## SHERLOCK'S SPOTLIGHT

## A Quarterly Gazette for Young Sherlockians Everywhere

### Spring 2023

"The Adventure of the Beryl Coronet"

Cover art of Moriarty with permission from Jeff Huddleston and Mike McClure



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

See page 2 for more details!

#### Welcome to

## SHERLOCK'S SPOTLIGHT

#### Volume 4, Number 2

Spring 2023: "The Adventure of the Beryl Coronet"

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** 

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- 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 <a href="mason.steve8080@gmail.com">mason.steve8080@gmail.com</a> 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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Find out more about The Beacon Society and our efforts to bring Sherlock Holmes to students

at: www.beaconsociety.com

# Welcome to SHERLOCK'S SPOTLIGHT

## Volume 4, Number 2 Spring 2023: "The Adventure of the Beryl Coronet"

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## Highlights from the Head-Light

Here's the latest *Sherlock's Spotlight*, full of puzzles, games, a mini mystery and a brain teaser, a graphic story, recommendations for a graphic novel and movie, and information about Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, the creator of Sherlock Holmes, and Dr. Bell, the inspiration for Sherlock. We also include a Sherlock Holmes adventure. If you are inspired to draw or write something about Sherlock Homes yourself, please share it with us!

Our Sherlock Holmes story this issue is "The Beryl Coronet". What is a beryl coronet? Find out when Steve Mason explains the story, as well as why a father accuses his son of theft. But was his son really guilty of stealing the coronet? Who else could have taken it? Sherlock Holmes is called onto the case and not only tracks down the coronet but reunites the father and son.

Sherlock Holmes is famous for his skill at observation. Rich Krisciunas shows us examples of this skill from many of the stories and explains who inspired Sherlock. Are you as good an observer as Sherlock Holmes? Try answering the questions included at the end of the article and find out!

We're excited to include a Text Me Mystery by Ann Kimbrough. Follow along as four teenage friends in 2023 exchange text messages with Sherlock Holmes in 1897. I'm looking forward to reading more of the story in the next issue.

Margie Deck returns to tell us about when Arthur Conan Doyle joined a seal-hunting ship as doctor in 1880. Not only did he survive a hurricane, he traveled to the Arctic Ocean and fell into the frigid water, not once, not twice, but three times on his first day walking on ice floes!

In this issue, Beth Gallego recommends the Enola Holmes graphic novels, newly translated from French, and the second Enola Holmes movie. The novels and movie are based on the character—Sherlock Holmes's young sister—created by Nancy Springer.

We all know that everyone's fingerprints are unique, but the police did not use fingerprints as clues to solve cases until late in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Liese Sherwood-Fabre explains how Sherlock Holmes was ahead of his time in using fingerprints as clues and for planting false clues.

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 our spring issue, and don't forget to share Sherlock's Spotlight with your friends!

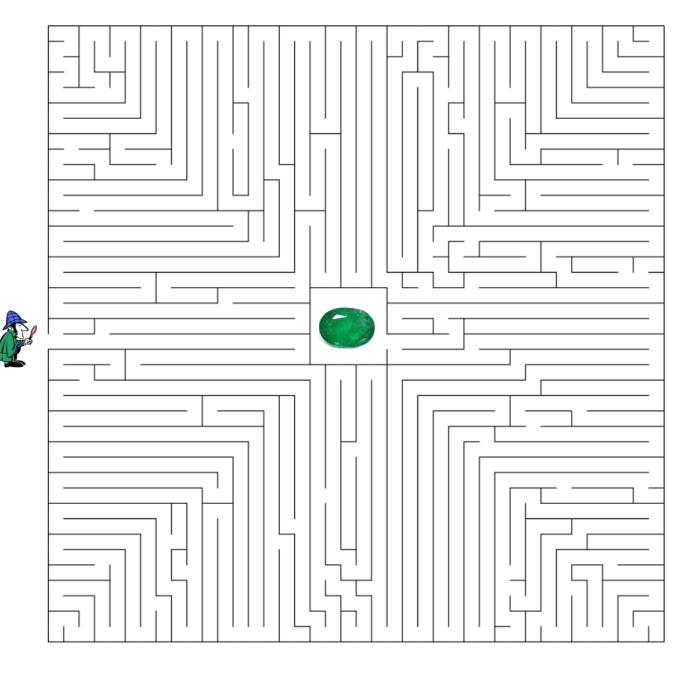
Head-Light, The Beacon Society

Carla Kalssinger Compl

## That's-A-Maze-ing

In "The Adventure of the Beryl Coronet," Sherlock Holmes must find where the stolen beryls end up. Can you and Sherlock find the beryl and help him solve the case?

#### Find the answer on page 26



# <u>Story Profile:</u> "The Adventure of the Beryl Coronet"

#### First published in

- Strand Magazine, United Kingdom, May 1892
- Strand Magazine, United States, June 1892

#### When the story takes place

December 1890

#### **Primary Cast of Characters**

- ALEXANDER HOLDER, prominent banker.
- MARY HOLDER, niece and adopted daughter of Alexander.
- **ARTHUR HOLDER**, son of Alexander and a gambler.
- ANONYMOUS NOBLEMAN leaves the coronet, a national treasure, with the bank-er as security for a loan.
- **SIR GEORGE BURNWELL**, friend of Arthur, secret suitor of Mary. "One of the most dangerous men in England." The thief.
- LUCY PAAR, maid in the Holder house.
- FRANCIS PROSPER, a green-grocer, suitor of Lucy.

#### **Summary**

A very prominent nobleman (who is never named) wants to borrow £50,000 from Alexander Holder's bank. As a promise to repay the loan after four days, the nobleman gives Alexander a jewel-encrusted coronet (a small crown). The coronet is part of the Queen's crown jewels, and not the nobleman's property.

Alexander Holder is afraid to leave the coronet at the bank, so he brings it home and puts it in his bureau

(dresser). He awakens during the night to see his son, Arthur, wrenching at the coronet.

Upon examining the coronet, Alexander finds the coronet to be bent and three of the beryls are missing. He assumes Arthur took the missing piece.

The police are called in, whereupon Arthur is arrested for the theft of the beryls. Alexander pleads for Sherlock Holmes to determine why the son took the beryls, and attempt to recover the jewels.

Through a series of observations and deductions, Holmes is able to determine that Alexander's niece, Mary, took the coronet and handed it through the window to her lover, Sir George Burnwell.

Arthur, who was spying on Mary, had chased Burnwell and got the coronet back from him but during their struggle, Burnwell broke off a corner with the three beryls and kept the jewels.

Holmes solves the case by tracking the villain through the fresh snow. Holmes then buys back the missing stones from the person who received them from Burnwell.

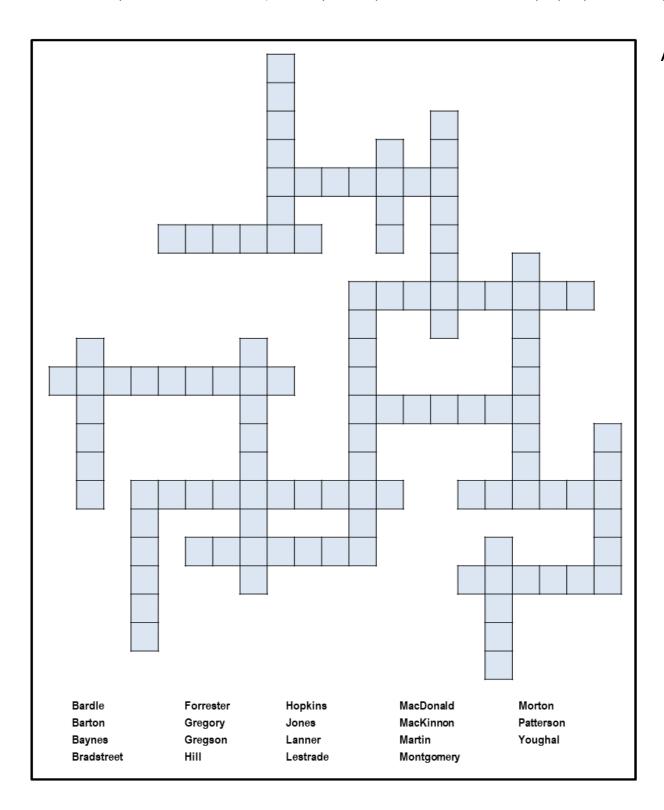
Mary elopes with Sir George, and Holmes does not think she will be happy with him.

Holmes lectures Alexander about trusting his son and suggests Alexander go to the jail where his son is being held. Holmes says Alexander should apologize to his son for questioning his motives.

**Steve Mason** 

#### **Sherlockian Kriss Kross**

There are approximately 20 inspectors identified by name in the 60 Sherlock Holmes stories (specifically named with the position of INSPECTOR). See if you can place their names in the proper place in the puzzle.



Answer on page 27

### Entertainment Resources for Younger Sherlockians: Comics & Graphic Novels



Enola Holmes: The Graphic Novels

Written and illustrated by Serena Blasco, based on the novels by Nancy Springer, translated from French by Tanya Gold

Published by Andrews McMeel

Recommended for: ages 9-13 (grades 3-8)

Enjoy the first six Enola Holmes books in a new way with these graphic novels originally published in French and now available in English translation.

Vivid watercolor illustrations highlight visual details described in the books, inviting readers to look closely for the clues just as Enola does. The first-person narration is reflected in voice-over bubbles that let the reader know what Enola is thinking while the action moves briskly along.

Each story is followed by pages from Enola's Secret Notebook that examine clues in more detail and explain how to break the codes and interpret the symbols that are used to communicate secret messages in the books.

Originally published as individual graphic novels - The Case of the Missing Marquess, The Case of the Left-Handed Lady, The Case of the Bizarre Bouquets, The Case of the Peculiar Pink Fan, The Case of the Cryptic Crinoline, and The Case of the Baker Street Station - (The Case of the Disappearing Duchess is called Métro Baker Street in French) - the six stories have been collected in two volumes.





**Enola Holmes 2** 

Directed by Harry Bradbeer

Distributed by Netflix

Recommended for ages 13 and up (grades 8-12)

Enola Holmes is back in another Netflix film! While the first movie mostly adapted the first book in the series, with a slightly older Enola, this adventure draws inspiration from historical events, including the matchgirls' strike of 1888.

The movie opens in the middle of a chase through London. Who is chasing Enola, and why? To answer those questions, we jump back in time to see Enola trying to open her own detective agency. It doesn't go well, partly because all the clients only seem to want to consult her brother Sherlock. Just as she is packing up her office things, Enola is approached by Bessie Chapman, a young matchgirl in search of her missing older sister.

Soon, Enola is undercover at the match factory. The working conditions are bad, but there is something even worse going on.

Many of the girls working at the factory have fallen victim to typhus... or was it something else? Enola follows the trail from a music hall to a fancy dress ball, but there is someone who doesn't want her to solve the mystery, and will go to extreme measures to stop her.

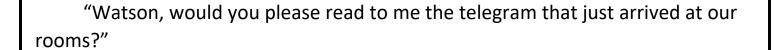
Fans of the first film will be happy to see the reappearance of Tewky, Eudoria, and, of course, Sherlock, who is struggling with his own difficult case.

By the end, a new villain emerges, and a certain friend finally appears, leaving the possibility of another movie yet to come.

#### **Beth Gallego**



## **BRAIN-TEASER:** The Sign of Four



"Were you expecting a mathematical quiz so early in the morning?"

"No."

"That is what the message involves... 'Dear Mr. Holmes, can you please figure out a way to make every whole number from 0 to 10, using exactly four 4s and whichever mathematical operation you wish?'"

"I must admit that is going to be a little bit of a challenge."

"The message offers up one example... 0 = 4/4 - 4/4."

Can you assist Holmes in finding the mathematical formulas for the whole numbers 1-10?

The answer is on page 27

## About Arthur, the Author

Glimpses into the life of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, creator of Sherlock Holmes

#### From Experience to Inspiration

Fiction writers often draw on their life experiences to inspire their stories and Arthur Conan Doyle was no exception. He lived a very adventurous life, traveling to most parts of the world, experiencing many different cultures and climates. He dined with kings, worked in military hospitals, spoke to vast audiences, played numerous sports, learned musical instruments, investigated crimes, reported from the front lines of war, and so much more. One of his earliest adventures inspired several of his sea-going stories, including one considered by many people to be one of his very best, "The Captain of the *Polestar*" and a notable series of exciting tales about a brutal

pirate named Captain Sharkey.

In February of 1880, twenty-year-old Arthur Conan Doyle was in his third year of medical school. He needed money to continue his studies, so he signed on as a crew doctor for the

whaling ship, *Hope*. Although Arthur was not a full-fledged doctor yet, he had enough training to join the crew for the expedition. Captain John Gray gave him the job when Arthur's friend Currie, a fellow medical student, changed his mind about taking the position. The *Hope* was to spend seven months in the Arctic Ocean.

The Arctic Ocean includes the North Pole region of the northern hemisphere. Its borders include the Bering Strait on the Pacific side and the Greenland Scotland Ridge on the Atlantic side. The ocean was covered by sea ice throughout the year, and it was very dangerous for ships and the sailors. The *Hope* 

sailed from Peterhead, a town in Aberdeen, Scotland. But it immediately ran into foul weather. The captain managed to find a safe place in a harbor in the Shetland Islands just before the full force of a hurricane could cripple the ship. They could not leave for the arctic until March.

Only four days later, Arthur awoke to the sound of floating ice pieces bumping into the sides of the boat. It appeared the entire sea was covered with drifting ice. "They were none of them large," he wrote later, "but they lay so thick that a man might travel far by springing from one to another."



The ship's crew intended to hunt for seals. Arthur hoped to go with the crew out onto the ice but because a strong swell had risen, the floating ice pieces were crashing into one another. The ship's captain told

Arthur he had to stay on the ship as he did not have enough experience to safely walk about on the moving ice and would surely fall into the dangerously cold sea.

A disappointed and angry Arthur obeyed the captain and went to sit on top of the bulwarks of the ship with his legs dangling over the side. He did not realize a sheet of ice had formed on the bulwark and in just a moment, he slid off the ship and vanished into the sea between two ice blocks. Luckily, he crawled onto one of the blocks and managed to get back onto the ship.

As he had already fallen, the captain then allowed him to come out onto the ice with the crew, saying Arthur "was bound to fall into the ocean in any case and might as well be on the ice." The captain was right. Arthur tumbled into the dangerous water two more times that day. He had to return to the ship and go to bed while his clothes were thawed and dried out in the engine room.

He went on to have other dangerous days on the ice. There were other surprises during the voyage including a chance to see a right whale (baleen)

jumping completely out of the water into the air. Arthur was fascinated by the animal life that lived in such a stark and unforgiving atmosphere:

The perpetual light, the glare of the white ice, the deep blue of the water, these are the things which one remembers

most clearly... the innumerable seabirds, whose call is for ever ringing in your ears—the gulls, the fulmars, the snow-birds, the burgomasters, the looms, and the rotjes.

These fill the air, and below, the waters are for ever giving you a peep of some strange new

creature...the mis-shapen hunchback whale, the ghost-like white whale, the narwhal, with his unicorn horn, the queer-looking bottle-nose, the huge, sluggish, Greenland shark, and the terrible killing grampus, the most formidable of all the monsters of the deep,—these are the creatures who own those unsailed seas.

On the ice are the seals, the saddle-

backs, the ground seals and the huge bladdernoses, 12 feet from nose to tail, with the power of blowing up a great bloodred football upon their noses when they are angry, which they usually are.
Occasionally one

sees a white Arctic fox upon the ice, and everywhere are the bears.



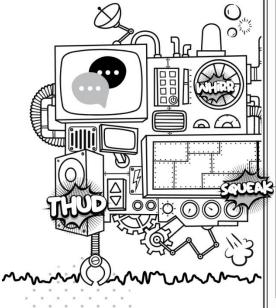
After many months at sea, he finally returned home to Scotland and his medical studies. But his life had changed. The isolation, the danger, and the unusual life on the ship altered his thinking, his health, and his understanding of the world around him. He said the Arctic had awakened "the soul of a born wanderer."

#### **Margie Deck**

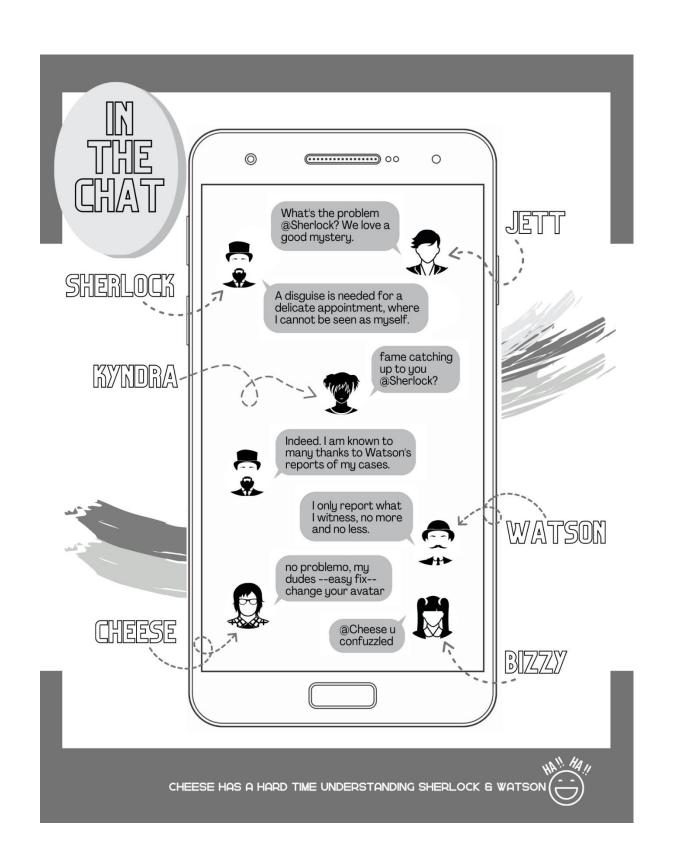


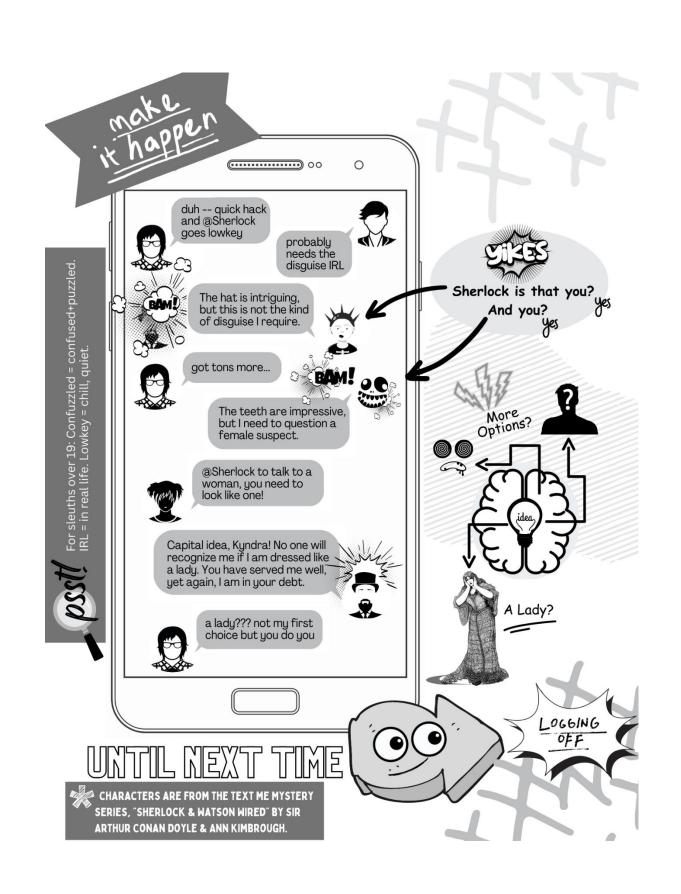
by Ann Kimbrough

SHERLOCK HOLMES, A DETECTIVE FROM 1897, IS LATE TO A GROUP CHAT WITH HIS FOUR NEW TEENAGE FRIENDS, WHO HAPPEN TO LIVE IN 2023. IT'S ONE AMAZING GROUP CHAT!

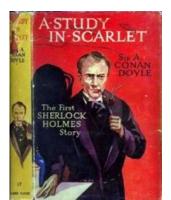








# <u>Sherlock Holmes, Dr. Bell, and "The Science of Deduction"</u>



One of the most fascinating things about Sherlock Holmes is his ability to meet prospective clients and, immediately, deduce things about their background by simply looking at them and observing minute details. Once, Holmes was able to determine the military background of someone he observed walking on the street, from his upstairs window at 221B Baker Street.

In A Study in Scarlet, the first novel by Arthur Conan Doyle that introduced Holmes to the world, upon greeting Dr. John H. Watson for the first time, Holmes said, "You have been in Afghanistan, I perceive."

Holmes explained his thought process about Watson having returned from Afghanistan. "I knew you came from Afghanistan. The train of reasoning ran, 'Here is a gentleman of a medical type, but with the air of a military man. Clearly an army doctor, then. He has just come from the tropics, for his face is dark, and that is not the natural tint of his skin, for his wrists are fair. He has undergone hardship and sickness, as his haggard face says clearly. His left arm has been injured. He holds it in a stiff and unnatural manner. Where in the tropics could an English army doctor have seen much hardship and got his arm

wounded? Clearly in Afghanistan.' The whole train of thought did not occupy a second. I then remarked that you came from Afghanistan, and you were astonished."

In "The Norwood Builder", John Hector MacFarlane rushed, breathlessly, into 221B and Holmes said, "beyond the obvious facts that you are a bachelor, a solicitor, a Freemason, and an asthmatic, I know nothing whatever about you."



In "A Case of Identity", Holmes greeted potential client Mary Sutherland, who worked as a typist, saying, "Do you not find, that with your short sight it is a little trying to do so much typewriting?"

Ultimately, all of Holmes' deductions were accurate. Holmes deduced Miss Sutherland was short-sighted, by noticing the dint of impressions on her nose that came from glasses, as well as a typist from the double line on her sleeve where it pressed against the table as she typed.

In "The Greek Interpreter", Holmes and his older brother, Mycroft, gazed out of the windows of the Diogenes Club, focused on two men, and began making deductions. Mycroft said, "Look at these two men who are coming towards us." They focused on "a very small, dark fellow, with his hat pushed back and several packages under his arm."

"An old soldier, I perceive," said Sherlock.

"And very recently discharged," remarked the brother.

"Served in India, I see."

"And a non-commissioned officer."

"Royal Artillery, I fancy," said Sherlock.

"And a widower."

"But with a child." (Sherlock)

"Children, my dear boy, children." (Mycroft)

When Watson asked for an explanation, Sherlock explained, "It is not hard to say that a man with that bearing, expression of authority, and sunbaked skin, is a soldier, is more than a private, and is not long from India."

"That he has not left the service long is shown by his still wearing his ammunition boots, as they are called," observed Mycroft. "He had not the cavalry stride, yet he wore his hat on one side, as is shown by the lighter skin of that side of his brow. His weight is against his being a sapper. He is in the artillery."

"Then, of course, his complete mourning shows that he has lost someone very dear. The fact that he is doing his own shopping looks as though it were his wife. He has been buying things for children, you perceive. There is a rattle, which shows that one of them is very young." (Sherlock)

"The fact that he has a picture-book under his arm shows that there is another child to be thought of." (Mycroft)

In A Study in Scarlet, Holmes and Watson saw a plainly-dressed man walking slowly down the other side of the street. He had a large blue envelope in his hand, and was evidently the bearer of a message. Holmes guessed he was a "retired military sergeant."

Watson thought to himself, "He knows that I cannot verify his guess."

When the man appeared at Baker Street to deliver the envelope to Holmes, Watson had his chance to test Holmes' deduction. "May I ask, my lad, what your trade may be?"



"Commissionaire, sir," he said, gruffly. "Uniform away for repairs."

"And you were?" he asked, with a slightly malicious glance at Holmes.

"A sergeant, sir, Royal Marine Light Infantry, sir." He clicked his heels together, raised his hand in a salute, and was gone.

In "The Red-Headed League", Holmes brilliantly summed up a new client: "Beyond the obvious facts that he has at some time done manual labour, that he takes snuff, that he is a Freemason, that he has been in China, and that he has done a considerable amount of writing lately, I can deduce nothing else."

In "The Blue Carbuncle", Holmes examined an old battered felt hat that was found on the street and said this about its owner, "That the man was highly intellectual is of course obvious upon the face of it, and also that he was fairly well-to-do within the last three years, although he has now fallen upon evil days. He had foresight, but has less now than formerly, pointing to a moral retrogression, which, when taken with the decline of his



fortunes, seems to indicate some evil influence, probably drink, at work upon him. This may account also for the obvious fact that his wife has ceased to love him."

In "A Scandal in Bohemia", Watson visited Holmes at Baker Street, some length of time after he had gotten married. Holmes greeted him saying, "And in practice again, I observe. You did not tell me." Watson asked, "Then, how do you know?" He responded, "I see it, I deduce it. How do I know that you have been getting yourself very wet lately, and that you have a most clumsy and careless servant girl?"

"My dear Holmes, this is too much. You would certainly have been burned, had you lived a few centuries ago. It is true that I had a country walk on Thursday and came

home in a dreadful mess, but as I have changed my clothes, I can't imagine how you deduce it. As to Mary Jane, she is incorrigible, and my wife has given her notice, but there, again, I fail to see how you work it out."

Holmes made a double deduction that Watson had been outside in vile weather and had a careless servant girl who damaged his boots. "It is simplicity itself, my eyes tell me that on the inside of your left shoe, just where the firelight strikes it, the leather is scored by six almost parallel cuts. Obviously, they have been caused by someone who has very carelessly scraped round the edges of the sole in order to remove crusted mud from it." Holmes also smelled iodine and noticed a black mark of medicine on his finger and a bulge on the right side of his top-hat to show where he had hidden his stethoscope.

Watson responded, "When I hear you give your reasons, the thing always appears to me to be so ridiculously simple that I could easily do it myself, though at each successive instance of your reasoning I am baffled until you explain your process. And yet I believe that my eyes are as good as yours."

"Quite so," he answered, "You see, but you do not observe. The distinction is clear. For example, you have frequently seen the steps which lead up from the hall to this room."

"Frequently."

"How often?"

"Well, some hundreds of times."

"Then how many are there?"

"How many? I don't know."

"Quite so! You have not observed. And yet you have seen. That is just my point. Now, I know that there are seventeen steps, because I have both seen and observed."

How did Holmes do it? Holmes said, "It is my business to know things. Perhaps I have trained myself to see what others overlook." It was certainly a skill that he developed after much practice with an assist from his author, Arthur Conan Doyle.

Prior to writing the Holmes stories, Conan Doyle studied medicine at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland. One of his teachers was Dr. Joseph Bell who had an out-patient clinic at the university. Dr. Bell amazed his students by deducing details about new patients and their diseases simply by looking them over. Bell urged his

students to take notice of all the little details about their patients, "Use your eyes, use your eyes. Most men have a head, two arms, a nose, a mouth and a certain number of teeth. It is the little differences (the 'trifles')

such as the droop of an eyelid, which differentiates man." Bell would test his students, "What's wrong with this man? Don't touch him. Use your eyes, sit, use your ears, use your brain, your bump of perception, and use your powers of deduction."

Looking at the man, one student guessed, "Hip joint disease, sir." Bell leaned back in his chair and placed his fingertips together underneath his chin. "Hip nothing! The man's limp is not from his hip but from his



foot. Were you to observe closely, you would see there are slits, cut with a knife, in those parts of the shoes where the pressure of the shoe is greatest against the foot. The man is a sufferer from corns, gentlemen, and has no hip trouble at all."

In his second year of school, Bell selected Doyle as one of his assistants, a position in which Doyle was able to witness Bell's powers of deduction up close. When Doyle started writing his Holmes stories, he modeled Holmes on Dr. Bell. Doyle later wrote him, "My dear Dr Bell, it is most certainly to you that I owe Sherlock Holmes."

Of Doyle, Dr. Bell said in an interview in the *Pall Mall Gazette*, in 1893, "I always regarded him as one of the best students I ever had. He was exceedingly interested always upon anything connected with diagnosis, and was never tired of trying to discover all those little details which one looks for."

#### Do you observe or just see?

How many steps are there on your front porch or on your way to the basement?

How many windows are there in your home or apartment? Were they installed when your residence was built or have some been replaced at different times?

Can you deduce what your classmates or family members ate for lunch by looking at their clothing or their faces?

Can you deduce whether someone woke up late before coming to school? What details might help you make your deduction?

Can you find examples in the 60 stories of Sherlock Holmes reading Watson's mind?

Rich Krisciunas © 2023

## Word Search Challenge

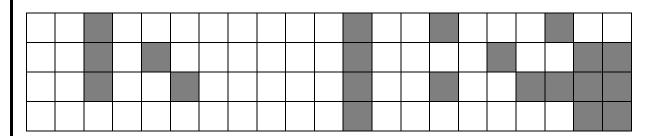
You and a friend can now test your clue-finding skills in the fog-shrouded streets of London.

- 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 6 names from "The Adventure of the Beryl Coronet" 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 6 names and complete the quote wins.

#### **Holmes's Team**

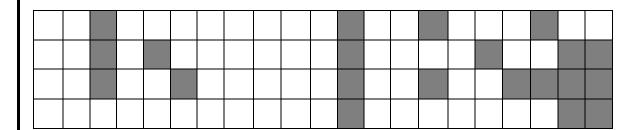
ı	W	T	R	A	P	P	E	S	L	
A	R	A	E	A	н	D	T	E	L	BURNWELL
0	Y	0	T	0	A	U	T	M	E	HOLDER
0	В	E	L	S	A	P	R	L	W	
S	1	D	M	P	0	L	E	0	N	HOLMES
E	E	C	A	S	E	N	P	н	R	PAAR
R	T	0	M	E	I	T	S	S	U	
E	E	M	S	E	X	C	0	E	В	PROSPER
E	D	ı	N	G	L	Y	R	C	0	WATSON
M	P	L	E	X	T	G	P	N	A	



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- 2. Each player shall search his letter grid for the 6 names from "The Adventure of the Beryl Coronet" listed next to the grid.
- 3. Circle each letter of the name. The remaining 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 6 names and complete the quote wins.

#### Watson's Team

I	T	R	R	A	P	P	E	A	S	
R	E	R	E	D	T	0	Y	N	E	BURNWELL
0	U	A	D	P	Т	0	0	В	M	
E	A	A	L	S	S	S	ı	M	L	HOLDER
P	L	P	0	E	T	0	C	A	0	HOLMES
S	E	T	н	A	0	M	R	E	н	
L	L	E	W	N	R	U	В	P	ı	PAAR
T	S	E	E	M	S	E	X	C	E	PROSPER
E	D	I	N	G	L	Y	C	0	M	
P	L	E	X	C	Q	L	G	Z	Y	WATSON



Find the answers on page 28

#### If It's a Print, It Must Be True

In "The Adventure of the Norwood Builder,"

both Lestrade and Holmes appeared to be on the cutting edge of crime scene investigations, but Holmes was farther along in the science. Lestrade found a bloody thumbprint and was certain it identified the murderer.

Holmes, however, remained skeptical. Both were aware of such prints could be used to identify a criminal—but only Holmes saw it could also be misused.

The case of the Norwood Builder occurred in August 1894. Only two years earlier, Sir Francis Galton, a medical doctor and mathematician, published his book *Finger Prints*. He was not, however, the first to study fingerprints.

Dr. Henry Faulds, a Scottish medical missionary in Japan, wrote an article in Nature in 1880. In it, he shared about the finger marks he'd found in ancient pottery. It

was the first scientific study of fingerprints.

He collected and compared the prints from different people and even suggested they could be used to identify criminals. Sir William Herschel, a British civil servant

stationed in India, wrote in the next edition of *Nature* about his use of fingerprints for signing contracts since 1860. In it, he mentioned that no two matched. If no two fingerprints were alike, what was needed was a way to classify or describe them so they could be compared with other prints.

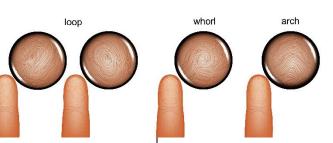
Galton developed such a system using three characteristics he called

the print's loop, whorl, and arch.

A fingerprint is made by the raised areas (ridges) that make the lines on the fingertips. Loops are ridges that curve back on themselves to make a loop. Whorls are spiral patterns. Arches look like waves.

Sir Edward Richard Henry further developed these details and created a system for

Scotland Yard's fingerprint branch in 1901. With this system, a new print could be classified and then compared with prints already on file in Scotland Yard.



TYPES OF FINGERPRINTS

Unfortunately, not all prints are as clear as the one found in the Norwood Builder case. Some can be smeared or only partly there. Edmond Locard studied this problem. He noted that when not enough details can be seen, the print could be presumed to be from a person, but it would not be for certain.

He also discovered it was possible to plant false prints using a finger made from tree gum (a kind of rubber). He wrote about this in 1913. But Holmes had found that wax could

also be used, which is what happened in the Norwood Builder case's bloody print.

His discovery was almost twenty years before Locard's. As always, Holmes demonstrated his extensive knowledge of criminal investigation—this time concerning

the use and misuse of fingerprints—even before it became standard practice.

Take a look at your fingertips. Can you see any loops? Whorls? Arches? How do they

compare with others around you?



#### Liese Sherwood-Fabre, PhD



## Sherlock Holmes Mini-Mystery

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

One very chilly March morning, Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson are visited by a very troubled young woman, Isabel Kerns.

"Mr. Holmes, I just lost my father a few weeks ago. As if that is not enough of a loss, my oldest cousin is now claiming that my father left his entire inheritance to her. That makes no sense, as he had just made Captain and retired last month, telling me the additional pension would be mine if something ever happened to him."

"How did your father die?"

"It was a simple accident. He had been working on his horse buggy in the shed, when the bracing failed, and the buggy fell on him."

"And the inheritance?"

Miss Kerns pulled a letter from her coat pocket, handing it to the detective.

"My cousin claims this letter was written by my father, which indicates she gets all the money."

The letter reads, "May 20, 1895. I, Captain Kerns, hereby request that all my money and possessions be given to my niece, Bertha Sloane, upon my death. Signed, Captain Kerns."

"This is a very interesting will... but I can assure you that you have nothing to worry about. The will would not stand up in court."

What did Holmes see that Watson and Miss Kerns did not notice?

The answer is on page 27

**Steve Mason** 



### 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.



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

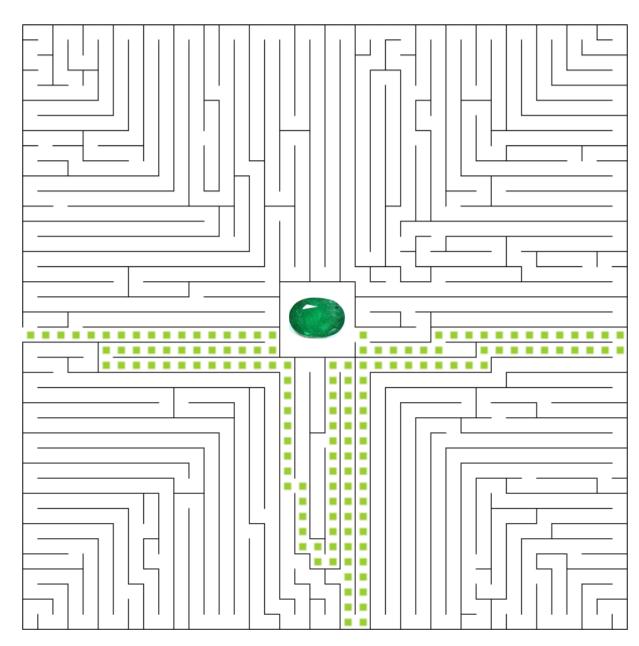
RECOGNIZED
Submit your 2-2-1-b
training evidence.

Begin your Sherlockian training at www.juniorsherlockian.com



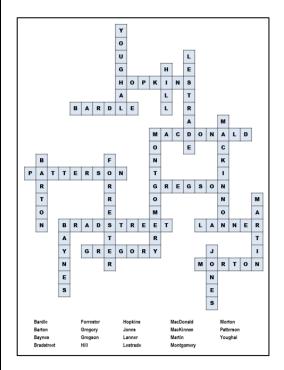
## Puzzle Answers

#### THAT'S-A-MAZE-ING





#### **Sherlockian Kriss Kross**



#### **Brain-Teaser**

$$1 = 4/4 \times 4/4$$

$$2 = 4/4 + 4/4$$

$$3 = (4 + 4 + 4) / 4$$

$$4 = 4 + 4 (4 - 4)$$

$$5 = ((4 X 4) + 4) / 4$$

$$6 = 4^2/4 \times 4/4$$

$$7 = (4 + 4) - 4/4$$

$$8 = 4(4 + 4) / 4$$

$$9 = 4/4 + 4 + 4$$

$$10 = (4/\sqrt{4}) + (4 \times \sqrt{4})$$

#### Mini-Mystery

Since Captain Kerns had just retired a few weeks ago, and Miss Kerns visited Holmes on a chill March morning, Holmes deduced the father passed away in February. He also was promoted to Captain just a few weeks ago, also in February. Therefore, the will, signed by Captain Kerns, and dated in May, must be fake!

#### **WORD SEARCH:**

#### **Holmes's Team**

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#### Watson's Team

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