

SHERLOCK'S SPOTLIGHT

A Quarterly Gazette for Young Sherlockians
Everywhere

Autumn 2023

*"The Adventure of Silver
Blaze"*



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 4

Autumn 2023: "The Adventure of Silver Blaze"

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

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Associate Editors: Carla Coupe and Michael McClure

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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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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 4 Autumn 2023: "The Adventure of Silver Blaze"

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Highlights from the Head-Light

Welcome to the latest issue of Sherlock's Spotlight! Like so many issues before, you'll find this one packed with lots of Sherlockian fun. The Beacon Society, a group dedicated to introducing young people to Sherlock Holmes, is happy to bring Sherlock's Spotlight to you.

This issue will tell you all about the story of "Silver Blaze," a favorite among many readers of the Sherlock Holmes stories. Why do so many people like it? Well, turn to page 6 and find out for yourself! And in the maze on page 5, you can use your skills to lead Holmes to the missing racehorse yourself.

More games and puzzles are peppered throughout this issue including a Kriss Kross that names all of the police inspectors from the Sherlockian stories on page 7, a brain-teaser that Holmes poses to Watson on page 10, and a mini-mystery full of treasures on page 18.

Librarian Beth Gallego is back with some great suggestions for you as well in her column on page 8. From scary stories to friendship magic, there's something for everyone on those pages.

And is the world we live in so different from the one where the Sherlock Holmes stories took place? You can decide for yourself with great articles on Arthur Conan Doyle by Margie Deck on page 11, Sherlock's famous hat and pipe by Rich Krisciunas on page 13, and the jewels of England by Liese Sherwood-Fabre on page 16.

One thing that is definitely different about our time is our cell phones. But somehow Holmes and Watson are able to communicate from their time with four teens here in 2023 in another great Text Me Mystery by Ann Kimbrough on page 19. Will they be able to discover the mystery of The Beast of Sydenham?

But Sherlock's Spotlight isn't just for adults to write things for you to read. We want our readers to get involved! Find information on how to join The Junior Sherlockian Society on page 23, send us artwork for the cover of our next issue, write your own Sherlock Holmes story and send it in. If you can create it, we want to see it!

So dive right in and enjoy this issue of Sherlock's Spotlight. We're glad that you're here!

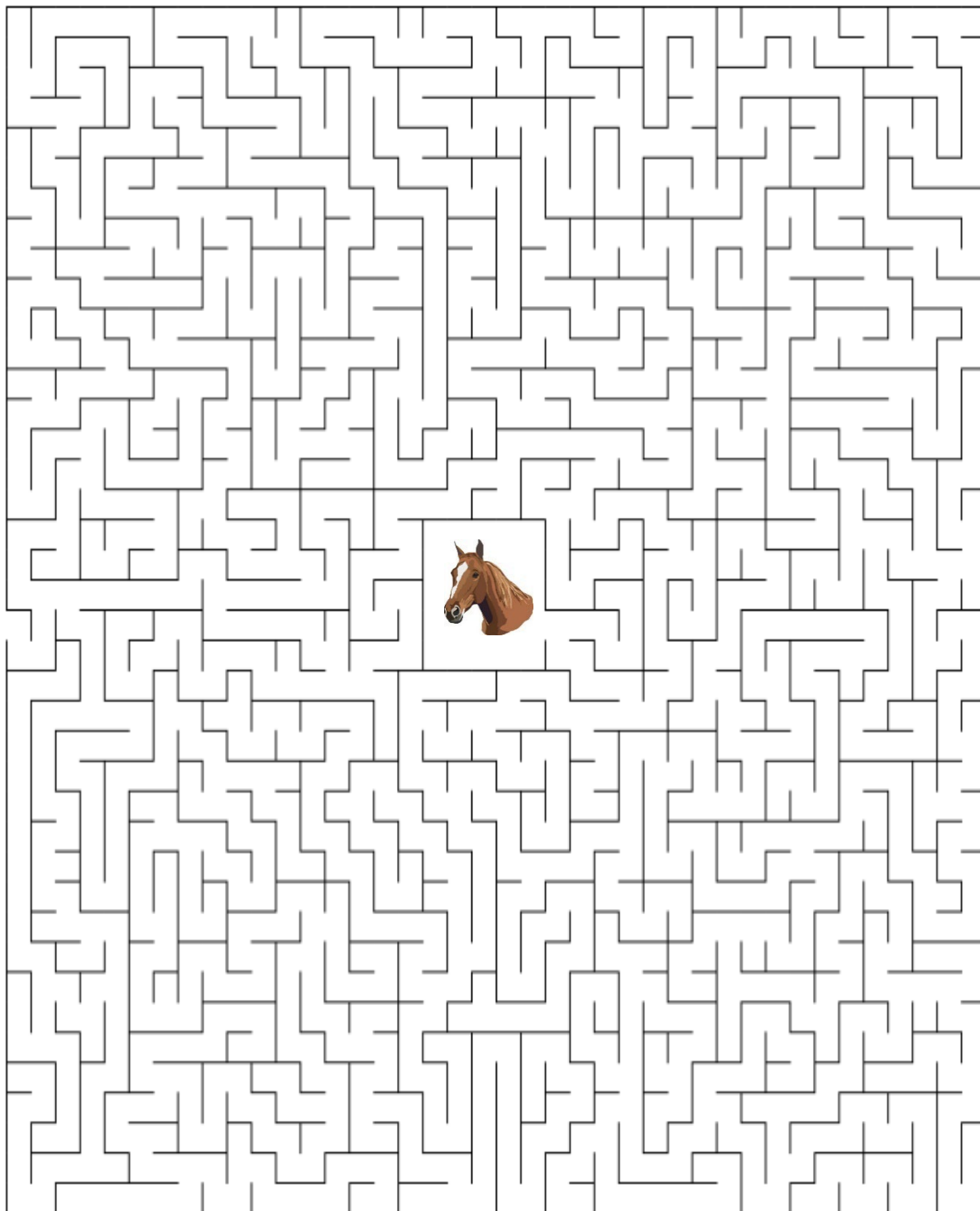
Rob Nunn

Head-Light, The Beacon Society

That's-A-Maze-ing

In "The Adventure of Silver Blaze," Sherlock Holmes must find a missing horse before the big race. Can you and Sherlock find the absent horse and help him solve the case?

Find the answer on page 24



Story Profile:

"The Adventure of Silver Blaze"

First published in

- *The Strand Magazine*, December 1892
- *Harper's Weekly*, February 25, 1893

When the story takes place

- Thursday, September 25, 1890

Primary Cast of Characters

- **JOHN STRAKER**, an ex-jockey turned trainer; he trained Silver Blaze
- **COL. ROSS**, owner of Silver Blaze
- **FITZROY SIMPSON**, a neighbor of the Colonel who liked to bet on horse racing
- **SILAS BROWN**, trainer for Lord Backwater
- **LORD BACKWATER**, owner of a training stable across the moor from the Colonel
- **EDITH BAXTER**, maid to Straker, she delivered the curried mutton to Ned
- **NED HUNTER**, groom on guard duty when Silver Blaze was stolen
- **INSPECTOR GREGORY**, a local officer
- **SILVER BLAZE**, prize winning horse

Summary

Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson travel by train to Dartmoor, summoned to investigate the disappearance of the great racehorse Silver Blaze and the murder of the horse's trainer, John Straker.

Inspector Gregory has already arrested Fitzroy Simpson as a suspect who had been to the stable to gather

information about the racehorse before the running of the Wessex Cup.

However, to Holmes, there seem to be a number of facts that do not fit the inspector's case against Simpson. It seems odd he would lead the horse out on to the moor simply to injure or kill him. That could be done right in his stall. He could not have stolen the animal. What good would such a famous thoroughbred be to him?

Sherlock Holmes tracks down Silver Blaze by following his tracks (along with a man's) in the soil. Holmes deduces why the police could not find the horse, despite having looked right at him. Holmes finds where Silver Blaze is being held, and ensures the horse's safety.

John Straker, Silver Blaze's late trainer, has been found, killed by a blow to the skull. Strangely, the dog who helped guard the stables did not bark during the night. One would assume he would have barked if a stranger was prowling around.

Holmes determines the trainer was actually killed by a kick from the horse while the trainer was trying to injure the horse. The trainer had many debts, and thought he could change the odds on the race by injuring the horse, making him unable to run.

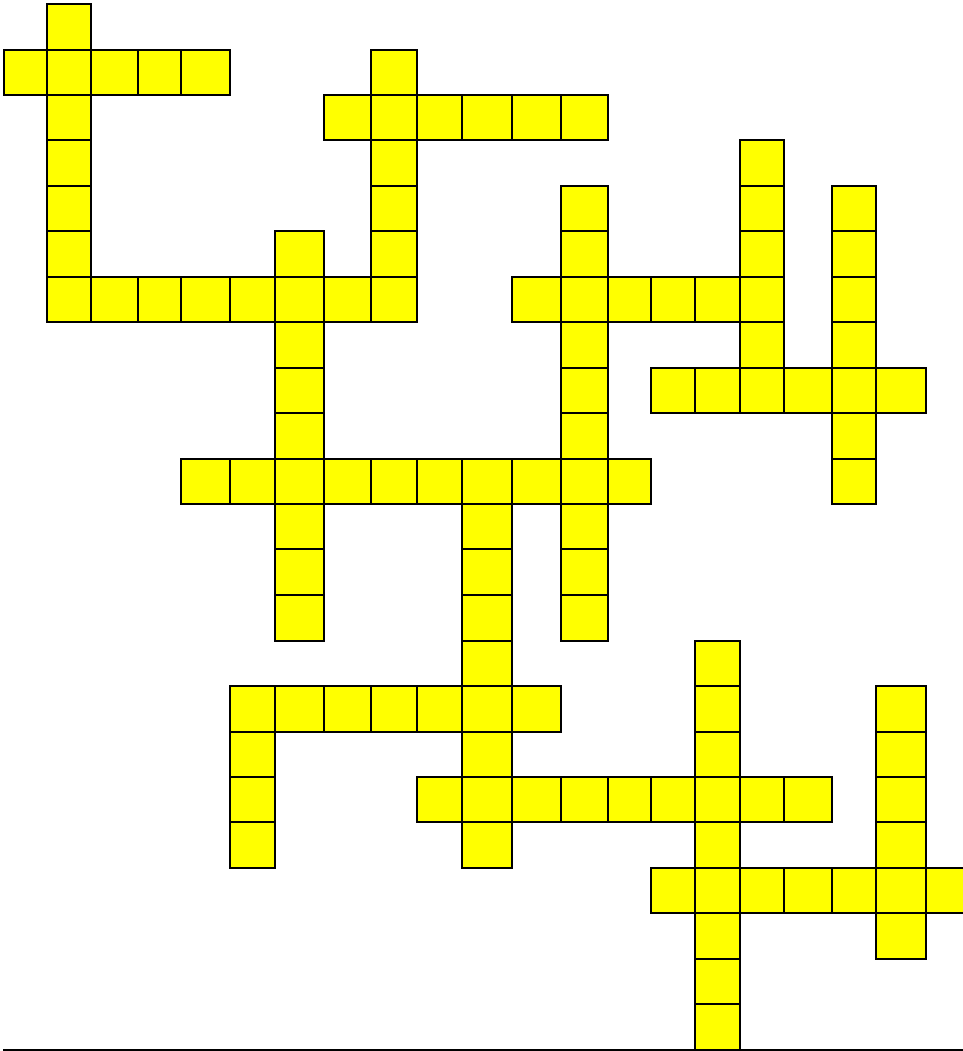
Ultimately, Silver Blaze is returned just in time, from a neighboring stable, to run and win the Wessex Cup.

Steve Mason

Sherlockian Kriss Kross

There are many inspectors from Scotland Yard throughout the 60 Sherlock Holmes stories. See if you can place their names in the proper place in the puzzle.

Answer on page 25



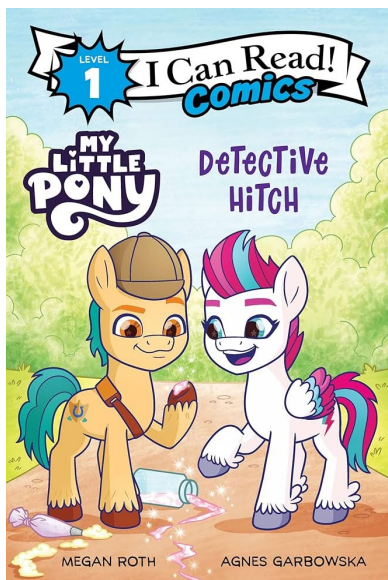
Bardle
Barton
Baynes
Bradstreet
Forrester

Gregory
Gregson
Hill
Hopkins
Jones

Lanner
Lestrade
MacDonald
MacKinnon
Martin

Montgomery
Morton
Patterson
Youghal

Entertainment Resources for Younger Sherlockians: Comics, Books, & Graphic Novels



My Little Pony: Detective Hitch

Written by Megan Roth and illustrated by Agnes Garbowska

Published by HarperAlley

Recommended for: ages 4-8 (preschool - grade 3)

Izzy, Zipp, and Hitch are worried when they can't find Pipp and Sunny anywhere in the Crystal Brighthouse. Zipp thinks the broken eggs in the kitchen could be a clue, and the ponies decide this is a case for Detective Hitch. With a deerstalker cap perched between his ears, he sets out to follow the trail of clues. Zipp comes along as his partner in solving the mystery.

This book is part of the I Can Read Comics line from HarperCollins. The large, brightly colored panels and quick dialogue are perfect for beginning readers to share with a partner who can assist with unfamiliar words.

Sherlock Bones and the Mystery of the Vanishing Magician

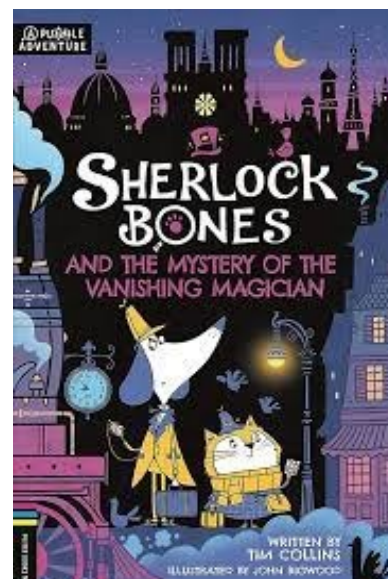
Written by Tim Collins and illustrated by John Bigwood

Published by Buster Books

Recommended for: ages 7-10 (grades 2-5)

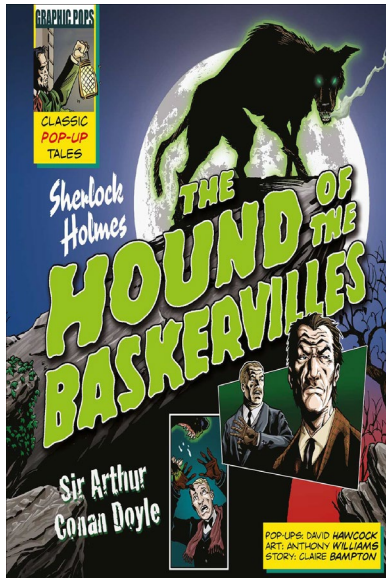
Sherlock Bones, the world's greatest dog detective, and Dr. Jane Catson are back in a third adventure.

After finishing a case in Berlin, they take in a magic show before heading back to London. But their train is canceled, and they take a train to Paris instead. Dr. Catson is surprised to see The Great Otto, the magician from Berlin, aboard the train late at night. She is more surprised the next morning, when she cannot find Otto anywhere, and none of the other passengers have seen him. Some of the passengers are lying. Sherlock Bones and Dr. Catson uncover the clues to find the missing magician and discover another crime-in-progress along the way: a gang of thieves are planning to steal the famous painting, the Mona Lemur!



Like the previous books, this includes a number of puzzles to solve as you travel with Bones and Catson. Can you spot the clues that Catson misses before Bones points them out?

The series is scheduled to continue with *Sherlock Bones and the Horror of the Haunted Castle* in March 2024.



Classic Pop-Ups: Sherlock Holmes: The Hound of the Baskervilles

Based on the novel by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, with pop-ups by David Hawcock, art by Anthony Williams, and story by Claire Bampton

Published by Canterbury Classics

Recommended for: ages 11 and up (grade 6 and up)

The story of *The Hound of the Baskervilles* is condensed into just 14 pages in this pop-up graphic novel edition. Each of the seven double-page spreads is packed with action and dialogue, plus a fold-out section on each side, and a large pop-up illustration in the center. The sitting room, Baskerville Hall, the man on the tor, and the hound itself leap out of the book in impressive paper engineering.

The text stays very close to the original, often using word-for-word dialogue in the speech bubbles. The transitions are smooth from scene to scene. Readers comfortable with graphic novels can dive right in, though some readers may have difficulty following the order of the panels and the speech within them, especially in the fold-out pieces.

While the pages require careful handling due to the delicate paper art, it is a beautiful book for Sherlockians in middle school or high school (or adults, for that matter) and would make an excellent gift.

Beth Gallego



BRAIN-TEASER: THE FIRST KEYBOARD

Watson is busily typing away on one of his stories about Sherlock Holmes's adventures, when Holmes poses an interesting question to him.

"Watson, just using the keys on the top line of your typewriter (which is the same keys on a computer keyboard), what is the longest word you believe you can type?"

Watson ponders for many minutes, and then starts pecking away at the keys, coming up with a list of 5 words. Can you guess those 5 words, and how many letters they all have (hint: they are all the same length).

The answer is on page 25



About Arthur, the Author

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

The Adventure of the Overconfident Writer

By the summer of 1892, a year had passed since Arthur Conan Doyle had made the decision to give up his medical practice with the intention of supporting his family as a published author. Feeling very confident in his abilities and bolstered by his strong work ethic, his writing output grew and grew, as did his income and literary fame.

Without a medical practice to attend to, Conan Doyle had time to meet many other successful writers including the humorist Jerome K. Jerome, one of the founders of a new magazine, *The Idler*. The two men became good friends, so much so that when Conan Doyle took his family to Norway for a vacation that August, Jerome went along for the fun.

It is from this humorist that we learn of an incident in Norway wherein Conan Doyle had a bit too much confidence in his abilities and was left afoot when he inadvertently gave away the horse to his carriage:

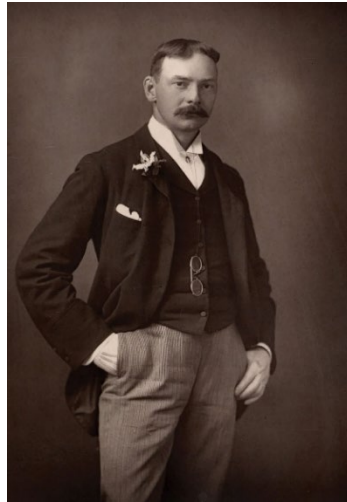
Doyle was always full of superfluous energy. He started to learn Norwegian on the boat. He got on so well that he became conceited; and one day, at a little rest house up among the mountains, he lost his head. We had come there in stoljas—a tiny carriage just big enough for one person, drawn by a pony about the size of a Newfoundland dog, but marvelously sturdy. They will trot their fifty miles in the day and be frisky in the evening. While we were lunching, with some twenty miles still in front of us, a young officer came into the room, and said something in Norwegian. Of course, we turned on to Doyle; and Doyle rose and bowed and answered him. We all watched the conversation. The young Norwegian officer was evidently charmed with Doyle, while Doyle stood ladling out Norwegian as though it had been his mother tongue. After the officer was gone, we asked Doyle what it was all about.

“Oh, just about the weather, and the state of the roads, and how some relation of his had hurt his leg,” answered Doyle carelessly. “Of course, I didn’t understand all of it.” He turned the conversation.

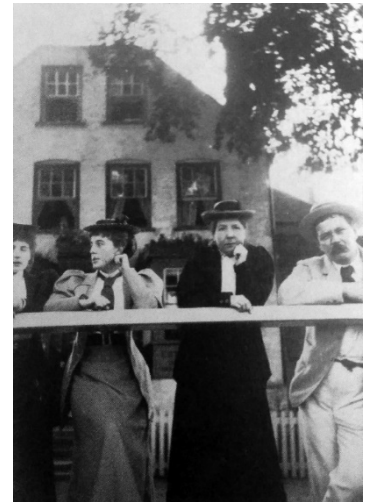
When we had finished lunch, and the stoljas were brought out, Doyle’s pony was missing. It appeared Doyle had “lent” it to the young officer, whose own pony had gone lame. The ostler, who was also the waiter, had overheard the conversation. Doyle had said “Certainly, with pleasure.” He had said it once or twice. Also the Norwegian equivalent for: “Don’t mention it.”

There wasn't another pony within ten miles. One of our party, who had taken a fancy to the view, and thought he would like to spend a day or two in the neighborhood, let Doyle have his stolja. But for the rest of that trip, Doyle talked less Norwegian.

Jerome included his memory of the comical horse event in his 1926 autobiography, *My Life and Times*. Conan Doyle and Jerome remained friends for many years, despite not always agreeing as to politics and spiritual matters. Jerome dedicated his book, *Novel Notes*, to "Big-Hearted, Big-Souled, Big-Bodied Friend Conan Doyle."



Jerome K. Jerome, c. 1890



Conan Doyle and family members, Norway, 1892

Sources:

- Stashower, Daniel. *Teller of Tales: The Life of Arthur Conan Doyle*. Henry Holt and Company, Inc., 1999, pp. 126-27, 135-36, 166-68, 169, 260, 329.
- Jerome, Jerome K., *My Life and Times*. 1925. Independently Published, Amazon Associate Publishing, 2023, pp. 108-11, 142, 174.
- The Arthur Conan Doyle Encyclopedia: *A Life in Pictures*, <https://www.arthur-conan-doyle.com>. Accessed 4 October 2023.
- Britannica: *Jerome K. Jerome, English Writer*. <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Jerome-K-Jerome>. Accessed 6 October 2023.

Margie Deck

Deerstalkers, Pipes, and Curious Incidents

When you think about Sherlock Holmes, what is significant about his appearance? Do you picture Holmes examining evidence holding a magnifying glass and smoking a curved Calabash pipe? Chances are, you also see Holmes wearing his iconic deerstalker hat.



Basil Rathbone, who portrayed Sherlock Holmes in 14 movies in the 1940's can be seen in the photograph below in a trademark pose with deerstalker and curved pipe.



What may surprise you is that if you were to read all of the adventures of Sherlock Holmes written by Arthur Conan Doyle—56 short stories and four novels—you would find no mention of the distinctive curved Calabash pipe or of Holmes wearing a deerstalker hat. How is that possible?

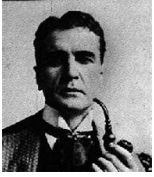
Much of the credit for the deerstalker image goes to illustrator Sidney Paget, the first artist who drew illustrations of the world's first consulting detective for the *Strand Magazine* in October 1891. In "Boscombe Valley Mystery," Conan Doyle described Holmes riding in a train with Dr. Watson "in a long grey traveling-cloak wearing a close-fitting cap," which led to this drawing by Paget:



Later, in "Silver Blaze," Doyle described Holmes wearing "his ear-flapped traveling cap." Some say, Doyle described Holmes's hat in this manner to honor Paget.

In the Canon (the term used by fans to describe all of Conan Doyle's writings about Sherlock Holmes) Conan Doyle mentioned Holmes smoking three different kinds of pipes; a black or oily clay pipe, an old briar, and a long Cherry-wood, but he never described a curved or bent pipe.

William Gillette, an actor who played Sherlock Holmes on stage close to 1300 times over 30 years, was the first to utilize a Calabash pipe during his performances.



Gillette believed the curve of the Calabash pipe allowed the audience to see Holmes's face better. Some have suggested another reason was so Gillette could pronounce his lines more easily. A straight pipe can wiggle or fall when speaking, while it is clenched between the teeth.

A phrase frequently associated with Holmes is “Elementary, my dear Watson.” However, one of Holmes’s most famous expressions does not appear in any of Arthur Conan Doyle’s written works.

In *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, Holmes said to Watson, “Interesting, though elementary,” as he returned to his favourite corner of the settee. In the play “Sherlock Holmes,” written by Conan Doyle and, later, revised by Gillette in 1899, Gillette formulated the complete phrase: “Oh, this is elementary, my dear fellow”, which was later amended in 1932, in the first Holmes cinema talking movie, by actor Clive Brook to “Elementary, my dear Watson.”

If you read this month’s featured story, “Silver Blaze,” you may have found a few phrases that were unfamiliar. Did you check the Internet or your dictionary for definitions?

In “Silver Blaze,” the prime suspect in the murder of John Straker was a *tout* named Fitzroy Simmons. A “tout” is a person who provides gambling tips in horse races in exchange for a percentage of the winnings.

Simmons showed up at King Pyland stables asking for information about the horse Silver Blaze on the eve of the Wessex Cup. “His wet clothing showed that he had been out in the storm of the night before, and his stick, which was a *Penang-lawyer* weighted with lead, was just such a weapon as might, by repeated blows, have inflicted the terrible injuries to which the trainer had succumbed.” What was a Penang-Lawyer?

A “Penang-Lawyer” is a walking stick with a large round head. It is fashioned from the stem of a palm called *Licuala acutifida* and was imported from Penang, an island off the west coast of Malaysia. This type of walking stick was owned by Dr. James Mortimer in the novel, *The Hound of the Baskervilles*.



The Penang lawyer was first crafted in the early 19th century in Malaysia. The name Penang lawyer is derived from the Malay word ‘Penang,’ which means ‘lawyer.’ Today, the Penang lawyer is the walking stick of choice among the lawyers in Penang.

Two horse-drawn vehicles that you may be unfamiliar with were mentioned in the story; a “*drag*” and a “*landau*.” A drag was a private stagecoach with seats inside, while a landau was a four-wheeled carriage with a top in two parts so that it may be closed, half-open, or entirely open.



“Drag”



“Landau”

One of the most famous lines in all of the Sherlock Holmes stories can be found in “Silver Blaze” when Colonel Ross asked Holmes, “Is there any point to which you would wish to draw my attention?”

“To the curious incident of the dog in the night-time.”

“The dog did nothing in the night-time.”

“*That was the curious incident,*” remarked Sherlock Holmes.

Holmes later explained, “I had grasped the significance of the silence of the dog, for one true inference invariably suggests others. The Simpson incident had shown me that a dog was kept in the stables, and yet, though some one had been in and had fetched out a horse, he had not barked enough to arouse the two lads in the loft. Obviously, the midnight visitor was someone whom the dog knew well.”

This “curious incident” has been used by lawyers in their closing arguments and appellate judges in hundreds of legal opinions when discussing the absence of evidence that one would expect to see, to argue that facts can be proven when something *didn't* occur.

Rich Krisciunas

© 10/20/23

England's Special Jewels

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's story "The Adventure of the Mazarin Stone" was originally a play titled "The Crown Diamond." In this tale, Count Sylvius Negretto stole a yellow diamond ("The Mazarin Stone"), which was part of the British Crown Jewels that had been on display. Holmes tricked the Count into showing the stone to Sam Merton (the Count's helper). Once he knew where the stone was, he was able to recapture the diamond and return it to its rightful owners.



head with oil using the ampulla and spoon.

The new king or queen is then dressed in their coronation robes and presented with spurs and bracelets symbolizing sincerity and wisdom. An orb (a golden ball) is placed in their right hand, and two scepters (one for temporal power and the other for equity and mercy) are presented. In the final act, the Archbishop places the crown on the new king or queen's head.

Britain's Crown Jewels belong to the King or Queen of England and are part of the crowning ceremony for a new monarch. These include the crown, a scepter, an orb, spurs, an ampulla (holds the oil used to anoint the monarch's head), and a spoon (oil from the ampulla is poured into it). For the coronation, the future king or queen enters Westminster Abbey, escorted by people carrying maces (special staffs), three swords, and the Great Sword of State and St. Edward's Staff. Once seated on a special throne, the Archbishop of Canterbury anoints their



Different monarchs added more crowns as well as other pieces to the collection over the years. Altogether, the Crown Jewels currently consist of 140 items. During World War II, most of them were buried in underground chambers at

Windsor Castle. The most valuable (diamonds and other jewels in the crown), however, were taken from their settings and kept in a cookie tin, ready for a quick getaway, if needed.

While attempts have been made to steal the jewels over the years, no one had the success the Count had. One man, Colonel Blood,

almost stole the crown when he

overpowered the Assistant Keeper of the Jewels, but the Keeper's son paid an unexpected visit and caught the thief.

But you don't have to be a crook to view these jewels. For about \$27, you can see them at the Tower of London. They are behind bombproof glass and watched over by cameras. Such security precautions represent a great deal of safety against theft,



but they would still be no match for the careful investigations of Sherlock Holmes.

If you would like to see the jewels used in a coronation, you can view King Charles III's

recent coronation here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2C6cSQHOeBk> and close-ups of some of the crowns and Queen Elizabeth II's coronation here: <https://www.hrp.org.uk/tower-of-london/crown-jewels/#gs.67szhh>

Liese Sherwood-Fabre, PhD



Sherlock Holmes Mini-Mystery

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

Inspector Lestrade was beside himself. Jewels from one of the richest families in London had been stolen, and placed in trash bins across London.

He asks Holmes to find the 6 locations where the gems had been abandoned before the bins are emptied and the treasures lost forever.

Holmes finds the stolen jewels in record time. Fortunately, at each location where he found jewels, he also found a clue to help find the next location.

Can you put the list of the 6 treasures Holmes found in order, using the clues below?

1. The ***amethysts*** were one of the first two finds, and were found earlier than the ***diamonds***, the ***rubies***, or the ***sapphires***.
2. The ***diamonds*** were not the final find.
3. The ***beryls*** were found immediately after the ***emeralds***, and sometime before the ***diamonds***, but not immediately before.
4. Exactly two other finds separated the ***amethysts*** and the ***rubies***.

The answer is on page 26

Steve Mason

Text Me Mystery Presents: The Beast of Sydenham

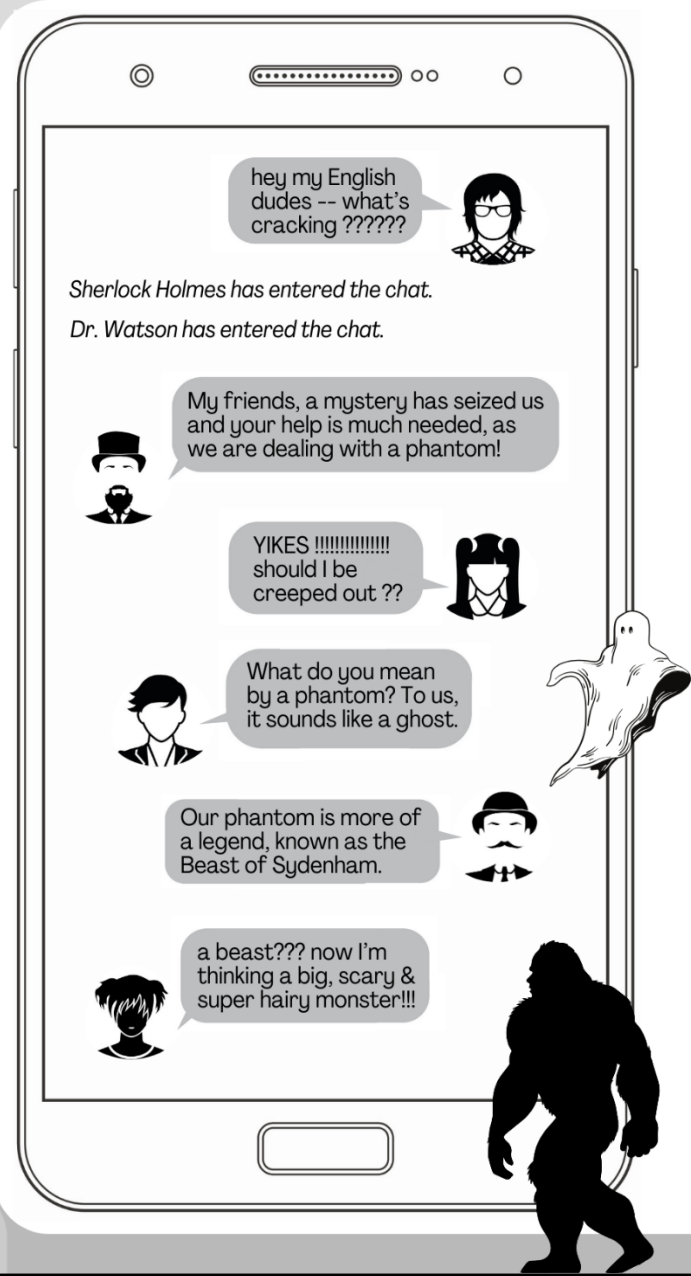
by Ann Kimbrough

**BIZT
BIZT BIZT**

IT'S ANOTHER TEXT FROM
SHERLOCK HOLMES IN 1895
TO HIS TEENAGE FRIENDS IN
2023 FOR HELP WITH A
MONSTER MYSTERY!



**WHAT'S STALKING
THE STREETS OF LONDON?**



MEET THE GANG:

Sherlock's texting group is with teenagers:



Kyndra



Jett



Cheese



Bizzy

They offer modern-day insight to solve cases.



Sherlock lays out the CLUES:

- Livestock killed
- Pets missing
- Beast sightings in South London during heavy fogs



Cheese Adds:

- Internet says a Beast could have followed the London train tracks & avoided detection
- Around the same time of sightings, the London Zoo moved exotic animals from completely inside habitats to outside ones!

Indeed! A panther or a puma might have escaped during such a major move.



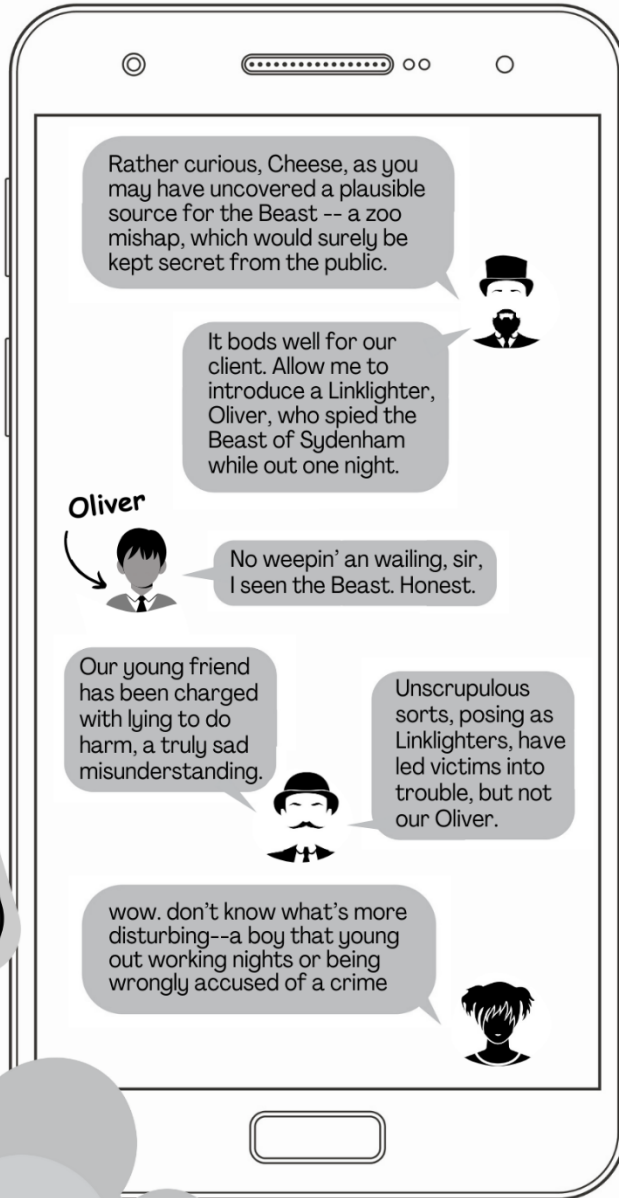
London Fogs:

The city's severe fogs were due to dangerous factory emissions and coal fires, which is how homes were heated in Sherlock's time.



Linklighters:

When fog limited visibility, walking thru the city was dangerous. Young boys, aged 8 to 10, worked as guides. They lighted the way with torches to safely guide people thru the streets.



IN THE LONDON FOG...

Oliver claims to have seen a medium-sized animal. More wild in its movements than a dog, the animal's gaze froze the boy's soul. He feared for his life and ran. The men he guided did not see the Beast. They felt abandoned, thus tracked him down the next day and had him charged with attempting to lead them into a trap.

Oliver
was
scared.
That's
not a
crime.



Psst...
guess what?
The Beast
of Sydenham
is real! And you
can read more
about the Beast.

SCAN
ME



Password: sherlock

≡ UPDATE:

The gang's plan
saved young Oliver,
especially with
Sherlock Holmes'
support and
compelling
plea!!

Cheers,
guv!

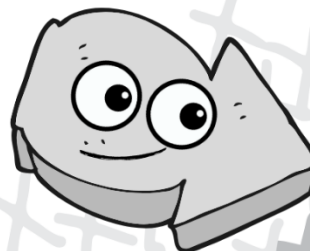


≡ SUCCESS 😊

UNTIL NEXT TIME...



CHARACTERS ARE FROM THE TEXT ME MYSTERY
SERIES, "SHERLOCK & WATSON WIRED" BY SIR ARTHUR
CONAN DOYLE & ANN KIMBROUGH, W/LICENSED ART
FROM CANVA & ISTOCKPHOTO.



LOGGING
OFF

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.

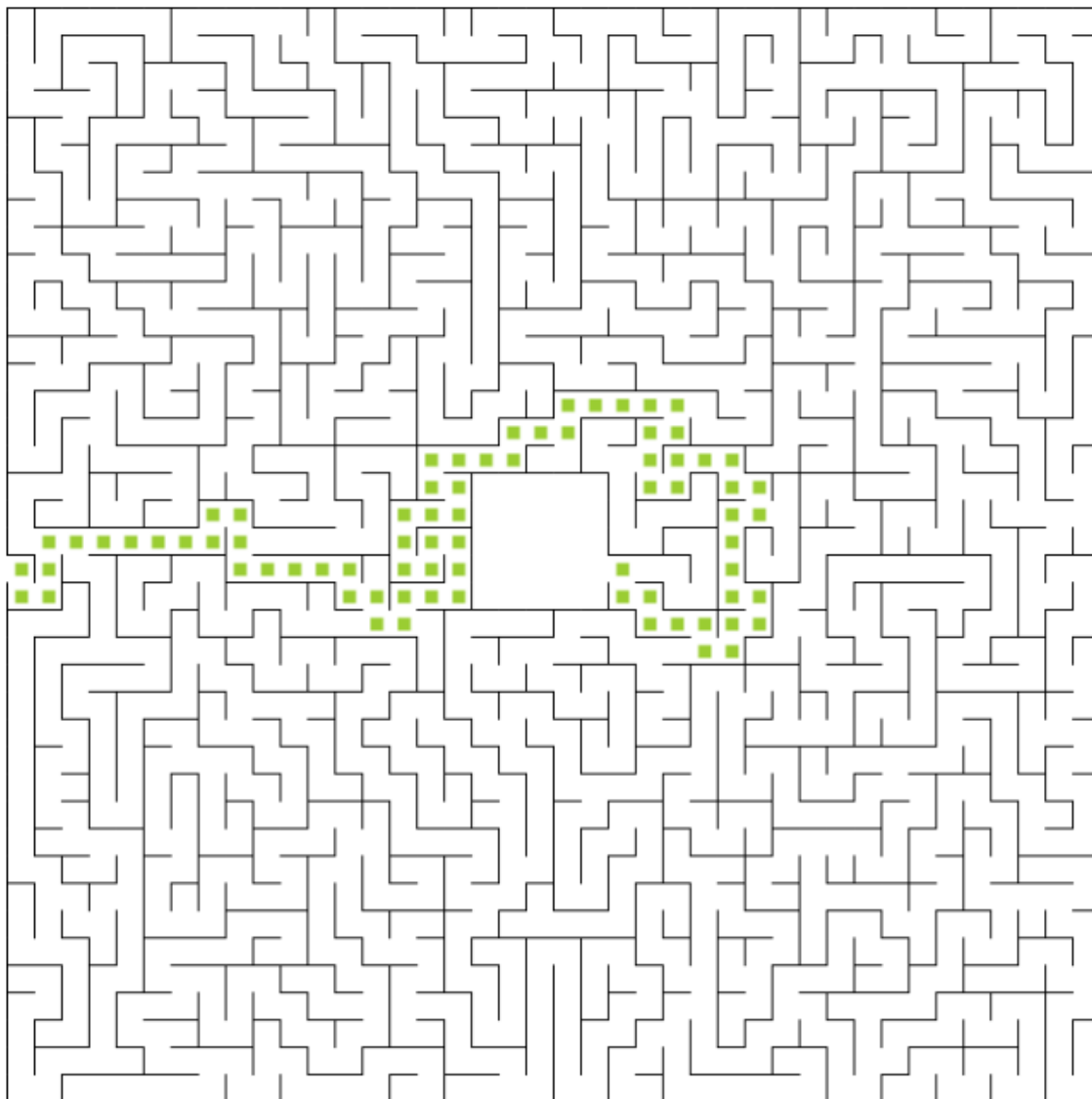
Begin your Sherlockian training

At <https://www.beaconsociety.com/junior-sherlockian-society.html>

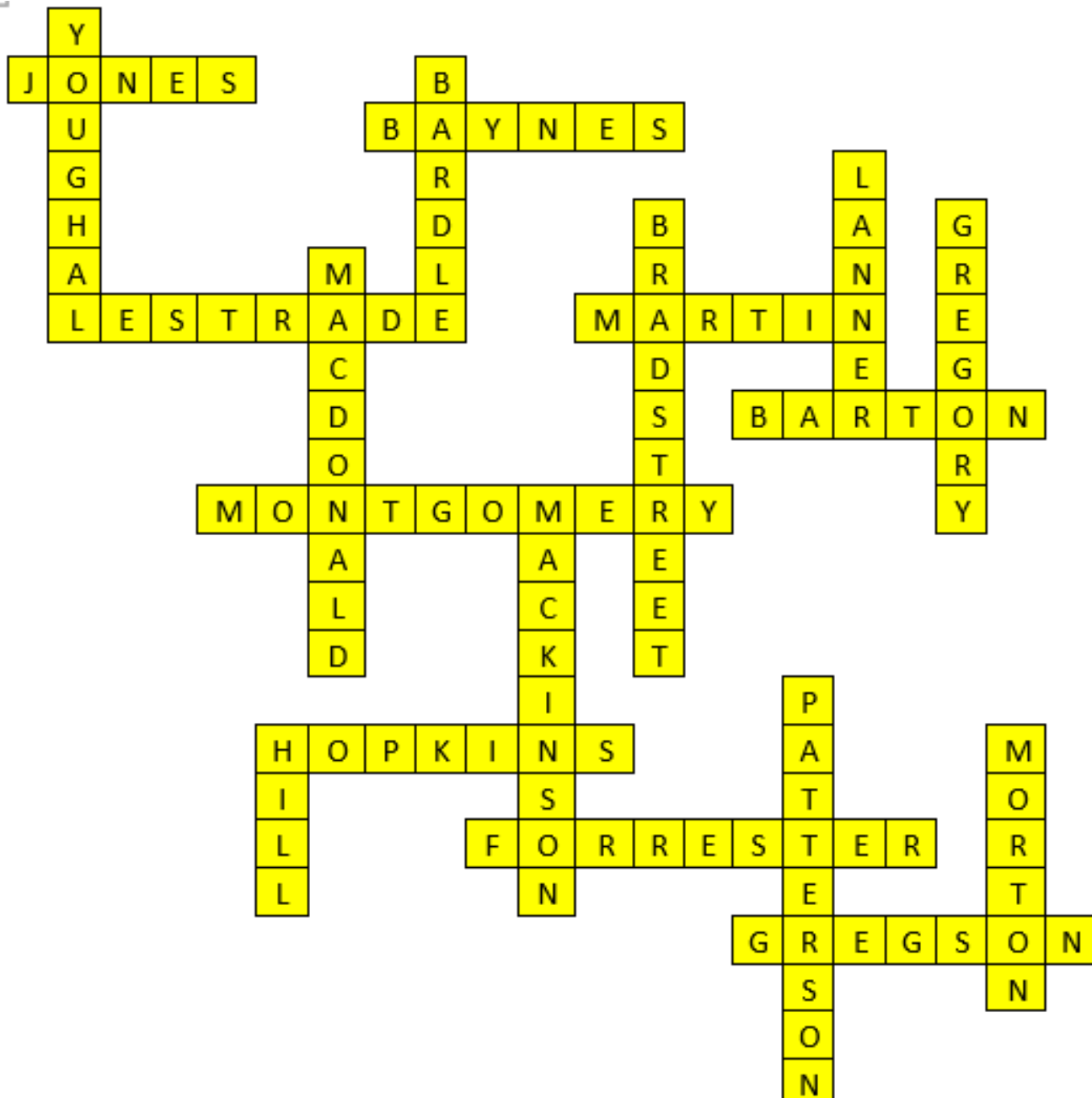


Puzzle Answers

THAT'S-A-MAZE-ING



Sherlockian Kriss Kross



Brain-Teaser

Watson was able to come with 5 words that could be spelled out with just the letters on the top row of his typewriter. They were:

TYPEWRITER
PROPRIETOR

PERPETUITY
REPERTOIRE

PREREQUIRE

Mini-Mystery

The order in which Sherlock Holmes found the treasures is:

1. Amethysts
2. Emeralds
3. Beryls
4. Rubies
5. Diamonds
6. Sapphires

