels await those who would like to spend some time coloring. This abridged version of the novel relies heavily on narrative boxes to carry the plot forward, because the art is

really the point.

The focus is primarily on characters' faces, but there are also opportunities to complete the wild landscape of Dartmoor and other scenes. When it appears, the hound has a marked wolfish appearance; making it glow is entirely up to the reader.

Best suited for those who have already enjoyed *The Hound of the Baskervilles* in the original, it offers hours of coloring fun for all ages.

Beth L. Gallego

Secret Messages in the Canon

In *The Valley of Fear* and “The Adventure of the Dancing Men,” Sherlock Holmes must break a code to solve a case.

He tells Watson he’s practiced his decoding skills by reading similar messages in the newspaper where people would send secret notes in private ads.



Sending and reading coded messages in the newspapers was a popular pastime in Victorian England. Public interest grew, in part, from Edgar Allan Poe’s own study and use of ciphers, or secret writing. In his essay series “A Few Words on Secret Writing,” Poe discussed the use of substitution codes, which he used in his short story “The Gold Bug” and challenged readers to submit messages for him to decipher.

Substitution codes involve using a line of 26 letters or symbols, like in “The Adventure of the Dancing Men” where the alphabet is written underneath, and the message is then rewritten using the new letters or symbols. For example, using the Latin phrase “*Sauviter in modo, fortiter in re*” (“Gentle in manner, firm in deed”), the new, coded, alphabet (or “key”) would be (as shown at the bottom of this page):

“My name is Sherlock Holmes” would become “dr osdi ii iritofum rfodii.” Because some letters have the same coded symbol, the message is harder to decipher, but easy with the key.

S a u v I t e r I n m o d o f o r t I t e r I n r e
A b c d e f g h I j k l m n o p q r s t u v w x y z

Without the key, decoding a message requires identifying the most frequently used letters or symbols in the message and using them to guess which represent the most frequent letters in English (such as the letter E). Using trial and error, the decoder guesses at the letters and message until it makes sense.



In 1841, Poe announced he had managed to crack all the messages received over a two-year period except two submitted by W.B. Tyler. One of these was not solved until 2000 (almost 160 years later) by a Canadian computer expert.

Computers and other machines made codes much more complex and more difficult to decipher. Perhaps the most famous was the Enigma machine developed by Germany during World War II. Today, messages can even be hidden in computer pictures.

Liese Sherwood-Fabre

Using the substitution code on the previous page, can you decipher this famous Sherlock Holmes quote?

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| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | , | | | | | | |

Answer on page 30

Sherlock Holmes Mini-Mystery

Can you help Sherlock Holmes solve the mystery from the clues provided?

Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson stood at the front door of the accused assailant.

"I feel a cool west wind on the back of my neck," stated Watson. "I should have worn a scarf to keep from catching a cold."

While it was a clear, early sunny afternoon, he could not help but feel a small chill as he looked into the front hallway and witnessed the smashed vase on the floor. Several very muddy footprints could be seen crossing the floor from the front door to the area of the broken pottery.

Inspector Lestrade invited the two into the residence and asked the person of interest, Dorothy Mayer, to explain exactly what had happened.

"I have been extremely nervous lately. I just had a feeling someone was following me each time I left my house. My husband was on a business trip to Birmingham, and was not scheduled to return until tomorrow morning."

"Does he take many trips that take him away from the house?" inquired Holmes.

"Yes, almost weekly. It puts a mighty pressure on me, cleaning the house, taking care of the children, and even pitching in at the store my husband manages whenever I have a free moment. Of course, he does not seem to even recognize how fatigued I am all the time."

Watson nodded slightly, sympathizing with Mrs. Mayer's plight.

"So when I heard a scratching noise at the front door early this morning, just after sunrise, I was sure someone was trying to break in. So I grabbed the first thing I could find, which was that tired, old vase that my mother-in-law gave to us on our wedding day. I forgot how much it meant to us."

She pointed to the hundreds of small, broken pieces on the floor. Holmes could not help but notice a slight smile

on the woman's face as she described how the vase had met its demise.

"And just look at my freshly cleaned floor. I did all that work yesterday for nothing."

The smile on the woman's face was quickly replaced with a ferocious scowl.

"I hid behind the front door, and when the door opened, I saw a shadow fall completely across the hallway floor. I was not going to take a chance on who it was, as I was so frightened. So I simply swung the vase as hard as I could, smacking the intruder on the top of the head. It was not until he collapsed onto the floor, completely knocked out, that I recognized it was my husband. I was as shattered as that ratty vase."

Inspector Lestrade asked Holmes and Watson to accompany him into the sitting room, leaving Mrs. Mayer in the foyer.

"I believe it was a simple case of mistaken identity. I really do not see any crime that was committed here," indicated the Scotland Yard Police Officer.

Holmes responded, "I agree there may not have been a heinous act taken upon the husband, who I understand will fully recover, though he will have a large bump on his head for a few days. However, this was no accident. I believe Mrs. Mayer has not been truthful with us, and has simply fabricated her fear of being followed in an attempt to hide the real motive for her whacking her husband on the head."

Can you figure out why Holmes has come to the conclusion that Mrs. Mayer is covering up something based on the clues provided?

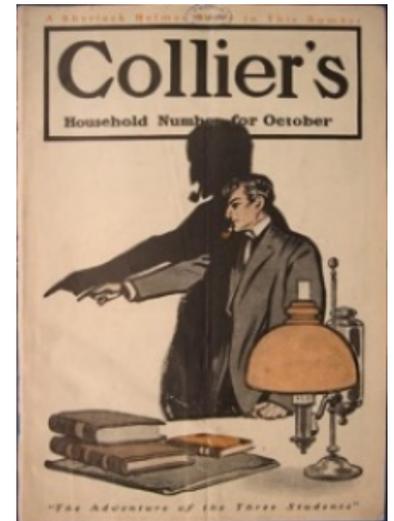
Steve Mason

See page 30 for the correct answer.

EVERYTHING YOU WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT SHERLOCK HOLMES AND MORE



Arthur Conan Doyle wrote four novels and 56 short stories that Sherlockians call “The Canon.” The novels are *A Study in Scarlet*, *The Sign of Four*, *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, and *The Valley Of Fear*. The short stories were published in serial form in monthly magazines such as *The Strand* in England and in various weekly magazines like *Collier’s* and *Liberty* in the United States. The short stories were later published in books titled *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*, *The Memoirs of*



Sherlock Holmes, *The Return of Sherlock Holmes*, *His Last Bow*, and *The Casebook of Sherlock Holmes*.

If you would like to read more of Arthur Conan Doyle’s stories about Sherlock Holmes, you should visit your local library or, if you have access to the Internet, you can find all of the stories as well as everything else you need to know about the master consulting detective.

You can read and download all 60 stories for free from the website Sherlockian.net which was established by Chris Redmond in 1994 at the University of Waterloo, in Canada. When it was launched, it was the only Sherlockian website in the world. In 2016, Sherlockian.net was entrusted to Michigan State University’s Writing, Information, and Digital Experience research center (WIDE) under the direction of Liza Potts.

Today, the school’s faculty, academic specialists, librarians, and students monitor thousands of Sherlockian links and have hundreds of pages of content that you will find interesting. There is a wealth of information that will educate and appeal to all levels of Sherlockian experience from novice to veteran. The site is divided into five categories; Investigating, Adapting, Celebrating, Teaching, and Sharing.

In the “Investigating” section, you can find answers to Who is Sherlock Holmes? What does he do, who created him, and why is he important? You’ll find the answers to these questions and more.

You will find all 60 stories written by Arthur Conan Doyle, including translations into German, Italian, French, Spanish, and Japanese. There are summaries of each story, results of polls rating the favorite stories of Sherlockians around the world and other “top 10” lists for the best Holmes quotes, movies, and Sherlock Holmes gifts. You’ll find information on topics like Arthur Conan Doyle and his other literary works, the Victorian era in England, British currency, and how to subscribe to Sherlockian journals, magazines, and newsletters.

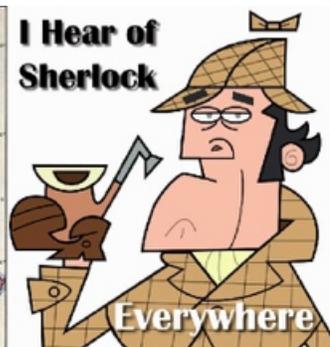
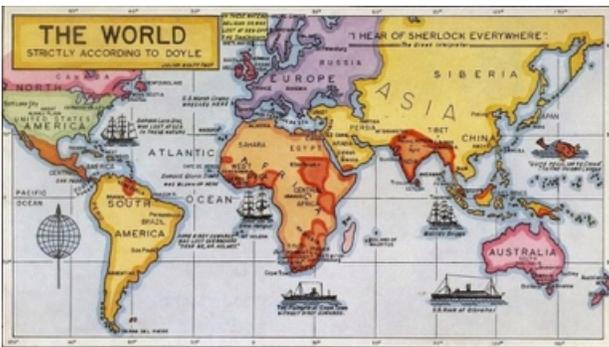


In “Adapting” you will find information about different actors who have portrayed Holmes on stage, film, and television “and see images from classic and more modern works.” The first stage play was performed in 1899. Did you know there was a musical about Sherlock Holmes? There are also links to popular television series such as BBC’s *Sherlock*, starring Benedict Cumberbatch and Martin Freeman, CBS’s *Elementary*, starring Johnny Lee Miller and Lucy Liu, and the Granada *Sherlock Holmes* series starring Jeremy Brett and David Burke as Holmes and Watson, respectively. There are links to the world of Holmes on film from 1900 to the present. You can also listen to audio recordings of the Holmes stories because most of these works are in the public domain and many are available for free online from such sites as Libravox.org. There are links to illustrations by Sidney Paget and Frederic Dorr Steele, artwork in Sherlockian comics and a tutorial on how to draw the Great Detective. “The characters of the Sherlock Holmes stories stay in the imaginations of fans worldwide, and have found life beyond the Canon in pastiches, parodies, and fan fictions. A pastiche is similar to a parody in that it mimics the style and content of the original work,” so you can read about Holmes interacting with famous historical and fictitious figures like Vincent Van Gogh, Thomas Edison, and Count Dracula.

The section on “Celebrating” provides links to the Sherlockian community with information on “numerous gatherings, groups, and events focused on the Great Detective and the culture surrounding him.” There are places to visit and a list of Sherlockian groups all over the world where members “discuss everything from the original stories to the latest spin-off and provide opportunities to meet other enthusiasts.” A Sherlockian calendar lists conventions and meetings of societies that you may attend in person in your area or virtually around the world via Zoom.

The Beacon Society, a scion of the Baker Street Irregulars, is an organization dedicated to supporting educators who bring Sherlock Holmes into their curriculum. In the section on “Teaching” you will find information about how teachers can incorporate the works of Sherlock Holmes into the classroom, with links to scholarly articles on the Canon, adaptations, and Sherlockian fan culture “as well as resources for term papers, speakers, and more.” You’ll find a link on YouTube to an interview of Arthur Conan Doyle.

Last, the section of “Sharing” states, “This section is your resource for Sherlockian websites, social media, histories, news, and information that are important to the community. There’s a world of like-minded people out there, coming together to share their love for Sherlock



Holmes.” This section includes games and puzzles, discussion groups, links to podcasts like *I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere*, *Trifles*, and *I Grok Sherlock*, and blogs and interesting articles and websites where you can listen to old time radio broadcasts from the

1930’s and 1940’s with Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce as Holmes and Watson.

One other site that you may find interesting is the *Bilge Pump* newsletter which can be found on the website of the scion “*The Crew of the Barque Lone Star*.” <https://www.dfw-sherlock.org/newsletters--crew-meeting-logs.html>. The newsletter summarizes the group’s monthly meetings and is filled with cartoons, toasts, poems, and incisive articles about the stories in the Canon. This website also has links to many poems, limericks, and pastiches written by the scion’s members. If you enjoy reading *Sherlock’s Spotlight*, you’d enjoy the *Bilge Pump* newsletter and be welcome to attend a meeting of any Sherlockian group.



Rich Krisciunas

The Junior Sherlockian Society

UNLOCKING A YOUNG PERSON'S UNDERSTANDING
AND APPRECIATION OF SHERLOCK HOLMES



The game is afoot!

The Beacon Society invites youth to complete Junior Sherlockian Training – an in-depth study of Sherlock Holmes’s character traits, observational skills, capacity for critical thought, and inductive and deductive reasoning.

During the online training, Junior Sherlockians-in-Training complete tasks to *explore*, *experience*, and *extend* their understanding and appreciation of the great detective.

Upon completion of the tasks and submission of “training evidence”, a certificate of completion is granted.

2

Explore

Complete **TWO TASKS** to be introduced to the great detective.

2

Experience

Read or listen to **TWO** stories written by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.

1

Extend

Complete **ONE TASK** to extend your understanding and appreciation.

B

‘B’ RECOGNIZED

Submit your 2-2-1-b training evidence.

*Begin your Sherlockian training
at www.juniorsherlockian.com*



Fingerprint Match

There are 12 sets of fingerprints that Sherlock Holmes must match. Find each match.

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|---|--|----------|--|----------|--|
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| P | | Q | | R | | S | | T | |
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| U | | V | | W | | X | | | |

See page 31 for the correct answer.

Baker Street Elementary

Baker Street Elementary
Number 363 – 11/01/2021

Fay, Mason & Mason

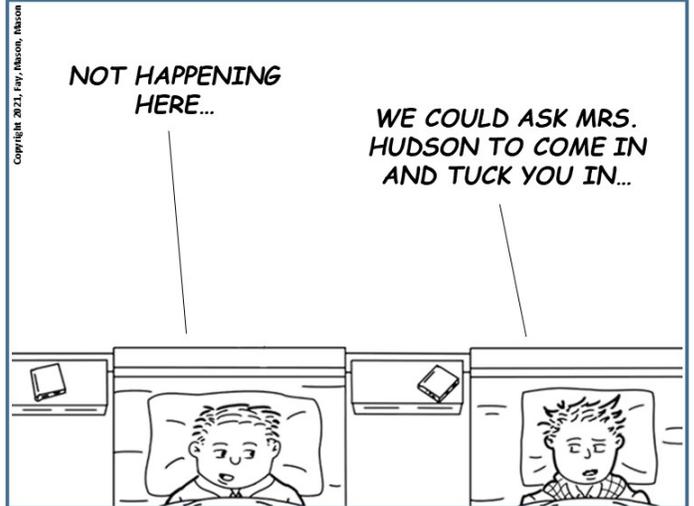
I MISS GETTING KISSED ON THE
CHEEK BY MY MOTHER EVERY NIGHT...



THE FIRST ADVENTURES OF HOLMES AND WATSON

NOT HAPPENING
HERE...

WE COULD ASK MRS.
HUDSON TO COME IN
AND TUCK YOU IN...



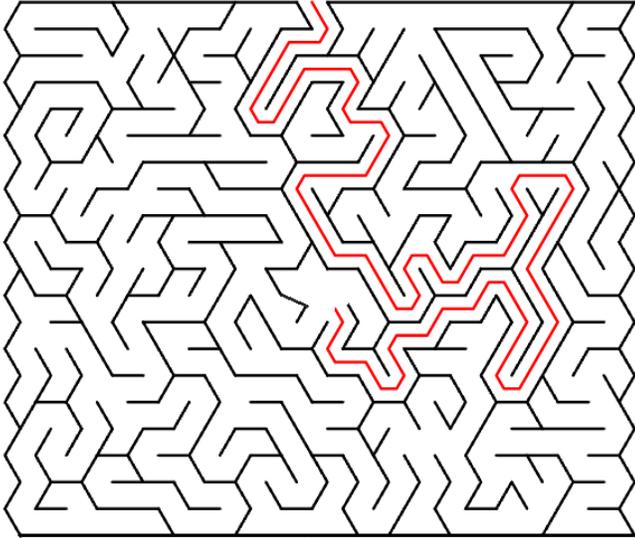
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WHAT I DON'T MISS IS THAT SHE
WOULD THEN SAY, 'HAVE SWEET
DREAMS'... JUST AS I AM FALLING
ASLEEP AND SHE ADDS ADDITIONAL
RESPONSIBILITIES TO MY LIFE...



Puzzle Answers

THAT'S-A-MAZE-ING



SHERLOCK HOLMES MINI-MYSTERY: Holmes was able to quickly identify four clues which helped lead him to the deduction that Mrs. Mayer was not telling the truth.

1. Her smile when she told Lestrade and others about smashing the vase, which indicated she did NOT treasure it in the least.
2. How upset she became when fixating on her now filthy foyer area with the mud prints.
3. She obviously was very upset with the lack of assistance she was receiving from her husband around the house.
4. And the most important clue... Watson, while standing outside, mentions the cool west wind on the back of his neck. That means the front door faced the west. Since the sun rises in the east, there was no way a shadow could have covered the entire hallway when the "intruder" entered the house.

Under intense questioning, Mrs. Mayer admitted she had been upset with her husband for weeks, and the final straw was broken when he came walking into the house with his very muddy boots. Without thinking, she grabbed the closest item, which was the vase that she hated, and smashed it over his head, thinking it might actually knock some sense into him.

Mr. Mayer fully recovered and later admitted he had been guilty of neglecting his duties around the house, including supporting his wife with all her work, and agreed to pay more attention. No charges were levied against Mrs. Mayer, but she did receive a very stern lecture from Inspector Lestrade.

Secret Code in the Canon

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| Y | O | U | K | N | O | W | M | Y | M | E | T | H | O | D | S | , | W | A | T | S | O | N |

Fingerprint Match

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| F | W | G | R | H | N | I | E | J | C |
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| K | X | L | T | M | P | N | H | O | U |
|  |  |  |  |  | | | | | |
| P | M | Q | D | R | G | S | A | T | L |
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WORD SEARCH:

Holmes's Team

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----------|
| W | W | Y | D | O | B | E | E | R | F | |
| H | A | E | N | I | H | A | V | E | S | CALHOUN |
| P | U | T | N | T | H | E | C | W | E | FREEBODY |
| S | B | T | S | H | E | Y | A | M | A | HOLMES |
| E | Y | T | A | O | K | E | L | T | H | OPENSHAW |
| M | E | O | P | E | N | S | H | A | W | WATSON |
| L | F | L | I | E | S | B | O | U | T | |
| O | N | O | T | B | E | F | U | O | R | |
| H | E | Q | N | O | D | Y | N | U | M | |
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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
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| W | E | B | | T | H | E | Y | | M | A | Y | | T | A | K | E | | T | H | E |
| F | L | I | E | S | | B | U | T | | N | O | T | | B | E | F | O | R | E | |

Watson's Team

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----------|
| C | W | H | E | N | I | H | A | V | E | |
| S | A | P | U | W | A | T | S | O | N | CALHOUN |
| N | T | L | H | E | W | E | B | P | T | FREEBODY |
| H | E | Y | H | M | A | Y | T | E | A | HOLMES |
| S | E | M | L | O | H | K | E | N | T | OPENSHAW |
| H | E | F | L | I | U | E | S | S | B | WATSON |
| U | T | N | O | T | B | N | E | H | F | |
| O | R | E | G | C | J | O | K | A | S | |
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| W | E | B | | T | H | E | Y | | M | A | Y | | T | A | K | E | | T | H | E |
| F | L | I | E | S | | B | U | T | | N | O | T | | B | E | F | O | R | E | |