

Baker Street Elementary

Year Three

Created by Joe Fay,
Rusty Mason & Steve Mason

Introduction by Roger Johnson



*Miss Irene Adler
Master J. M. Barrie*



*Master Arthur Ignatius Doyle
Master William Gillette
Master Tobias Gregson*



*Master Sherlock Holmes
Master "Greg" Lestrade
Master George Newnes
Master Christopher Morley*



*Master Sidney Paget
Master Stamford
Master John Watson
Master Wilhelm Ormstein*

The first adventures of
Sherlock Holmes, John Watson, & Stamford

Baker Street Elementary

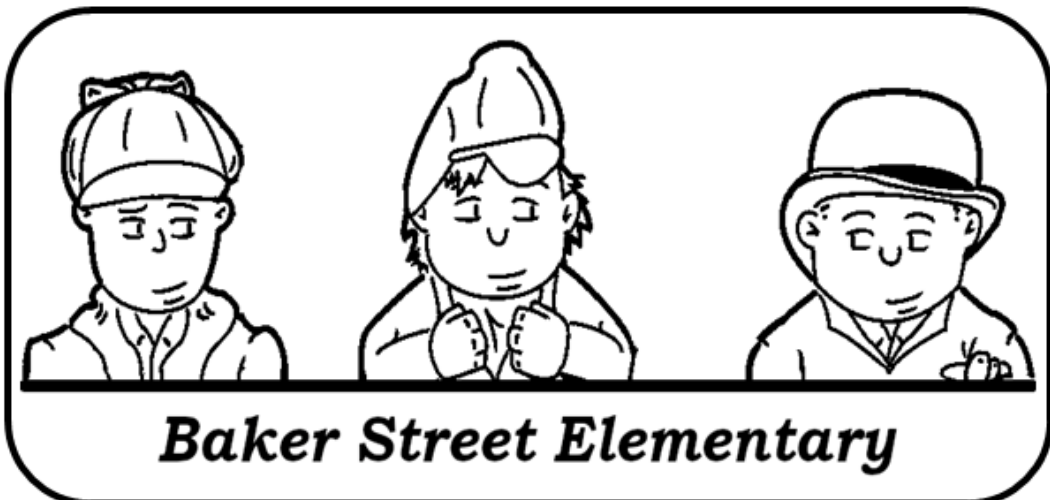
Year 3

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RUSTY MASON & STEVE MASON

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Baker Street Elementary

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Year 3

THIS YEAR, WE ARE HONORED TO HAVE 'I HEAR OF SHERLOCK EVERYWHERE' (IHOSE) START CARRYING OUR STRIP ON A BI-WEEKLY BASIS. THANKS SOCTT AND BURT FOR BELIVING IN US.

WE HAVE INCLUDED SCOTT'S INTRODUCTIONS FOR THE EPISODES. THEY ARE VERY IMAGINATIVE AND ADD A WONDERFUL FLAIR TO THE STRIPS.

VISIT ISHOSE AT [HTTP://WWW.IHEAROF SHERLOCK.COM](http://www.ihearofsherlock.com)



INTRODUCTION BY ROGER JOHNSON, ASH, BSI ("PALL MALL GAZETTE")

THERE MUST HAVE BEEN SPECULATION ABOUT THE EARLY YEARS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES BEFORE W S BARING- GOULD'S INFLUENTIAL (AND, IT SHOULD BE SAID, HIGHLY INVENTIVE) BIOGRAPHY SHERLOCK HOLMES OF BAKER STREET WAS PUBLISHED IN 1962.

GOODNESS KNOWS THERE'S BEEN PLENTY SINCE, BUT NEARLY ALL OF IT CONCERNS THE YOUNG DETECTIVE'S ADOLESCENCE, THE PERIOD WHEN HE WAS EITHER AT BOARDING SCHOOL OR BEING TUTORED AT HOME.

THINK, FOR INSTANCE, OF THE 1982 TV SERIAL "YOUNG SHERLOCK: THE MYSTERY OF THE MANOR HOUSE," OR THE RATHER MORE FAMOUS MOVIE "YOUNG SHERLOCK HOLMES." OR OF ANDREW LANE'S YOUNG SHERLOCK HOLMES NOVELS (NOW CONFUSINGLY MARKETED AS YOUNG SHERLOCK). OR SHANE PEACOCK'S NOVELS ABOUT THE BOY SHERLOCK HOLMES.

EVEN THAT CHARMING JAPANESE TV SERIES, SET AT "BEETON SCHOOL", WHOSE TITLE TRANSLATES AS PUPPET ENTERTAINMENT SHERLOCK HOLMES.

BUT WHAT OF THE GREAT DETECTIVE'S PRE-TEEN YEARS? HOW DID HIS REMARKABLE TALENTS AND HIS UNUSUAL PERSONALITY MANIFEST THEMSELVES THEN, AT SCHOOL AND AT HOME?

PERHAPS BECAUSE A YOUNG BOY'S TALENTS, HOWEVER EXTRAORDINARY, WERE UNLIKELY TO HAVE BEEN EMPLOYED IN TACKLING SERIOUS CRIME, THAT PERIOD OF HOLMES'S LIFE SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN IGNORED -- EXCEPT BY A FEW WHO HAVE REALISED THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR COMEDY.

THE LATE COMIC GENIUS MILES KINGTON WROTE A SHORT-SHORT STORY IN WHICH THE SCHOOLBOY HOLMES CLAIMS TO HAVE MADE A SPECIAL STUDY OF GERMAN ACCENTS.

THE TASK WAS MADE SIMPLER BY THE FACT THERE IS ONLY ONE: THE UMLAUT. (I LOVE THAT JOKE!)

THE SHERLOCK HOLMES JOURNAL RARELY PUBLISHES FICTION, BUT IN 2013 WE WERE DELIGHTED TO DO JUST THAT WHEN I RECEIVED A STORY FROM CHENNAI, INDIA.

THE AUTHOR, PROFESSOR S. SUBRAMANIAN, IS NOT ONLY A DEVOTEE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES: HE KNOWS MORE ABOUT POPULAR BRITISH LITERATURE THAN MOST BRITISH PEOPLE DO, AND "JUST SHERLOCK" IS A DAZZLINGLY CLEVER AND VERY FUNNY AMALGAM OF CONAN DOYLE WITH RICHMAL CROMPTON'S TALES OF THE UNRULY ELEVEN-YEAR-OLD WILLIAM BROWN.

DAZZLINGLY CLEVER AND VERY FUNNY ARE WORDS I'D ALSO APPLY TO **BAKER STREET ELEMENTARY**.

THESE ADVENTURES OF THE YOUNG HOLMES, WATSON AND THEIR SCHOOLFELLOWS ARE A DELIGHT.

CO-WRITER STEVE MASON, AS MANY KNOW, IS THIRD MATE (OR, AS ONE MIGHT SAY, PRESIDENT) OF THE CREW OF THE BARQUE LONE STAR, A SCION SOCIETY OF THE BAKER STREET IRREGULARS IN DALLAS, TEXAS.

STEVE'S SON RUSTY, WHO DRAWS THE STRIP, IS THE CREW'S WEBMASTER.

STEVE'S CO-WRITER AND CREATOR OF THE SERIES, JOE FAY, IS A BOOKMAN: FOR EIGHT YEARS HE HAD THE SORT OF JOB SO MANY OF US CAN ONLY DREAM OF, AS MANAGER OF RARE BOOKS OF HERITAGE AUCTIONS, AND HAS WORKED FOR THE PAST THREE YEARS IN THE RETAIL BOOK TRADE, AT THE VENERABLE WILLIAM REESE COMPANY IN NEW HAVEN CONNECTICUT.

IT'S HARDLY NECESSARY TO MENTION THE THREE OF THEM ARE MORE THAN TANGENTIALLY ACQUAINTED WITH SHERLOCK HOLMES AND HIS WORLD.

JUST AS IMPORTANT IS THEY HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN HOW CHILDREN'S MINDS WORK. AND THEY HAVE A GREAT TALENT FOR COMEDY! OFTEN, EVEN AS I CHUCKLE OVER A NEW ABSURDITY OR WISECRACK PERPETRATED AT **BAKER STREET ELEMENTARY** SCHOOL, I'LL FIND MYSELF THINKING,

"HOW TRUE..." I LOVE IT!

SPRINGFIELD, ESSEX

SO, THEY POSTED THE LINE-UP FOR THE HOLIDAY PLAY, 'A CHRISTMAS CAROL'... YOUNG PETER E. WILL BE DIRECTING THE PRODUCTION.

MY MIND BOGGLES AT THE POTENTIAL CASTING CHOICES.



I GET TO PLAY MARLEY, SCROOGE'S DEAD PARTNER.



I AM THE GHOST OF CHRISTMAS FUTURE.

SCROOGE'S NEPHEW, FRED.

I AM A NATURAL FOR TINY TIM.

CHRISTMAS PRESENT.



WE EVEN ARE HAVING THE GIRL'S SCHOOL HELP OUT ON THIS ENDEAVOUR... A MISS LYNSDAY WILL BE THE ANGEL, CHRISTMAS PAST.

IRENE HAS BEEN INVITED TO PLAY BELLE, SCROOGE'S FORMER FIANCÉ, AS WELL AS SCROOGE'S SISTER, FAN, AND MRS. CRATCHIT.



THREE DIFFERENT PARTS...

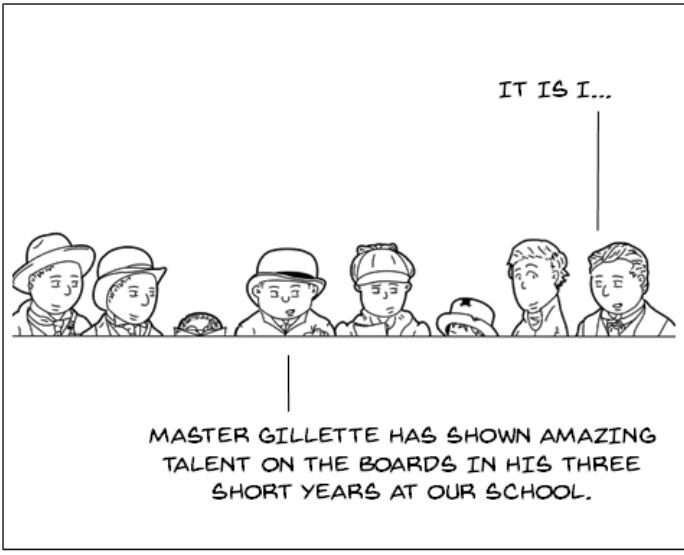
SHE IS A VERSATILE ACTRESS... BUT THREE PARTS?



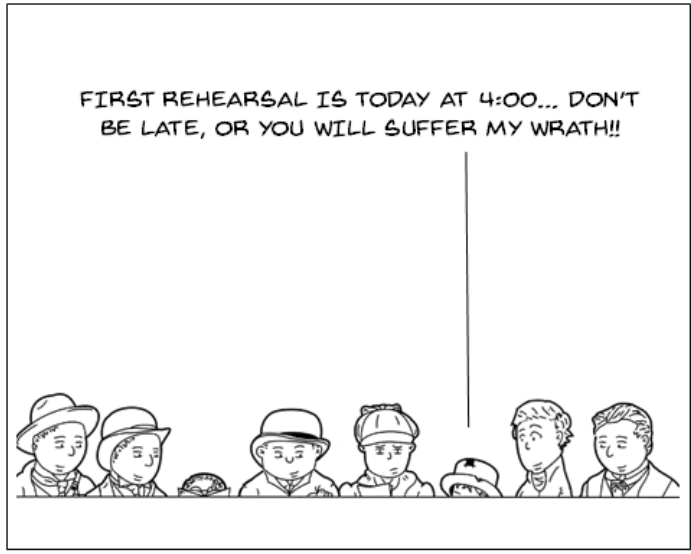
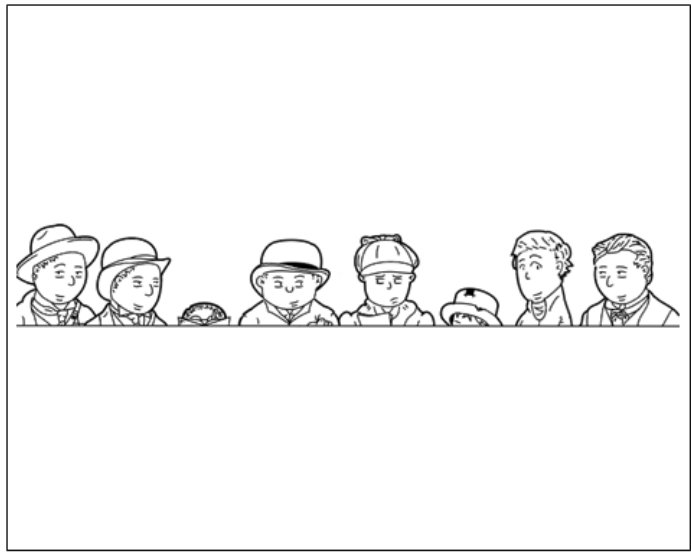
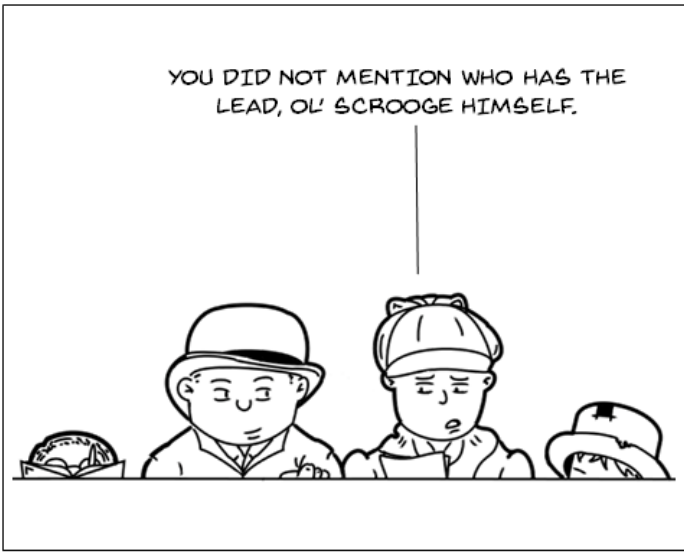
OTHER YOUNG'UNS WILL FILL THE ROLE OF CRATCHIT'S OTHER CHILDREN.

I DIDN'T NOTICE, WHO IS PLAYING BOB CRATCHIT?





MASTER GILLETTE HAS SHOWN AMAZING TALENT ON THE BOARDS IN HIS THREE SHORT YEARS AT OUR SCHOOL.



WHERE IS HE? STAMFORD IS SUPPOSED TO BE HERE TO MEET IRENE AND THE OTHER GIRLS.



STAMFORD, WHY ARE YOU WEARING THAT OUTFIT? YOU REMEMBER LAST TIME YOU WORE THAT THING?



OH, COME NOW JOHN... YOU SAW THE REACTIONS OF THE GIRLS THE LAST TIME I WORE THIS... I AIM TO WOO MISS IRENE THIS TIME.

OH, DO NOT LOOK AT ME LIKE THAT, JOHN... WHAT IS THE WORST THAT COULD HAPPEN?

WELL, FOR ONE... HMMM... WHY DO I EVEN TRY ANYMORE?



HELLO LADIES, WE ARE HERE TO ESCORT YOU TO THE 'CAROL' REHEARSALS.

GREETINGS, GENTLEMEN... I, OF COURSE REMEMBER YOU, DEAR JOHN, HOWEVER, I MUST CONFESS, YOUR FRIEND IS UNFAMILIAR TO ME.



OH, SWEET IRENE, ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE MYSELF... I AM STAMFORD, ONE OF SHERLOCK'S MOST TRUSTED ADVISORS, AND MENTOR TO A VAST MAJORITY OF THE YOUNG'UNS.

HI LYNSAY... HI KRISTINA...



STAMFORD, A PLEASE TO MEET YOU... YOU ASSIST SHERLOCK ON HIS 'CASES'?

THAT IS CORRECT... I AID SHERLOCK ON HIS MOST DIFFICULT MYSTERIES, AND...

HAS THAT THING ON YOUR HEAD MET ITS DEMISE?



IT WOULD EXPLAIN THE FOUL ODOUR.

UMMM... IT SMELLS? I MEAN, THAT'S MY COLOGNE.

THE UP-TURNED COLLAR ADDS A BIT OF INTRIGUE, BUT THE CHEEKBONES...



IS THAT YOUR REAL LOOK, OR ARE YOU TRYING TO 'MAKE A MOVE ON US'?

WELL, I WAS JUST... I MEAN... FIRST IMPRESSIONS, YOU KNOW.

EXCUSES, STAMFORD... I BELIEVE THE YOUNG'UNS HAVE THE BETTER OF YOU.



IT IS PERFECTLY ALRIGHT, JOHN... EVERYONE HAS SOME WEAKNESS... IF I REMEMBER CORRECTLY, YOU FAINTED LAST TIME I SPOKE TO YOU.

HUH... OH YEAH... I... I JUST TRIPPED OVER MY BOOTS.



OH, WE'VE HEARD ABOUT YOU!

DO I GET TO DRINK REAL CHRISTMAS PUNCH, OR JUST COLOURED WATER?



THOSE CHAINS ARE GETTING HEAVY TO DRAG AROUND... COULD I INSTEAD BE TIED DOWN WITH STRING OR TWINE?



I DON'T EVEN GET TO SAY A WORD AS THE 'GHOST OF THINGS TO COME'... MY PARENTS ARE TRAVELING IN JUST TO SEE ME STAND ON STAGE LIKE A MANNEQUIN.



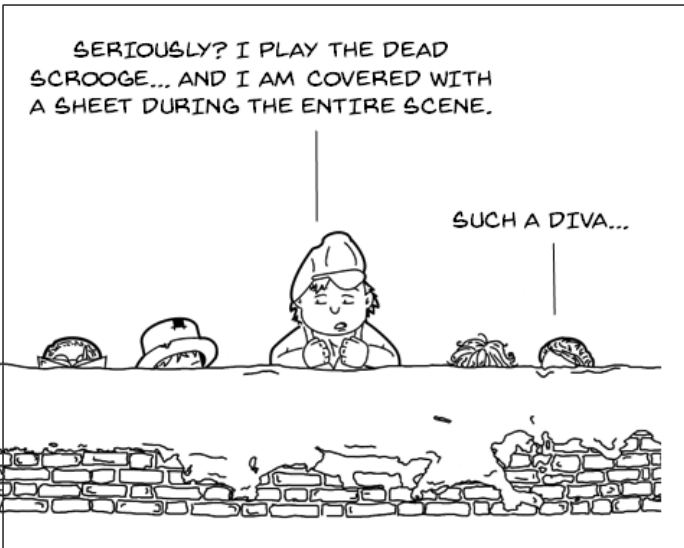
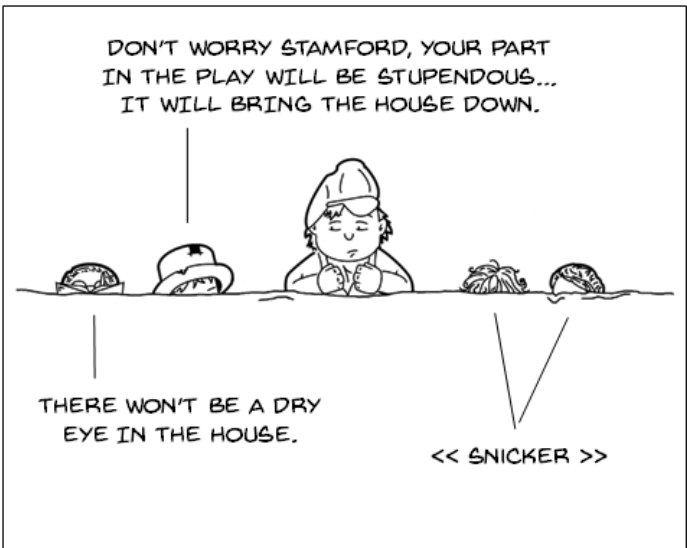
WHO WAS THE MORON WHO THOUGHT I COULD PULL OFF THREE ROLES? MY HAIR WILL NEVER SURVIVE ALL THESE COSTUME CHANGES.

SUCH A DIVA...



FIVE MORE DAYS TO PULL THIS OFF... AND WE HAVEN'T MADE IT THROUGH ONE COMPLETE REHEARSAL YET.





"STAMFORD'S SCENE, THE MOST POIGNANT MOMENT OF THE NIGHT"



"NOT A DRY EYE IN THE HOUSE DURING YOUR DEATH PORTRAYAL"

MISTER STAMFORD, I HOPE ONE DAY TO FIND A 'PRINCE CHARMING' JUST LIKE YOU.



OH, STAMFORD, IF ONLY EVERYONE HAD YOUR ACTING SKILLS, ESPECIALLY THE WILLIAM FELLOW.

STAMFORD, YOU ARE THE GREATEST...

THIS CHRISTMAS CAROL WAS A HIT, ALL DUE TO YOU...

ACTORS WORLDWIDE WILL LOOK UP TO YOU...



YOU MAY HAVE SINGLE-HANDEDLY RUINED THE SHOW...

WHAT WOULD ENTICE YOU TO DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT...?

PETER IS STILL CRYING... YOU MAY HAVE DESTROYED HIS DIRECTING CAREER...



HEY STAMFORD... WAKE UP, YOU WERE DAYDREAMING AGAIN.



NEXT TIME STAMFORD, REMEMBER, DEAD PEOPLE DO NOT SIT UP IN THE MIDDLE OF A SCENE AND WAVE TO THEIR PARENTS.

AT LEAST STAMFORD DID NOT GET INTO AN ALTERNATE REALITY OF THE GHOST OF CHRISTMAS FUTURE.



I DON'T ACCEPT DICKEN'S INTERPRETATION OF THE FUTURE AS THE ONLY ONE... THERE ARE MANY OTHER POSSIBLE FUTURES...

...BUT ONLY ONE SCRIPT TO FOLLOW.



UMMM...

I SHOULD HAVE PORTRAYED SCROOGE... SHERLOCK LACKS THE FINESSE TO DO REAL ACTING.

YOU PRESUME TO BE ABLE TO ACT BETTER THAN ME, MASTER GILLETTE?

HAS ANYONE SEEN KRISTINA SINCE THE PLAY? I HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO FIND HER.



FORGIVE ME SHERLOCK, I COULD PORTRAY A BETTER YOU WITHOUT SPEAKING A SINGLE WORD.



I AM GLAD I GOT TO PLAY THE GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PAST, BUT I AM GETTING TIRED... STAMFORD, ARE YOU LOOKING UP MY DRESS?!?



EVERYONE WAS MUCH NICER IN MY DREAM.

STAMFORD, DID YOU ENJOY YOUR CHRISTMAS?



NO MA'AM... NOT AS MUCH AS YOU WOULD THINK.



OH, AND WHY NOT?

MY PAPA THOUGHT IT WOULD BE CUTE TO GIVE MY MUM ALL THE ANIMALS FROM THE '12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS'.



1 PARTRIDGE, 2 TURTLE DOVES, 3 FRENCH HENS, 4 CALLING BIRDS, 6 GEESE, AND 7 SWANS... THAT TOTALS 23 FOWL.

OH, THAT'S SWEET.



YOU WOULD THINK SO... GUESS WHO GETS TO CLEAN UP AFTER THEM? I MAY NEVER EAT POULTRY AGAIN.



SO, THE TEACHER WANTS
US TO LIST OUR NEW
YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS.



I'M A KID... I DON'T HAVE
TO CHANGE ANYTHING.



SO, 'IHOSE' IS WORKING WITH 'ASH' AND THE 'BSI' ON THIS YEAR'S ANNUAL CONVENTION IN NYC.



IHOSE? ASH? BSI?

SORRY... 'I HEAR OF SHAKESPEARE EVERYWHERE'; 'ADVENTURESSES OF SHAKESPEARE'; AND OF COURSE, THE 'BARD SHAKESPEARE OF INVERNESS'... TO MAKE IT WORTHWHILE, THEY HAVE JOINED WITH THE EDGAR ALLEN POE SOCIETY OF BALTIMORE.



SO, WHAT WILL THEY DO AT THIS SHIN-DIG?



THEY HAVE A DINNER, OTHER FESTIVITIES, A DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER FEATURE, AND VENUES TO BUY POE AND SHAKESPEARE COLLECTIBLES.

I WONDER WHAT IS THE MOST DESIRABLE COLLECTIBLE?

SCOTT AND BURT INDICATE SKULLS SELL WELL, SINCE THEY ARE COMMON TO BOTH AUTHORS.



REAL OR FAKE SKULLS?

DO ANY PARTICIPANTS DRESS UP IN PERIOD COSTUMES?

I BELIEVE SO...



SO... THERE ARE PEOPLE DRESSED AS BOTH SHAKESPEARE AND POE CHARACTERS?

WHATEVER YOU'RE IMAGINING, JUST FORGET IT.



HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT: WHAT WAS THE POLICY BEHIND THE MUGHAL AND OTTOMAN MILITARY SYSTEMS?

YOU HAVE TO BE KIDDING?



COME ON STAMFORD... USE YOUR MIND TO COME UP WITH AN INNOVATIVE ANSWER IF YOU ARE UNSURE ON THE DETAILS.



GOTCHA... NOW I JUST NEED TO FIND A DOG WHO HAS A TASTE FOR PAPER.



SHERLOCK, AS YOU CAN SEE, THE REVIEWS FOR YOUR PORTRAYAL OF 'SCROOGE' WERE VERY IMPRESSIVE... I HAVE ALREADY CAST YOU IN OUR SPRING PLAY.



AND WHAT ROLE WILL YOU BE FORCING ONTO ME?



WE ARE DOING SHAKESPEARE'S 'ROMEO AND JULIET'... YOU'RE THE LEAD.

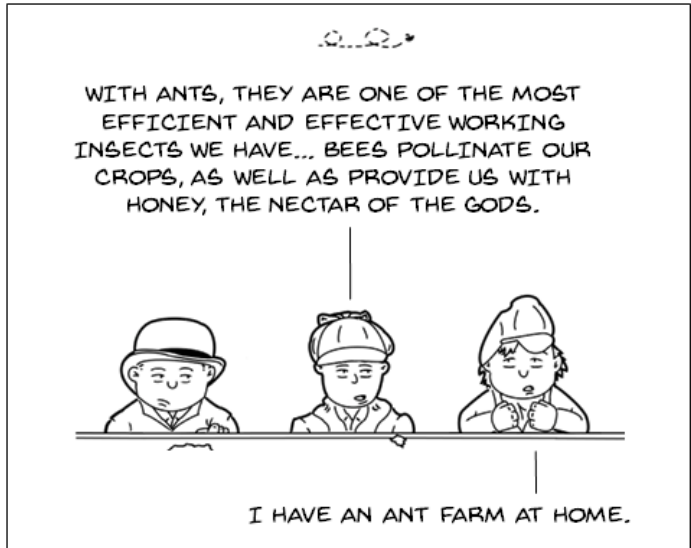
ROMEO? I DON'T CONSIDER MYSELF VERY ROMANTIC, BUT I COULD GROW INTO THE PART.



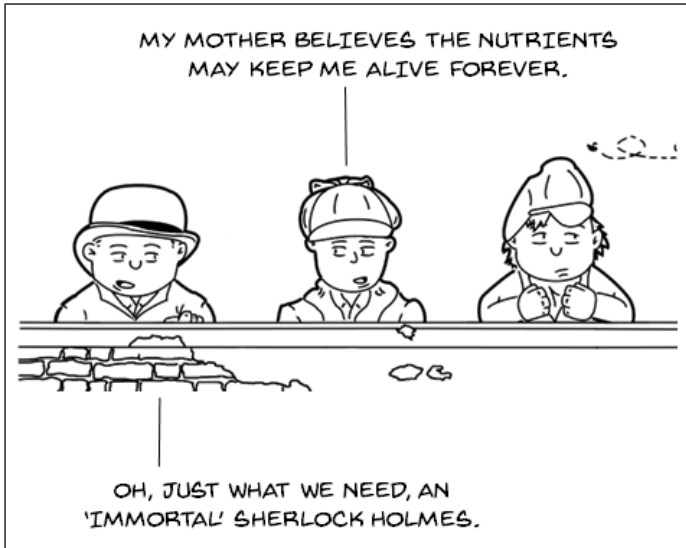
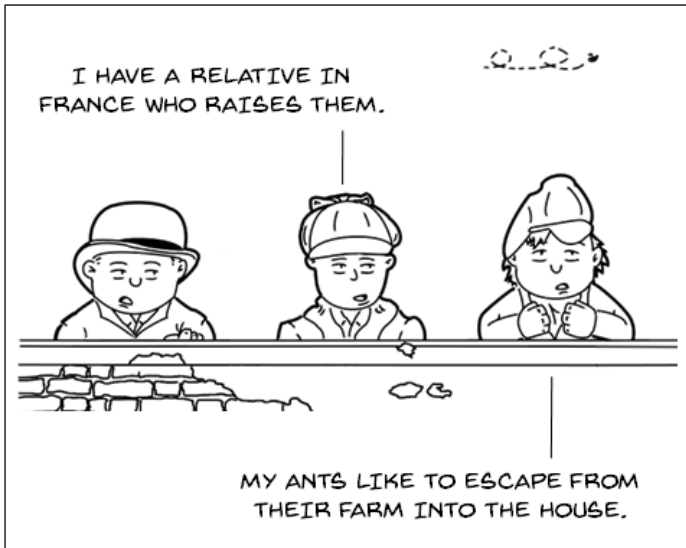
THIS WILL BE A MALE-ONLY CAST... SHAVE YOUR LEGS AND PLUCK YOUR EYEBROWS... CAN YOU ACT IN HEELS?



IT IS A MEMBER OF THE APIS MELLIFERA, OR COMMON HONEY BEE, WHICH ORIGINATED IN EAST AFRICA.



I HAVE AN ANT FARM AT HOME.



AT THE PARENT/TEACHER
CONFERENCE, THE TEACHER DECLARED
TO MY PARENTS I AM NOT EVIL...



HOWEVER, I AM APPARENTLY GIFTED AT
DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOUR... CAUSING
THE TEACHER DAILY TENSION
HEADACHES... WHATEVER THAT MEANS.



FOR THE LAST TIME, IT'S MAGIC...
IF I SHOWED YOU HOW IT'S DONE, IT
WOULD CEASE TO BE AN ILLUSION.



WELL, NEVIL, YOU HAVE A
NATURAL TALENT AT THIS.

I HOPE TO BE A
PROFESSIONAL MAGICIAN
WHEN I GET OLDER.



WITH YOUR CURRENT ABILITIES, MASTER
MASKELYNE*, IT IS SAFE TO SAY YOU WILL BE
THE MOST TALENTED ILLUSIONISTS ANY OF US
WILL EVER MEET OR HAVE AS A FRIEND.



* LOOK HIM UP

OH, THERE WILL BE OTHERS WHO WILL
BE JUST AS GOOD, IF NOT BETTER.



HEY, I KNOW A MAGIC JOKE...



"NEW FEATURE - BAKER STREET ELEMENTARY"

"It belongs to the same elementary class" [LADY]

We're pleased to offer a new regular feature to I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere. One of our long-time listeners, Steve Mason, approached us with this singular opportunity, and we couldn't pass it up.

*Steve and his son Rusty are big fans of our show (they listen on cross-country trips!) and are keen students of the Sherlock Holmes stories. So keen, in fact, that they've developed an education-related creation of their own. **Baker Street Elementary** is a comic series that they, together with Joe Fay, created two years ago and brought to life online on the website of their Dallas / Fort Worth-based Sherlockian society, Crew of the Barque Lone Star.*

We'll let Don Hobbs, BSI ("Inspector Lestrade"), a longtime Crew member, describe it further:

*"**Baker Street Elementary** is one of those rare treats, taking all of the familiar Sherlockian characters and presenting them in a completely original manner. This marvelous creation, the brainchild of Joe Fay (creator & writer), Steve Mason (writer & editor), and Rusty Mason (artist), features Holmes and Watson during their formative years at that long-ago elementary school that might have been...somewhere on Baker Street. The magic this trio produces is evident in every panel of every strip of **Baker Street Elementary**. There is nothing close to South Park envy here, in fact many of the South Park residents most likely wish they could attend **Baker Street Elementary**."*

*With that in mind, and keeping with the tradition of the Sunday comics, we've decided to syndicate **Baker Street Elementary** every other Sunday here on IHOSE. We (and Joe, Steve and Rusty) would appreciate any feedback you have on the series.*

And we we'll kick things off with the very first strip the trio created, from February 6, 2015.

CHEMISTRY IS SO BORING!



HEY, HOLMES! WHY THE SAD FACE?

I HAVE TO FIND A NEW LAB PARTNER, STAMFORD... THE LAST ONE DID NOT APPRECIATE LOSING HIS HAIR.



LET ME INTRODUCE JAMES H. WATSON... HE'S NEW IN SCHOOL.

YOU CAN CALL ME JOHN.



I PERCEIVE YOU HAVE BEEN IN THE SANDBOX, AND YOU TRIED TO STEAL A KISS OFF CHARLENE, THE OLDER GIRL AT THE GIRL'S SCHOOL.

HOW COULD YOU POSSIBLY KNOW THAT??



THE SAND POURING OUT OF YOUR PANTS CUFF, AS WELL AS THE PALM PRINT ON YOUR RIGHT CHEEK.

THIS IS TOO MUCH!!



MR. HOLMES, I PERCEIVE YOU VISITING THE HEADMASTER'S OFFICE AGAIN!!



Thus, the beginning of a life-long friendship.

continued

DID YOU SEE... THE SCHOOL NEWSPAPER
PRINTED THE ACCOUNT OF THE MISSING
FLAG, THE CULPRIT, AND HOLMES'
EFFORTS IN SOLVING THE CASE.



I AM SURE THEY FOCUSED ON THE
SENSATIONAL ASPECTS, NOT THE FACTS
WHICH LED TO MY CONCLUSIONS.



HMMM... DIDN'T JOHN AUTHOR THE STORY?

IT APPEARS THEY INADVERTENTLY
PLACED IGNATIUS' NAME ON THE BY-LINE.



'THE ADVENTURE OF THE BURGLED UNION-
JACK,' A NEW ADVENTURE OF SHERLOCK
HOLMES BY MASTER CONAN DOYLE.



REALLY... ALREADY!!??

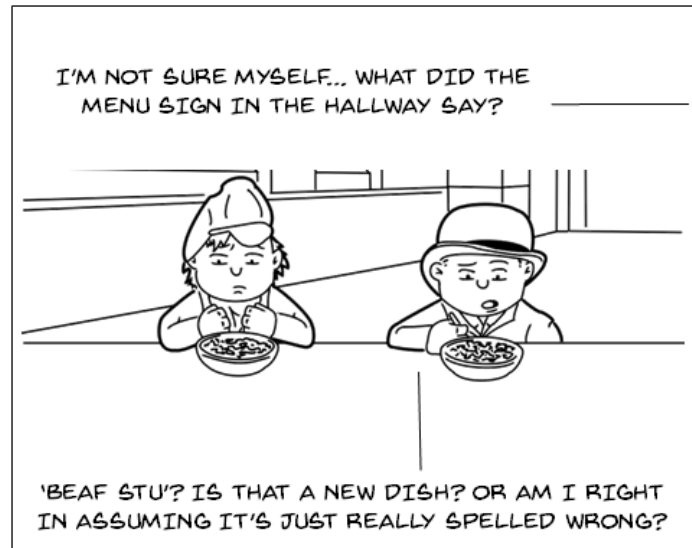


DEFINE THE TERM, 'TRIAGE'.



THE METHOD BY WHICH MY MUM DECIDES WHICH CHILD TO WHACK FIRST WHEN WE MISBEHAVE.





"BAKER STREET ELEMENTARY - HAPPY 100TH"

"one of a hundred" [GLOR]

*Today is a banner day for our friends behind **Baker Street Elementary**. This marks their 100th strip since beginning the project two years ago.*

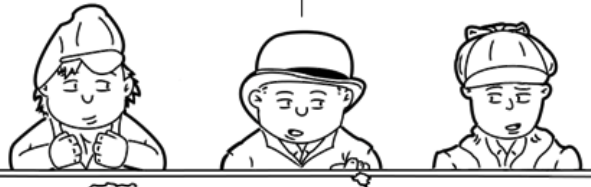
*To celebrate the occasion, along with posting the 100th strip, we have a brief history from Joe Fay and Steve Mason, two of the creators of **Baker Street Elementary**.*

WELL, HOLMES, I AM GLAD TO SEE YOU ARE GIVING THE 'I HEAR OF SHAKESPEARE EVERYWHERE (THOSE)' DISPATCH A CHANCE.



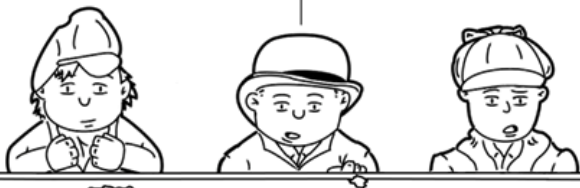
SEEING HOW ALL OF YOU KEEP RAVING ABOUT IT, AND THEY HAVE TRANSMITTED OVER 100 DISPATCHES, I FANCY THERE IS SOMETHING MAY INTRIGUE ME.

SPEAKING OF MILESTONES, WE HAVE REACHED ONE WE SHOULD SHARE WITH EVERYONE.



MILESTONE? WHAT MILESTONE? AND WHOM ARE WE SHARING THIS WITH?

WHY, THEM OF COURSE... WHO HAVE BEEN WITH US SINCE THE BEGINNING.



THEM? UMMM... WATSON... I DON'T SEE WHO YOU SPEAK OF.

I THINK I SEE SOMEONE... OH... IT IS MASTERS DOYLE AND BARRIE IN THE BUSHES.



NO, NO... NOT THOSE TWO... I WAS TALKING ABOUT THE OTHER PEOPLE.

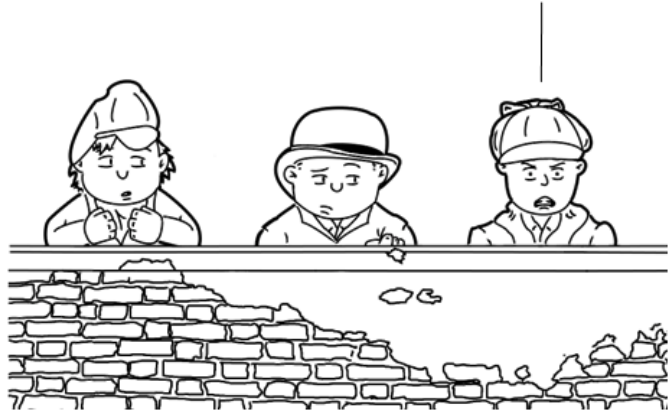
I SUSPECT THEY ARE HUNTING FAIRIES ONCE AGAIN... IS THAT THE MILESTONE YOU REFER TO... THE TWO OF THEM HUNTING FAIRIES FOR THE 100TH TIME?



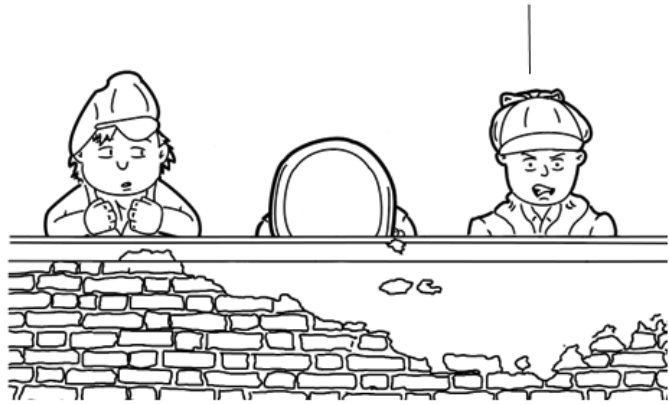
HUH... NOT AT ALL, STAMFORD...

IS THAT MY MAGNIFYING GLASS AND NET THEY POSSESS?

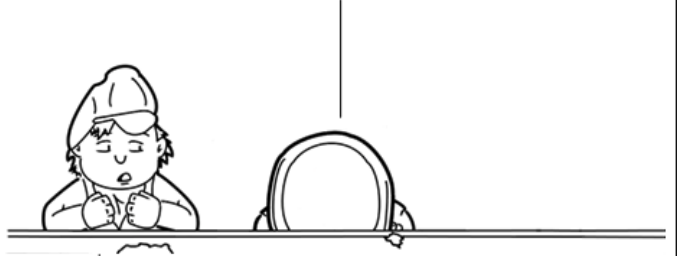
IGNATIUS! JAMES! YOU DARE USE MY HIGHLY SOPHISTICATED DETECTIVE TOOLS FOR CHASING DOWN IMAGINARY FIGURES!?



EXCUSE ME, I HAVE TO GO AND RETRIEVE MY INSTRUMENTS, WHILE TEACHING THOSE TWO A LESSON.



AND HE WONDERS WHY WE DON'T CELEBRATE MILESTONES, LIKE BIRTHDAYS, AROUND HERE?



WE CAN'T HAVE BIRTHDAY CAKE WITH CANDLES, 'CAUSE YOU TWO ARE BANNED FROM OPEN FLAMES.

Three Sheets to Baker Street and Straight on 'Til Morning

Deep into the night, on a Thursday morning about 4:00 a.m., during the BSI Weekend 2014, the grade school world of Holmes and Watson came to life inside a cramped room at the Roosevelt Hotel. Joe was slightly inebriated. OK, he was feeling no pain.

He had just thrown down about a dozen pints at O'Lunney's with Don Hobbs and that crew. Steve was impressed Joe was still functioning and alert. For those who've been there, we salute you. And we had just inhaled two outsized slices of corner-shop pizza (open 24 hours).

We were rooming together because New York City is expensive for two regular ol' Texas boys. Joe had been thinking about a certain concept for a while. He knew Holmes and Watson could present well as a three-panel comic strip arranged basically like this: intro / punchline / smartass remark.

Joe had played around on Strip Creator for years and had much more fun with creating comic strips than he ever thought possible before. Joe had also always wanted to explore the lives of Holmes and Watson as kids. Growing up, both of us had an unusual attachment to Young Sherlock Holmes.

The idea of the boy-genius-becomes-eccentric-genius-detective was always intriguing. He also knew the bully had to be Moriarty. And Mrs. Hudson to be the lunch lady. But Joe was stuck. That's all he had.

"I wanted to start a comic strip with Holmes and Watson in elementary school. Elementary school," I thought. "Holmes, Watson, ELEMENTARY school! It was just too good to be true." So, Joe gave the idea a moniker: Elementary Elementary. "I thought it was clever at the time. But it turned out to be one of those titles that seemed like a good idea at the time, and ultimately just wasn't."

Joe decided to bring the idea up to Steve that night while we lay in separate beds (just thought that should be clarified, not that there is anything wrong...)

And as soon as the words were out of Joe's mouth, Steve jumped on the idea like Holmes on a coke vial. Steve suggested characters, scenarios, compositions, and so on. Lestrade and Gregson would be the hall monitors. Irene would be the red-headed girl on the playground with whom the great boy detective was smitten, Conan Doyle would be included, and of course, Stamford would be the loveable character that never quite gets it straight. And so on.

Steve suggested "It's Elementary, Sherlock," as a title, but once Joe came up with "**Baker Street Elementary**," we both agreed that was the perfect title.

We quickly realized neither of us could draw, though. And drawing is kind of important for a comic strip. "Not to fear," Steve said, "I have a son for that. His name is Rusty." And Rusty Mason became the artist, and now creative partner in the strip. We all decided against detailed backgrounds and long narratives. Instead, we would focus on the dialogue and expressions of the characters, following the example set by the great Charles Schultz.


So, we volleyed ideas back and forth (almost all of the strips would be set at an outdoor stone wall overlooking the playground, or in the classroom), until we both passed out that night, and **Baker Street Elementary** was born. Now, we're 100 installments into the game, with Rusty doing the illustrations, and all of us writing the scripts.

So many good ideas come to lubricated Sherlockians during BSI Weekend. Thank goodness Joe had the wonderful original idea, Steve is a teetotaler, so he was able to actually remember the ideas thrown out. Joe mentioned the little idea to Steve, and **Baker Street Elementary** made it home.

But as far as we knew, there hadn't been a comic strip to explore the Deductive Duo in grade school (and if we're wrong, we expect to hear about it any minute now).

101 - 03-15-2017

MORE STUDENTS HAVE GONE HOME WITH A STOMACH AILMENT.




MAYBE WE SHOULD CHECK INTO MRS. HUDSON, THE MAIN LUNCH LADY.

DON'T BOTHER... I ALREADY HAVE... THE LADY BENEATH THE HAIRNET WOULD RATHER SUFFER THE WORST STOMACH-ACHE OF ALL TIME, THEN SEE ONE OF HER STUDENTS IN DISTRESS.




INTERESTING... WHAT DID YOU LEARN ABOUT HER?

I KNOW SHE IS RECENTLY WIDOWED, LEASES A FLAT IN BAKER STREET, NEAR REGENTS PARK...



I ALSO KNOW SHE HAS THE PATIENCE OF 'JOB', BUT CAN DISPLAY A TEMPER WHEN NEEDED... SHE IS CONSIDERING LETTING SPACE TO A TENANT, BUT HAS NOT FOUND A SUITABLE ONE YET...



101 - 03-15-2017 (continued)



I BELIEVER HER TO HAVE SCOTTISH ROOTS, AND HAS A SISTER-IN-LAW, A MRS. TURNER, WHO SHE IS FOND OF... AND BY THE WAY, HER FIRST INITIAL IS 'M', WHICH MAY STAND FOR 'MARTHA', AND SHE CAN PREPARE A MEAL FIT FOR ROYALTY AT ANY TIME, DAY OR NIGHT.

AMAZING DETECTIVE WORK, SHERLOCK... A MASTERFUL BLEND OF OBSERVATION AND DEDUCTION.

MAYBE IT WAS MURRAY WHO TAINED THE FOOD.



YOU IMPRESS THEM, AND ME, WITH YOUR TALENTS EVERY DAY.



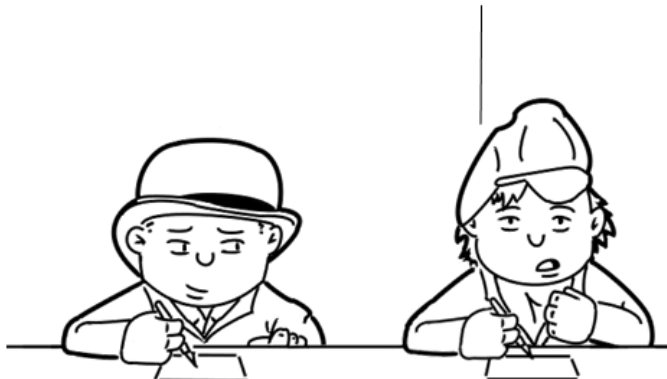
SAVE YOUR FLATTERY... SOMETIMES YOU MUST EMPLOY THE MOST BASIC OF DETECTIVE SKILLS... I SIMPLY TALKED TO HER AND GAINED THIS INFORMATION.

I READ IN THE TIMES MY FAVORITE CRICKET PLAYER HAS DECLARED THE EARTH IS FLAT, NOT ROUND.



I'M SORRY, MASTER STAMFORD, BUT YOUR IDOL IS WRONG.

I DUNNO... SEVERAL OTHER PLAYERS AND OTHER CELEBRITIES HAVE VOICED THE SAME OPINION.



I ASSUME THEY ALSO BELIEVE BLOOD-DRAINING LEECHES CAN CURE A PERSON OF ALL AILMENTS.

NOT ALL AILMENTS, JUST THE BLOOD-BORNE ONES.



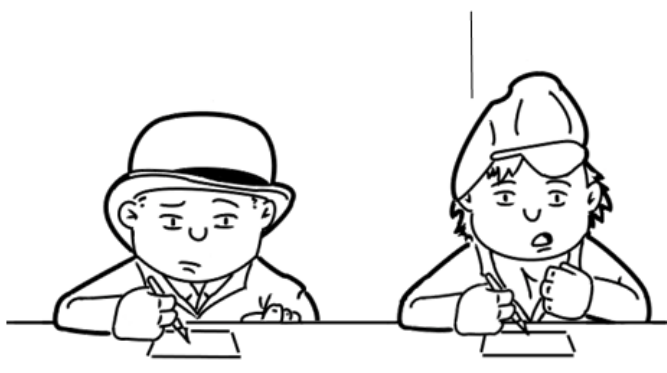
STAMFORD, YOU MAY CONSIDER YOUR IDOL WAS SIMPLY 'PULLING YOUR LEG', PLAYING ON THE GULLIBILITY OF THE MASSES.



I DON'T THINK SO... I'VE NEVER MET HIM, SO I DON'T KNOW HOW HE COULD EVEN REACH MY LEG.



IF THE EARTH IS ROUND, WHY DO WE OFTEN SAY "I WOULD FOLLOW YOU TO THE END OF THE WORLD..." THAT WOULD NOT BE POSS... UH OH... MA'AM, ARE YOU GETTING ONE OF THOSE HEADACHES AGAIN?



ELECTILE DYSFUNCTION

"candidate for Mid-Devon at the next election" [HOUN]

We all know that, according to Watson's account of Sherlock Holmes' limits as catalogued in A Study in Scarlet, his knowledge of politics was 'feeble.'

However, this glimpse into the daily conversations at **Baker Street Elementary** may indicate otherwise.

In this case, young Sherlock Holmes seems to be the most knowledgeable of the schoolyard gaggle when it came to politics.

THE PAPERS INDICATE THEY ELECTED A PRESIDENT ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE POND.



THEY DON'T HAVE A QUEEN LIKE WE HAVE?

NO, THEY HAVE WHAT IS KNOWN AS A CONSTITUTIONAL REPUBLIC... ELECT THEIR LEADER BY VOTE.



SO, ONE PERSON RUNS, AND THEY ARE UNANIMOUSLY ELECTED?

NO, THEY HAVE MULTIPLE PARTIES... THE NATIONAL UNION/REPUBLICAN, DEMOCRATIC (SOUTHERN), CONSTITUTIONAL UNION, AND DEMOCRATIC (NORTHERN)... EACH NOMINATES A CANDIDATE TO RUN FOR PRESIDENT.



SO, THE ONE WHO GETS THE MOST VOTES WINS??



TOO SOON?

THIS MAY TAKE A WHILE.



I MAY WRITE A MONOGRAPH... ELECTIONS FOR DUMMIES.

104 - 04-05-2017

THE CON -- FIDENCE GAME

"the free, less conventional attitude" [ABBE]

Sherlockians descended on Atlanta this weekend to celebrate 221B Con. Hundreds of Holmes fans of all types, ages, and predilections gathered to celebrate everything they love about Holmes.

From panel discussions to performances, there was a bit of everything, so the newest convert to the most curmudgeonly dyed-in-the-wool aficionado could find something to occupy themselves.

Even the Baker Street Journal - that "one fixed point in a changing age" - got into the act, tweeting quotes of relevance with the #221bcon hashtag throughout the weekend. Did it help drive interest in subscriptions? The jury is out, but we hope some of the newer attendees took notice.

*Even our friends at **Baker Street Elementary** got into the act -- in terms of producing a relevant comic strip and by being on the ground at the event. Without further ado...*

MY PARENTS WENT TO AN INTERESTING
EVENT LAST WEEK, CALLED 'BARD-CON',
WHICH CELEBRATED THE LIFE AND WORKS
OF THE GREAT WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE.

MINE WENT AS WELL.



AND WHAT PRAY TELL, DOES
ONE DO AT SUCH AN EVENT?



PANEL DISCUSSIONS, DISPLAY, VENDOR
TABLES, AND EVEN COSTUMED PARTICIPANTS.

THERE WAS A SPOT OF CONTROVERSY WHEN A
SPEAKER SUGGESTED THE PLAYS, POEMS, AND
SONNETS WERE CREATED BY A 'GHOST WRITER,'
AND SHAKESPEARE WAS THE 'LITERARY AGENT,'
WHO WAS ABLE TO HAVE THE WORKS PUBLISHED AS
WELL AS HAVING THEM PUT TO STAGE.



SOUNDS LIKE FUN... WE SHOULD
VISIT ONE OF THESE 'CONS'.



ACTUALLY, THERE IS ONE NEXT WEEKEND,
APPLY NAMED 'TELL-TALE-CON'.

AN ENTIRE CONVENTION BASED ON EDGAR
ALLEN POE... I COULD DRESS UP AS A 'RAVEN'.



ONE OF THE POPULAR EVENTS WILL BE STAGING
CLUES TO A MURDER THROUGHOUT THE VENUE, AND
ATTENDEES WILL USE THE SKILLS OF MASTER
DETECTIVE DUPIN TO SOLVE THE MYSTERY.



I HAVE NO INTEREST IN SUCH TRIVIALITIES... THERE ARE LEAST THREE ISSUES TO THIS CRAZINESS.



FIRST, PEOPLE SHOULD STAND ON FIRM GROUND, AND NOT FALL INTO THE TRAPS OF POE'S FANTASIES, WHICH HAVE NO BASIS IN REALITY.



SECOND, IT IS WRONG TO INFLATE THE ABILITIES OF DUPIN, WHO WAS AN INFERIOR FELLOW... HE MAY HAVE BEEN ABLE TO ANALYZE CLUES ABOVE THE AVERAGE POLICE OFFICER ON THE BEAT, BUT HE WAS NOT SUCH THE PHENOMENON AS POE MADE HIM OUT TO BE.



THIRD, I CANNOT SUPPORT A GROUP OF PEOPLE, EVEN FANATICS, 'PLAYING A GAME' TO SIMULATE THE ACTIONS OF A FICTIONAL CHARACTER.



C'MON HOLMES... WE SHOULD GO AND HAVE A GOOD TIME.

I LIKE PLAYING GAMES.



OK, BUT I WILL PLAY 'DUPIN' AND SHOW EVERYONE THE RIGHT WAY TO SOLVE A CRIME... AND WATSON, YOU SHALL PLAY THE UNNAMED ASSISTANT.



AND I SHALL PLAY 'THE RAVEN'.

105 - 04-06-2017



THE ENGINEER'S DUMB

"the calculation is a simple one" [SILV]

Have you ever wondered how engineers do what they do? We're not referring to the type of engineer in the overalls and striped cap behind the controls of a locomotive, although that's a very literal definition of an engineer.

No, we're talking more along the lines of civil, mechanical, and structural engineering -- the kind who make mathematical calculations concerning volume, mass, torque, load bearing, and more. Victor Hatherley was a bit of a hybrid of the two: a hydraulic engineer.

He needed to understand physics, but his job also required some working knowledge of a type of engine controlled by the flow of water.

*Just what do such professionals need to know, and how do they make their calculations? One such answer lies within the walls of **Baker Street Elementary**...*

THERE IS A SMALL BRIDGE NEXT TO MY HOUSE, WITH A SIGN WHICH READS, "WEIGHT LIMIT: 2 TONNES"... HOW DO YOU SUPPOSE THEY KNOW WHO MUCH THE BRIDGE CAN HOLD?

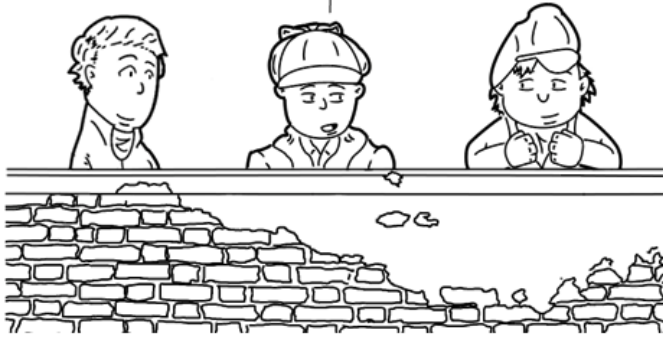


THE SOLUTION TO YOUR PUZZLE IS BOTH SIMPLE, AS WELL AS AMAZING.

THIS SHOULD BE FUN.



FIRST, AN ENGINEER DESIGNS THE BRIDGE... THEN A CREW BUILDS THE BRIDGE TO HIS SPECIFICATIONS...

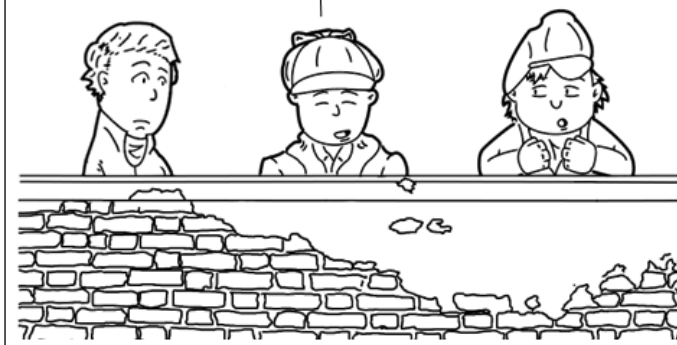


THEN THEY PILE ROCKS ON THE BRIDGE, ONE AT A TIME, UNTIL THE BRIDGE COLLAPSES.

THERE'S THE TRAIN WRECK.



THEN THEY WEIGH EACH STONE, INDIVIDUALLY, AND TOTAL THE WEIGHT.



THEN THEY KNOW HOW MUCH BRIDGE CAN WITHSTAND, THEY REBUILD THE BRIDGE, AND POST THE SIGN.



I SHOULD HAVE FIGURED IT OUT MYSELF.

STAMFORD WILL NEVER GET OUT OF THIS GRADE, WITH YOU AND WATSON'S TUTORING.



I WANT TO BE AN ENGINEER, SO I CAN BUILD AND KNOCK DOWN BRIDGES.



OH, I THINK YOU SHOULD STRIVE TO BE ON THE ROCK CREW.



107 - 04-30-2017

ALRIGHT, SHERLOCK, LET US HONE THOSE DETECTIVE SKILLS OF YOURS... I HAVE A MINI-MYSTERY FOR YOU TO SOLVE.



YOU CAN TRY TO SOLVE IT TOO... JUST USE YOUR IMAGINATION AND COME UP WITH AN ANSWER.



I LOVE MYSTERIES!!



UMMM... OK... YOU TWO CAN TRY ALSO.

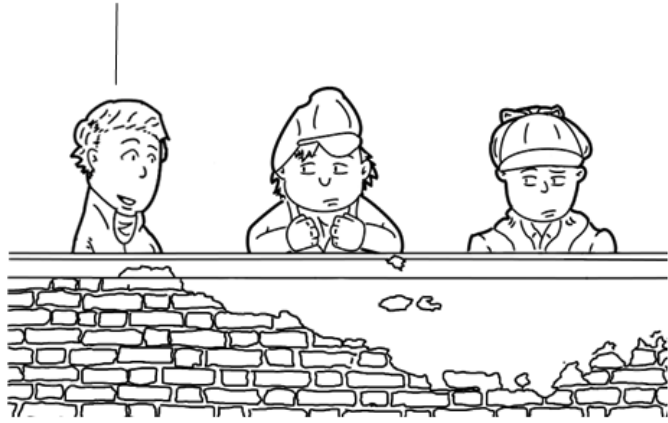


ELIAS, GODFREY, GRIMESBY, AND VICTOR RESIDE IN THE SAME ROOMS AT UNIVERSITY... ELIAS AND GODFREY GO TO THE THEATER, AND WHEN THEY RETURN, GRIMESBY IS LYING ON THE FLOOR IN A PUDDLE OF WATER AND BROKEN GLASS.



continued

IT IS OBVIOUS VICTOR MURDERED HIM ON PURPOSE, BUT YET VICTOR IS NOT PROSECUTED.

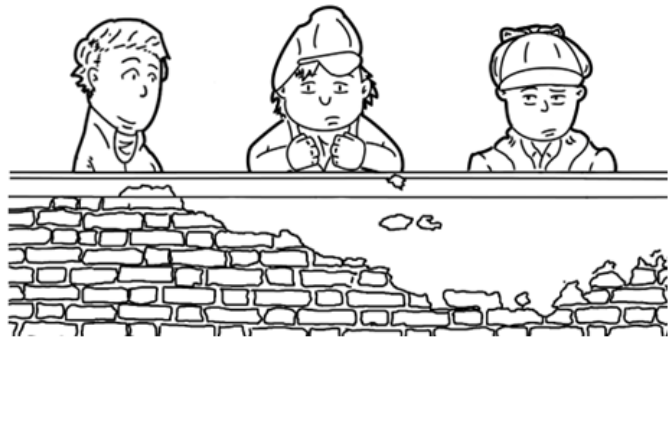


HOW IS THIS POSSIBLE? JUST REMEMBER, FUTURE EARNINGS FOR OTHERS MAY DEPEND ON YOUR ABILITY TO SOLVE SUCH CASES.

THIS IS A STUMPER.



THIS ONE IS EASY... GRIMESBY IS THE RESIDENCE'S PET GOLDFISH, AND VICTOR IS THE PET CAT... BETTER LUCK NEXT TIME.



107a - 04-30-2017

ALRIGHT SHERLOCK, TIME FOR ANOTHER MINI-MYSTERY FOR YOU TO SOLVE.



REMEMBER, YOU CAN PLAY ALONG.

POLICE ARE CALLED TO A ROOM, WHERE A SUICIDE HAS TAKEN PLACE... A VERY SMALL PERSON HAS HUNG HIMSELF, KNOCKING OVER A TABLE IN THE PROCESS... OTHER THAN THE BODY AND NOOSE, THE ONLY ITEMS IN THE ROOM ARE A PARTIALLY BURNT CANDLE, A PAIR OF DARK-TINTED GLASSES ON THE BED...

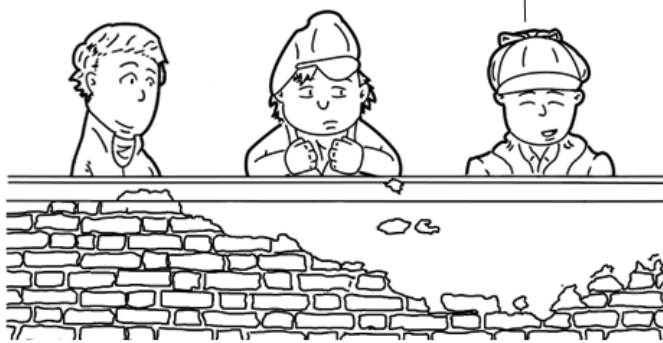


...AND A WHITE STICK IN THE CORNER, WITH SEVERAL SMALL PIECES OF THE STICK IN ANOTHER CORNER... WAS IT SUICIDE, OR SOMETHING MORE SINISTER?



THIS MAY TAKE AWHILE... TIME FOR A COMMERCIAL... FRIENDS, DO YOU EVER SUFFER...


ACTUALLY, I HAVE THE ANSWER ALREADY.




continued

107a - 04-30-2017 (continued)

YOU INDICATED THE VICTIM WAS A VERY SMALL PERSON, AS WE MAY CALL A 'DWARF'...

OUR VICTIM MUST HAVE GAINED AN ENEMY, WHO DEvised A PLOT, TO GET OUR VICTIM TO 'OFF' HIMSELF...




SADLY, MANY OF THESE PERSONS MUST FIND WORK IN TRAVELLING CARNIVALS, WHICH IS HUMILIATING WORK... BUT ALSO EXTREMELY COMPETITIVE.


THE DARK GLASSES INDICATE HE WAS ALSO BLIND, AS WELL AS AFFLICTED WITH SMALL STATURE...



EACH WEEK, HIS NEMESIS WOULD SNEAK INTO HIS ROOM, LIGHT THE CANDLE (OUR BLIND VICTIM WOULD HAVE NO NEED FOR SUCH LIGHTING)...



...KNOWING THIS WOULD RUIN HIS LIFE IN THE CARNIVAL, AND WITH NO OTHER RESOURCES OR TALENTS TO FALL BACK ON, OUR VICTIM DETERMINED WAS HIS ONLY WAY OUT...

...AND THEN SNIP OFF A PIECE OF THE VICTIM'S WALKING CANE... EACH WEEK, OUR VICTIM NOTICES THE SHORTENING CANE... SADLY, HE MIS-DIAGNOSED THE ISSUE, BELIEVING HE WAS GROWING...

BOYS WILL BE BOYS

"we were all little boys together" [NAVA]

In a recent episode of I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere, we debuted a feature called "Unnecessary Pastiche Censorship."

Well, two of our 10 fans must have been listening, as it has resulted in the boys at **Baker Street Elementary** chattering about it in the schoolyard.

They've taken the concept to a new level and have decided that rather than having to suffer the slings and arrows of the original works of William Shakespeare, they're spicing things up a bit with the censor's trademark.

And no need to worry; it's nothing nearly as profane as The @#%*ing of the Shrew...

HA! THIS IS BRILLIANT!

THIS NEW FEATURE MAKES
SHAKESPEARE SO AMUSING.



SHAKESPEARE? FUN?

OH, QUITE SO... THE GENTLEMEN AT
IHOSE CREATED A NEW FEATURE CALLED
UNNECESSARY BARD CENSORSHIP.



I JUST FIND HIS WORKS SO BORING...
HOW CAN YOU MAKE IT FUN?

BURT AND SCOTT TOOK A SECTION FROM
'ROMEO AND JULIET' IN THIS DISPATCH...
WE WILL READ IT FOR YOU, AND YOU
TELL US THAT IS NOT RIVETING.



I GUESS, IF YOU THREE THINK SO.

ROMEO: IF I PROPANE WITH MY UNWORTHIEST
BLEEP THIS HOLY SHRINE, THE GENTLE FINE
IS THIS: MY *BLEEP*, TWO BLUSHING
PILGRIMS, READY STAND, TO SMOOTH THAT
ROUGH TOUCH WITH A TENDER KISS.



JULIET: GOOD PILGRIM, YOU DO WRONG YOUR
BLEEP TOO MUCH, WHICH MANNERLY DEVOTION
SHOWS IN THIS; FOR SAINTS THAT HAVE *BLEEP*
THAT PILGRIMS *BLEEP* DO TOUCH, AND
BLEEP TO *BLEEP* IS HOLY PALMER'S KISS.

HAVE NOT SAINTS *BLEEP*
AND HOLY PALMERS TOO?

AY, PILGRIM, *BLEEP* THAT
THEY MUST USE IN PRAYER.



O, THEN DEAR SAINT, LET *BLEEP* DO
WHAT *BLEEP* DO; THEY PRAY, GRANT
THOU, LEST FAITH TURN TO DESPAIR.



SAINTS DO NOT MOVE, THOUGH
GRANT FOR PRAYER'S SAKE.

THEN MOVE NOT, WHILE MY PRAYER'S
EFFECT I TAKE... THUS FROM MY
BLEEP, BY YOURS, MY SIN IS PURGED.



THEN HAVE MY *BLEEP* THE
SIN THAT THEY HAVE TOOK.

SIN FROM THY *BLEEP*? O TRESPASS
SWEETLY URGED! GIVE ME MY SIN AGAIN.

YOU *BLEEP* BY THE BOOK.



HAHA!!!



HAHA!!!



TO *BLEEP* OR NOT TO *BLEEP*,
THAT IS THE QUESTION!

NEVER HAS SHAKESPEARE COME ALIVE SO
WELL! MY COMPLIMENTS TO THE ACTORS...
HOW ABOUT 'MACBETH' NEXT TIME?



109 - 05-14-2017

THE BRITISH LIBRARY IS HOLDING A BOOK FESTIVAL THIS WEEKEND... WE SHOULD GO.



WHAT DO THEY DO AT SUCH A FESTIVAL?
THEY WILL CELEBRATE BOOKS, AND ALL THINGS RELATED TO THEM.



I BELIEVE THEY WILL HAVE A PANEL DISCUSSION ON RECENT NOVELS AND STORIES THAT IMITATE THE ORIGINAL STORY OR CHARACTER.



PEOPLE DO THAT?

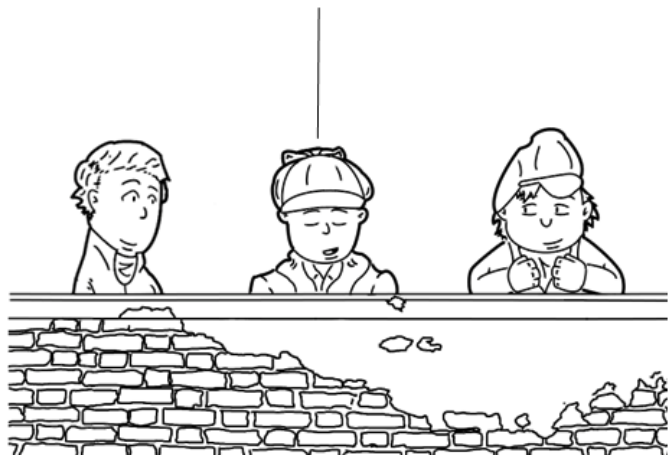


SURE, A GOOD 'PASTICHE' HONOURS THE ORIGINAL WORK.

continued

109 - 05-14-2017 (continued)

OF COURSE, A BAD PASTICHE CAN MAKE THE ORIGINAL CHARACTERS APPEAR OUTRIGHT SILLY.



HOW CAN SOMEONE KNOW WHAT I WANT TO READ? I DON'T EVEN KNOW FOR SURE WHAT I LIKE.

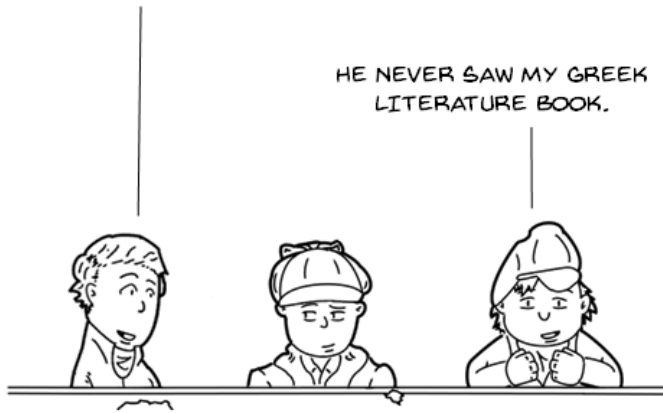


THEY WILL ALSO HAVE PEOPLE PROVIDE REVIEWS ON RECENT BOOKS... IT HELPS YOU DECIDE WHAT TO READ.

WE SHOULD GO AND SUPPORT THE FESTIVAL... AS MARCUS CICERO STATED, "A ROOM WITHOUT BOOKS IS LIKE A BODY WITHOUT A SOUL".



AND JEFFERSON WROTE, "I CANNOT LIVE WITHOUT BOOKS."



HE NEVER SAW MY GREEK LITERATURE BOOK.

MERELY PLAYERS

"we were all little boys together" [NAVA]

Bringing stories to life in the minds of readers or theater goers can be a challenge. We know Sir Arthur Conan Doyle was a talented storyteller who managed to do just that, particularly in the former medium (and did attempt the latter at least twice).

When William Gillette sought Doyle's approval to make some nominal changes to Holmes' personal situation in 1899, Doyle replied,

"You may marry him, murder him, or do whatever you like to him."

*It's not clear what Holmes and Watson had to say about this development, but in the minds of the team at **Baker Street Elementary**, we have the opportunity to see how it might have played out during an earlier stage of their lives...*

I THINK THE PLAY WOULD BE A SMASH HIT... YOUR PORTRAYAL OF THE BRAVE DETECTIVE WILL BE ONE FOR THE AGES.



WHY THANK YOU, JOHN... I AM HONOURED YOU TWO ALLOWED ME TO USE THE STORY YOU PUBLISHED IN THE SCHOOL PAPER FOR THE BASIS OF MY DRAMA.



I SEE OURSELVES AS A WONDERFUL TRIO, WORKING SIDE BY SIDE... JOHN, THE WRITER, WILLIAM THE PLAYWRIGHT, AND MYSELF AS THE LITERARY AGENT.



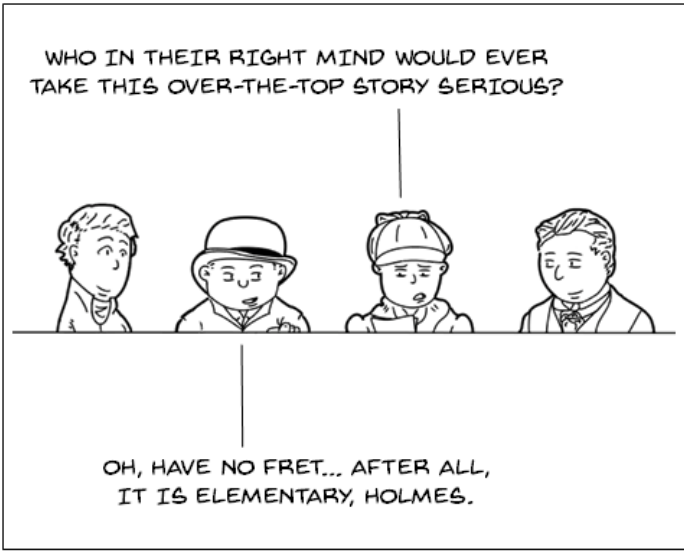
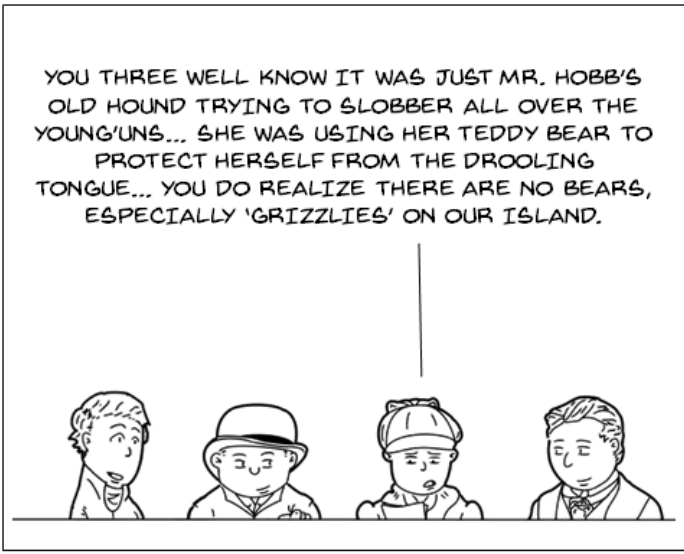
IS EVERYTHING TO YOUR LIKING, SHERLOCK?



I... I BELIEVE YOUR IMAGINATIONS HAVE THE BETTER OF YOU.



THE STAGE NEEDS A LITTLE DRAMATIZATION.



111 - 05-28-2017

MASTER STAMFORD, I MUST SAY I AM A LITTLE CONCERNED WITH YOUR PAST FEW ESSAYS AND BOOK REPORT.

HOW SO?



TO BE HONEST, THEY HAVE BECOME MUCH BETTER THIS SEMESTER.



BETTER? WHAT IS TROUBLING ABOUT THAT? SOUNDS LIKE GOOD NEWS TO ME.

FOR THE PAST FEW YEARS, THE OTHER TEACHERS AND I USED THEM AS ENTERTAINMENT IN THE TEACHER'S ROOM... YOUR WORKS HELPED MAKE UP FOR THE LOW WAGES OF BEING AN EDUCATOR.



YOU KNOW, YOU COULD HAVE SIMPLY SMILED AND SAID, "KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK."



112 - 06-04-2017

PIGEON - HOLED

"In that great brain of his everything is pigeonholed" [BRUC]

If you're not into cryptography, codes can be vexing. In all fairness, that's what they're designed to do. And we know of a number of times codes or ciphers are used in the Sherlock Holmes stories.

Indeed, in "The Adventure of the Dancing Men," Holmes himself tells us "I am fairly familiar with all forms of secret writings, and am myself the author of a trifling monograph upon the subject, in which I analyze one hundred and sixty-three separate ciphers."

But when the uninitiated are on the other end of a code, cracking that code can seem a nearly impossible task. Of course, the creator of the code likely thinks its foolproof, as Abe Slaney did in DANC.

But Holmes reminded him there's always a way. "What one man can invent, another can discover." Young Stamford, Watson and Holmes find out quite the same thing...

112 - 06-04-2017 (continued)

WHAT ARE YOU WORKING ON, JOHN?
YOU LOOK WORRIED.



HOLMES LEFT ME AN URGENT CODED MESSAGE
I NEED TO BREAK... TROUBLE IS, I AM NOT
QUITE FAMILIAR WITH THIS DESIGN.

SO, WHAT IS THE PROBLEM? I THOUGHT HE WOULD
HAVE PROVIDED A DECIPHER FOR THE MESSAGE.



WELL, HE DID... IT IS JUST HE WAS IN A HURRY,
IT SEEMS... I CANNOT FIGURE OUT SOME OF
THE CHARACTERS, WHICH LOOK THE SAME.

LIKE THIS ONE... I AM NOT SURE IF
IT MEANS 'PIGEON' OR 'RELIGION'.



I AM SURE I HAVE NOT SEEN THIS
CODE BEFORE... IS SHERLOCK USING A
NEW FORM FOR THIS MESSAGE.

AT LAST CHECK, HE HAS USED APPROXIMATELY
TWO DOZEN THIS SCHOOL YEAR.



REALLY, THAT'S IMPRESSIVE... HOW LONG HAVE
YOU BEEN WORKING ON THIS URGENT CODE?

IT FEELS LIKE HOURS, BUT I DON'T
THINK IT HAS BEEN THAT... OH...

HUH? IS SOMETHING
WRONG, JOHN?



continued

112 - 06-04-2017 (continued)

HAVE YOU ADDED SOMETHING TO YOUR WARDROBE?

HOW LONG HAVE YOU HAD THESE VISITORS?



OVER AN HOUR... IN RETROSPECT, I THINK THIS CODE WILL BE RETIRED, NEVER TO BE USED AGAIN.

SHOULD I ASK?

I KNOW I'M NOT.



WELL, I GUESS WE KNOW WHAT THIS ALL MEANS.

YES, I THINK WE DO.



THAT SYMBOL IS DEFINITELY 'PIGEON', NOT 'RELIGION'.



AT SECOND GLANCE, PIGEON DOES MAKE MORE SENSE... THE NEXT SYMBOL MUST BE 'ROOST'.

113 - 06-11-2017

MY MOTHER TOOK ME TO A MUSICAL CONCERT THIS LAST WEEKEND.

SOUNDS FUN, WHO WAS PERFORMING?



A FRENCH VIOLINIST, JEAN-DELPHIN ALARDO.

I HAVE NEVER BEEN TO A CONCERT... DO THE MUSICIANS JUMP INTO THE CROWD, AND BE CARRIED ABOVE THEIR HEADS?



NO, NOT HARDLY.



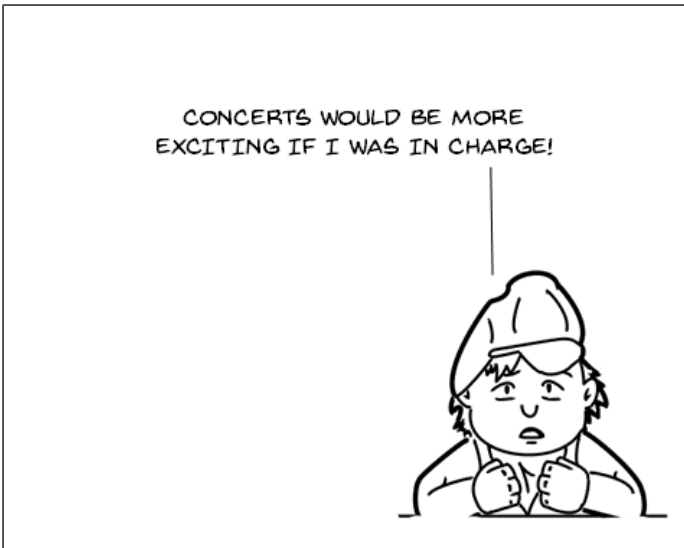
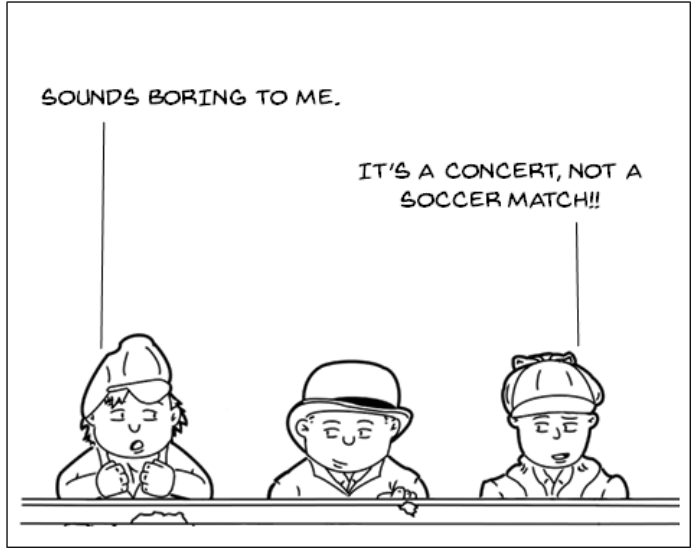
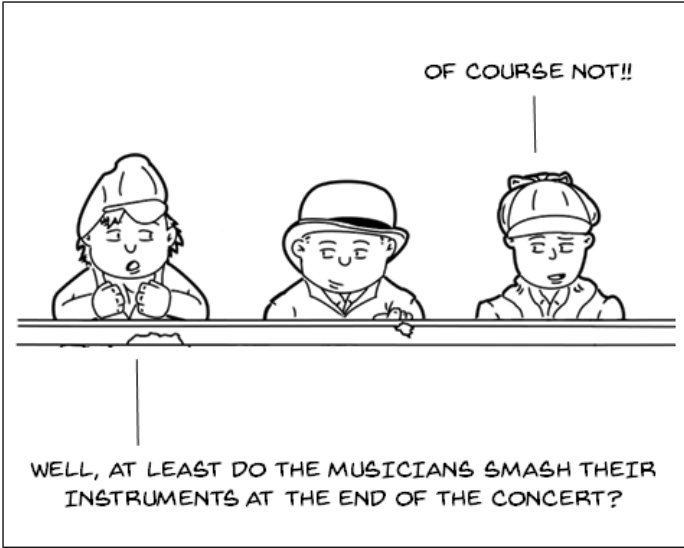
WHERE DO YOU GET THESE IDEAS?



DOES THE CROWD HOLD UP CANDLES OR MATCHES AT THE PERFORMANCE END, TO ENCOURAGE THE MUSICIAN TO PERFORM ENCORES?

continued

113 - 06-11-2017 (continued)



HIDDEN MEANINGS

"What's the meaning of this?" [DYIN]

Language binds us together as a society. Words mean something. Although we're constantly observing language changing right before our eyes, from new words being introduced (as always) and even more visual elements being introduced (such as emoji).

But one of the most vexing things about the English language, aside from the spelling and pronunciation of certain parts of speech, must be the existence of homophones and homonyms. If you thought these words were interchangeable, the short answer is they're not.

Homonyms are words with the same spelling and pronunciation but have different meanings. Homophones are words with the same pronunciation, but different spellings and meanings.

Homographs are words spelled the same but have different pronunciations and meanings. The boys are still learning a thing or two about the language, and this lesson comes not from their English or Language Arts teacher, but from Sherlock Holmes himself...

STAMFORD, I UNDERSTAND YOU WANT TO TRY AND IMPLEMENT WHAT YOU CALL 'CASUAL FRIDAY', BUT THIS IS JUST A BIT TOO MUCH.



OH, JOHN, IT HAS POSSIBILITIES... HOWEVER, I AM HELPING SHERLOCK ON A CASE.

REALLY? THAT'S WONDERFUL, BUT WHY THE BROWN DRESSING GOWN?



I'M IN DISGUISE... YET, YOUR EYES ARE MISLEADING YOU... THIS IS MY DAD'S 'MOUSE-COLOURED' GOWN, AND IN FACT IS GRAY.

IN THIS LIGHTING, IT APPEARS BROWN... BESIDES, WHAT TYPE OF CASE REQUIRES SLEEPWEAR AS THE DISGUISE?



SHERLOCK CALLS IT 'THE CASE OF THE SLEEPING NURSERY,' HENCE, THE SLEEPWEAR... I FIT RIGHT IN TO CATCH THE CULPRIT.

'THE CASE OF THE SLEEPING NURSERY'? WHY DO I FEEL YOU LEFT SOMETHING OUT FOR POOR STAMFORD.



ME? MISLEAD OUR JUNIOR DETECTIVE? WELL, IF YOU INSIST, THERE ARE TWO ITEMS I MUST POINT OUT.

FIRST, I MUST RESOLVE THE MATTER OF THE DRESSING GOWN'S COLOUR.

YOU MUST?



QUITE SO, WATSON... A GOOD DETECTIVE DOES NOT LET THE SMALLEST MATTER GO UNRESOLVED.

INDULGE US WITH YOUR OBSERVATION.

BOTH OF YOU ARE HALF-RIGHT AND HALF-WRONG OF THE COLOUR.

HOW SO?

SIMPLY PUT, IT IS TAUPE.

GRAYISH-BROWN?

CORRECT.

NITPICKER.

AND THE SECOND ITEM?

USING THE WORKING TITLE, YOU MISUNDERSTOOD WHERE THE CASE WOULD TAKE PLACE.

BASED ON THE TITLE, I THOUGHT IT WOULD INVOLVE WHERE THE YOUNG'UNS TAKE NAPS.

IT DOES INVOLVE THE YOUNG'UNS... SOME HAVE BEEN ENTERING THE GREENHOUSE, WHERE A PLANT THEY SNIFF INDUCES FAINTING... I PROPOSE STAMFORD HELP ME WITH THIS.

SORRY, SHERLOCK, THAT TITLE IS MISLEADING.

AGREED.

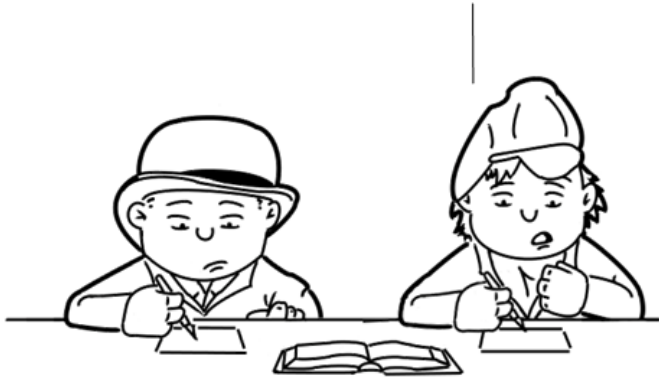
I'LL REMIND YOU OF THIS YEARS FROM NOW, MASTER 'SUSSEX VAMPIRE', 'DEVIL'S FOOT', OR 'LION'S MANE'.

I'LL TRY TO FORGET.

BOOK REPORT CLARISSA ("THE HISTORY OF A YOUNG WOMAN")



GOOD GRIEF.. THIS BOOK IS 1,500 PAGES AND ALMOST 1 MILLION WORDS... IF A PICTURE IS WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS...



THIS BOOK NEEDS MORE PICTURES.

MAYBE WE CAN GET SIDNEY TO HELP.



116 - 07-02-2017

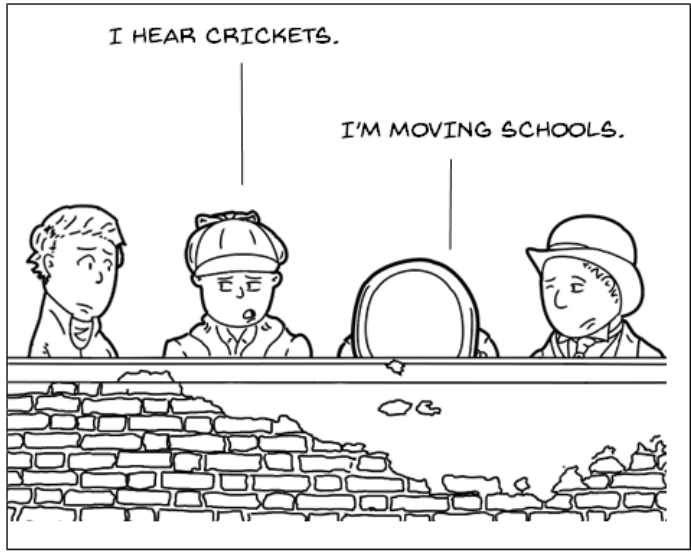
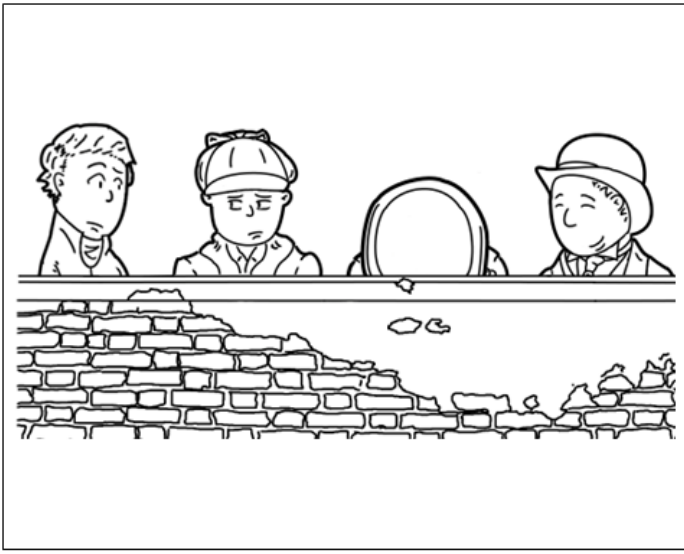
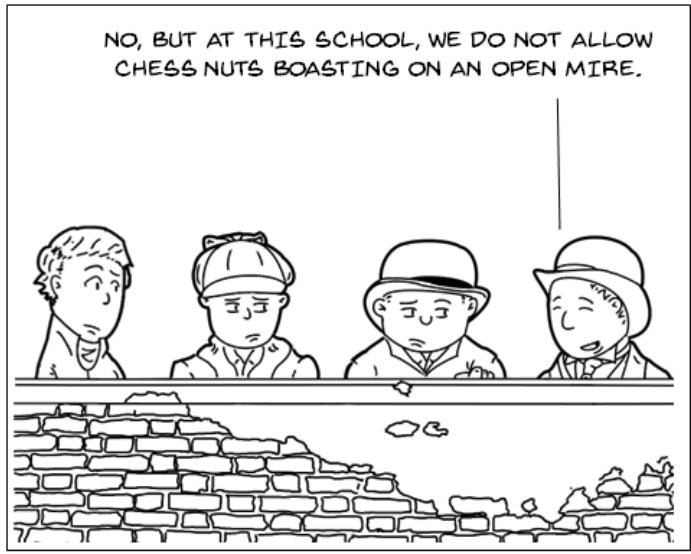
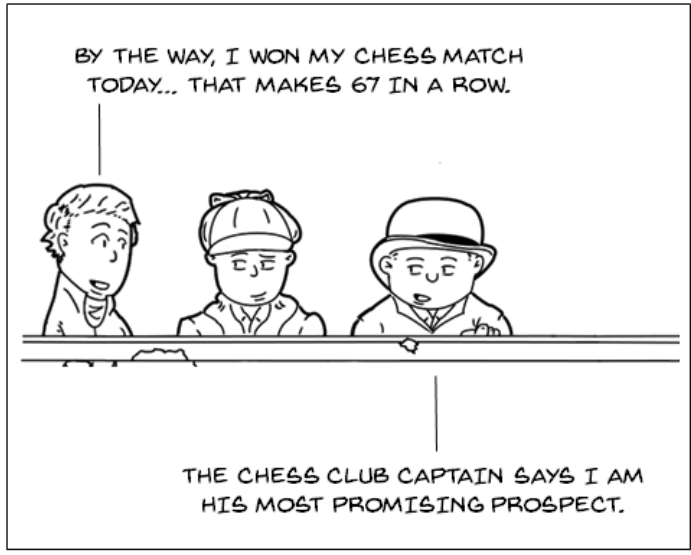
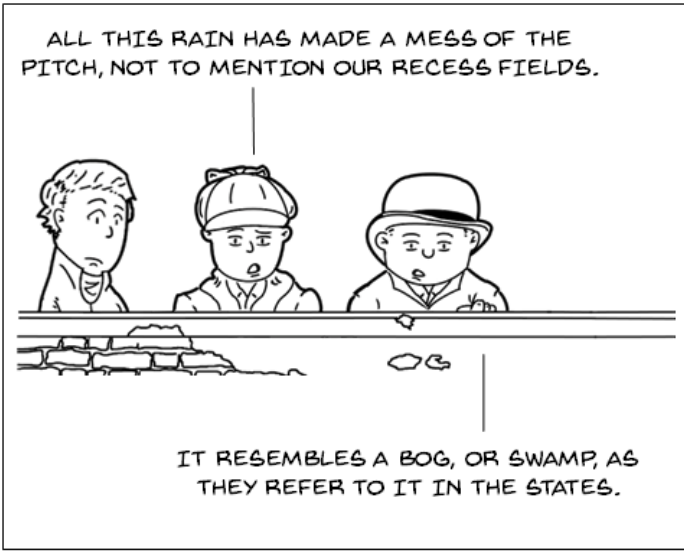
CORRIDORS OF UNCERTAINTY

"it was all trodden into mire" [GOLD]

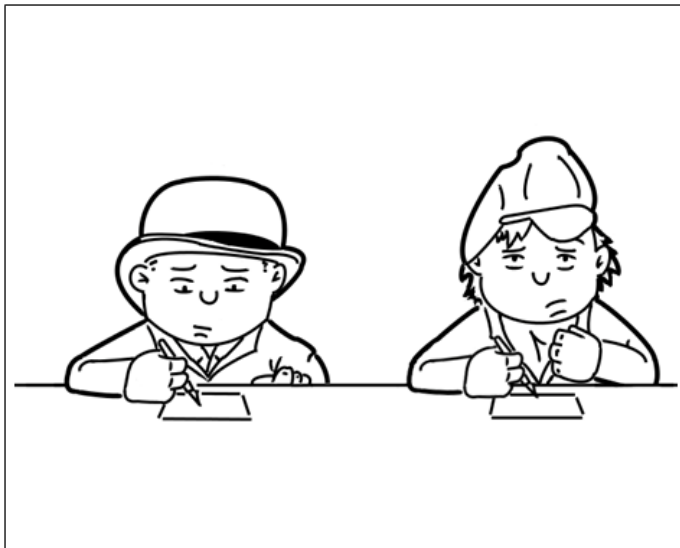
While the games and rules of play may vary from continent to continent, sport is prevalent throughout the world and has been for millennia.

In fact, your editor can recall a course in his days as a classics major: Sport in the Ancient World. But cricket itself is one of the more complex and nuanced games.

And while sport contains legions of admirers and fans world-wide, the game of making puns is another thing entirely...



CREATIVE WRITING ASSIGNMENT: WRITE A SHORT STORY, IN AS FEW WORDS AS POSSIBLE, CONTAINING THE FOLLOWING ELEMENTS: RELIGION, SELF-ASSESSMENT, AND MYSTERY



*GOOD LORD... I
HAVE NOTHING...
I WONDER IF THIS
WILL PASS?*



HIP REPLACEMENT

"The magnificent spectacle cheered the hearts of the three" [STUD]

It's always a daunting task when preparing a paper. Whether it's a grade school theme, a high school research paper, or a presentation to be given before one's peers at an event, it's something one puts quite a bit effort into.

Of course, poring over the material from which the paper is derived is another story. We recall the heavy oak card catalogs at our town's library containing the descriptions and Dewey Decimal numbers of countless books lining the shelves that led us to adventure after adventure, like 3 x 5 treasure maps, encoded with the coordinates of our loot.

Then again, collecting material from classroom lectures didn't always hold the same level of intrigue...

CONGRATULATIONS ON 'ACEING' YOUR PAPER, WATSON.

STAMFORD IS CORRECT... THIS MIGHT BE ONE OF THE GREATEST ESSAYS I HAVE HAD THE PRIVILEGE TO READ.

I AGREE WITH SIDNEY... YOUR 'DANGERS OF BORING LECTURES AND THEIR EFFECTS ON YOUNG MINDS' PAPER NEEDS TO BE PUBLISHED IN THE LANCET.

I WOULD RELISH THE OPPORTUNITY TO CREATE A STAGE PERFORMANCE OF THIS MASTERPIECE.

THREE CHEERS TO JOHN, THE GREATEST WRITER OF THIS GENERATION! HIP! HIP!

HOORAY!

hip hip HOORAY!

MASTER HOLMES, WOULD YOU BE SO KIND AS TO STIR YOUR DESK-MATE, BEFORE HE MISSES THE ENTIRE LECTURE?

HIP! HIP!

HE APPEARS TO BE HAPPY... YOU PUT HIM TO SLEEP, YOU WAKE HIM UP!

...hoo...ray...

SO, IGNATIUS, IF YOU EVENTUALLY BECOME AN AUTHOR, WHAT WILL YOU BE FOCUSING ON?



I HAVE A PASSION FOR HISTORICAL NOVELS, ESPECIALLY THOSE OF OUR ANCESTORS OF THE MEDIEVAL AGES... AND YOU?



BOTH AMERICAN WESTERNS AND MARITIME ADVENTURES HOLD MY FANCY.

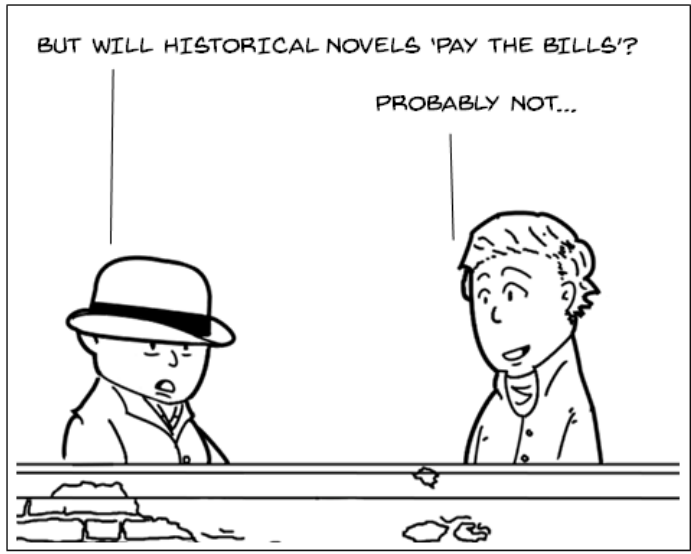
I DO LIKE A GOOD MYSTERY THOUGH... MR. POE INSPIRES ME.

NOT ME... IF I WRITE, IT WILL NOT BE TO TITILLATE THE MASSES, BUT TO EDUCATE AND INFORM.



BUT WILL HISTORICAL NOVELS 'PAY THE BILLS'?

PROBABLY NOT...



BUT I WILL HAVE MEDICINE TO FALL BACK ON.

SAME HERE.



THE FORESHADOWING CONTINUES...



120 - 07-30-2017

THINGS ARE SELDOM WHAT THEY SEEM TO BE

"the impersonal joy of the true artist" [VALL]

The scenes we develop in our mind's eye when reading are as unique as each one of us. We make a mental image of setting, scene and characters, and absent any other kind of visual cues, that becomes our reality of the fiction we enjoy.

Artists' depictions bring those scenes to life, but of course, we're at the mercy of the artists, who are invariably bringing to life the image in their minds. But just imagine if a work was based on a real-life adventure or actual people.

Then the depictions might be scrutinized just a little more by the protagonists... Oh, and for the uninitiated, 'Ignatius' is Arthur Ignatius Conan Doyle.

HELLO MASTERS PAGET AND GILLETTE...
WHAT ARE YOU TWO WORKING ON?



WE ARE WORKING ON ILLUSTRATIONS FOR
THE SCHOOL NEWSPAPER... MASTERS
MORLEY AND NEWNES REQUESTED ART
FOR AN ARTICLE IN THE NEXT EDITION.

ILLUSTRATIONS FOR AN ARTICLE?
WONDERFUL, WHICH ONE?



'THE ADVENTURE OF
THE SMELLY SANDBOX.'

THIS IS THE STORY I DID... SO ARE YOU
USING YOUR GREAT TALENTS TO CAPTURE
ME, NOT TO MENTION HOLMES?



YOU DID? I THOUGHT IGNATIUS CREATED IT.

LET'S JUST SAY WE ARE WORKING THE
CREATIVE LICENSING ANGLE FOR THE
STORIES... DO YOU NEED HOLMES OR I
TO MODEL FOR YOUR ARTWORK?



WELL... TO TELL THE TRUTH, I AM BEING
USED AS THE MODEL FOR THE DETECTIVE.

YOU MEAN TO SAY, WE ARE NOT
'STARRING' IN OUR OWN ADVENTURE?

THAT TRUE?

AFRAID SO.



NO ONE PORTRAYS THEMSELVES... THE
READER RARELY WANTS TRUE DEPICTION
OF THE EVENTS... THEY WANT
ENTERTAINMENT TO BE A LITTLE SMUDGED.

IN THAT CASE, CAN YOU MODEL ME
AFTER A STAR RUGBY PLAYER?

WATSON,
REALLY, NOW?

I GUESS I COULD.



HUSH, HOLMES... IF I CAN CHOOSE MY
IMAGE, I AM AT LEAST GOING TO BE TALLER.

121 - 08-06-2017

IF THE EARLY BIRD GETS THE WORM,
WHAT DOES THE LATE BIRD GET...?



IN MY WORLD, USUALLY MORE SLEEP!



122 - 08-13-2017

CONFIDENCE MAN

"to force a confidence: [BLAC]

Being considered knowledgeable and trustworthy comes with inherent dangers. For the entire run of the Sherlock Holmes stories, it is Dr. Watson who is a trusted friend and confidant of the great detective, and through whose eyes we see the action and plot.

We have no reason not to trust his judgment (except when later Holmes indicates what he missed). After all, he is a medical man, with a certain knowledge of the world.

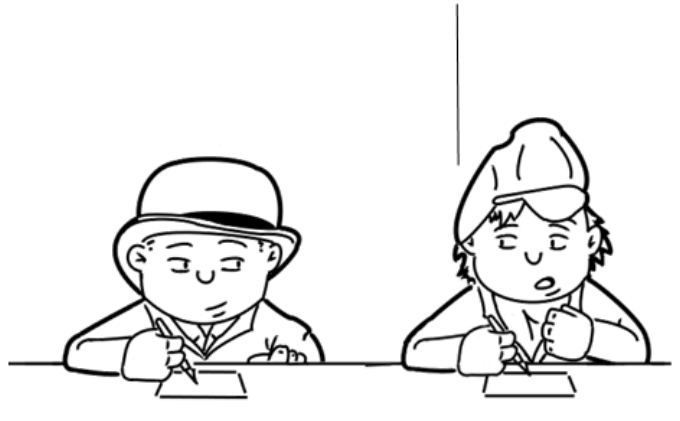
So, it's not too much of a stretch to imagine his classmates relying on Watson for academic help... is it?

122 - 08-13-2017 (continued)

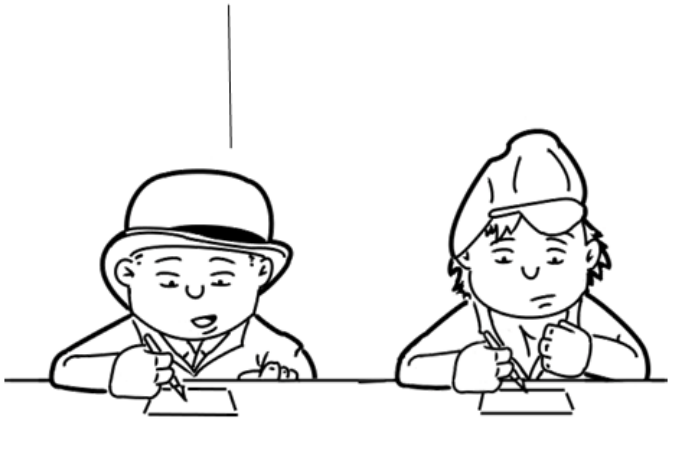
<< PSST >> JOHN, CAN YOU HELP ME WITH QUESTION NUMBER 4?



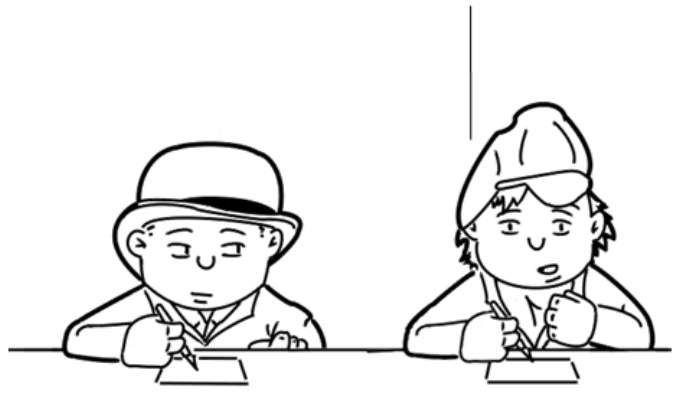
WHAT IN THE WORLD IS A PRONOUN?



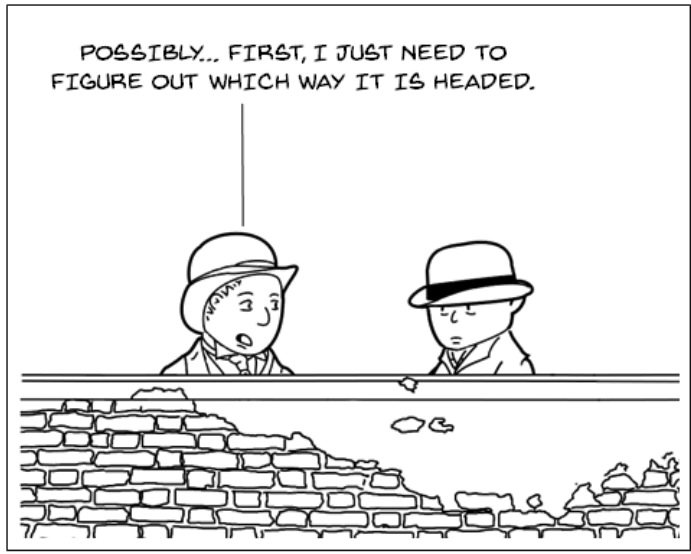
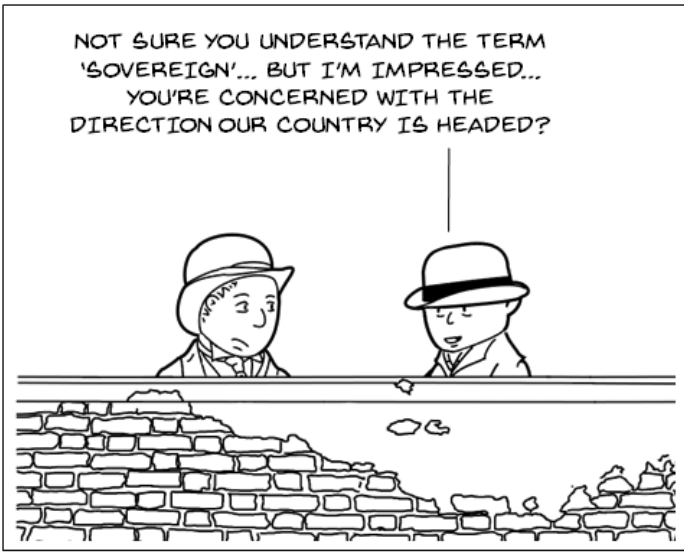
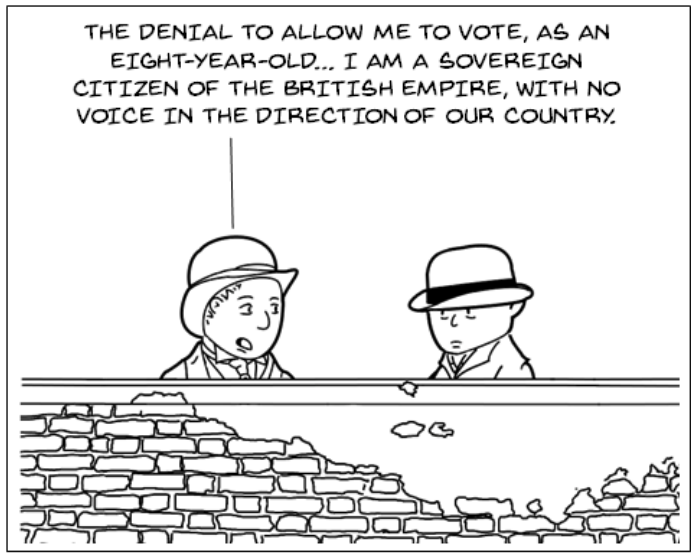
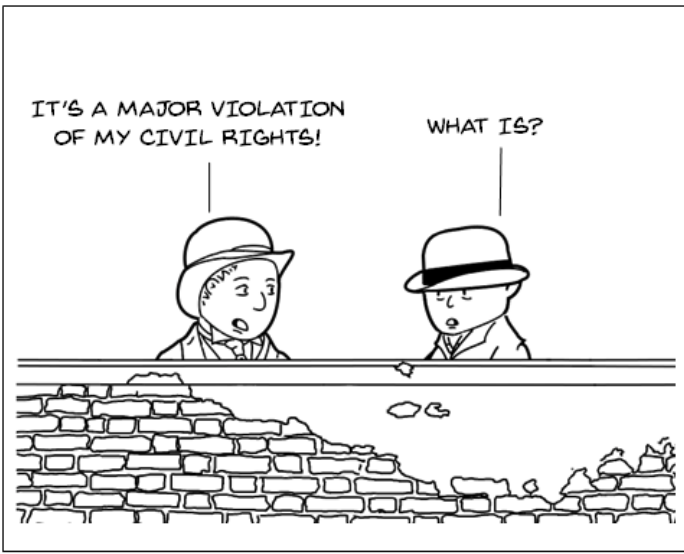
A NOUN WHO GETS PAID TO PLAY.



THAT MAKES SENSE... I SHOULD HAVE FIGURED IT OUT... NOW I WON'T HAVE TO PRAY I GET THE EXTRA CREDIT.



123 - 08-20-2017



124 - 08-27-2017

QUIT YOUR RIBBIN'

"a certain unexpected vein of pawkyhumour" [VALL]

English is a strange language. For many of us who first met Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson on the printed page, we were exposed to words that were strange to us, either by their antiquated nature or because they were foreign. Some might even say outré.

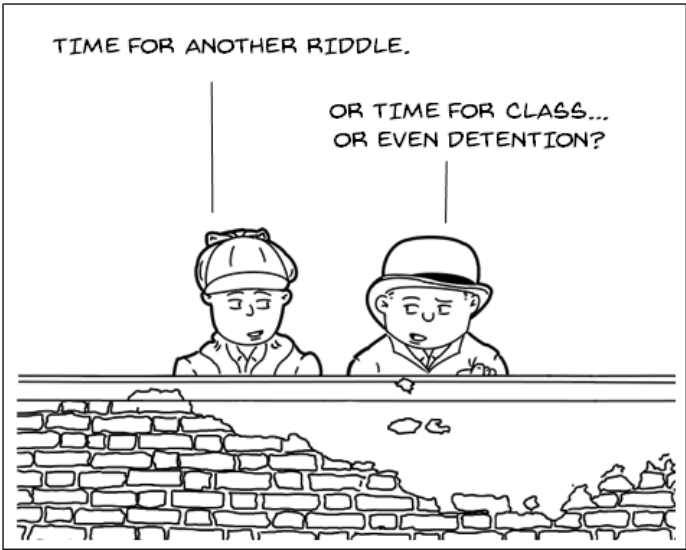
For those who didn't have the benefit of family members or friends who spoke French, Latin or German, and who weren't yet exposed to broader subjects in school, the dialog and pronunciation existed only in our minds.

*So how is one to know what *recherché* sounds like? Or that *pince-nez* is not pronounced 'pins-nez', but more like 'pans nay'? Or that *Goethe* does not rhyme with 'bath'?*

Such are the pains of childhood. So, when we came into contact with fellow Sherlockians, we might surreptitiously learn for the very first-time how certain words are pronounced. And the polite Sherlockian will not necessarily stop you and upbraid you for mispronouncing a word but will simply use the word as part of the conversation, in something of a retort courteous, thereby demonstrating its proper pronunciation.

They demonstrate rather than remonstrate. But there is a certain familiar word in the Sherlock Holmes' stories that, like so many other English words, has multiple meanings and pronunciations. Beware the dangers of homographs...

124 - 08-27-2017 (continued)



continued

124 - 08-27-2017 (continued)

INCIDENTALLY, WOULD IT NOT BE
PRONOUNCED BŌW, NOT BÖW?

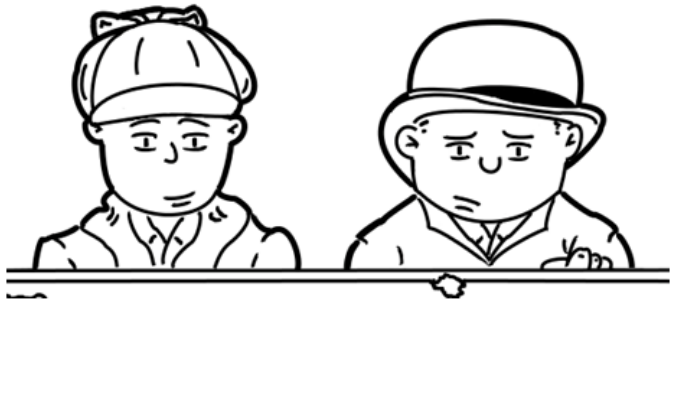


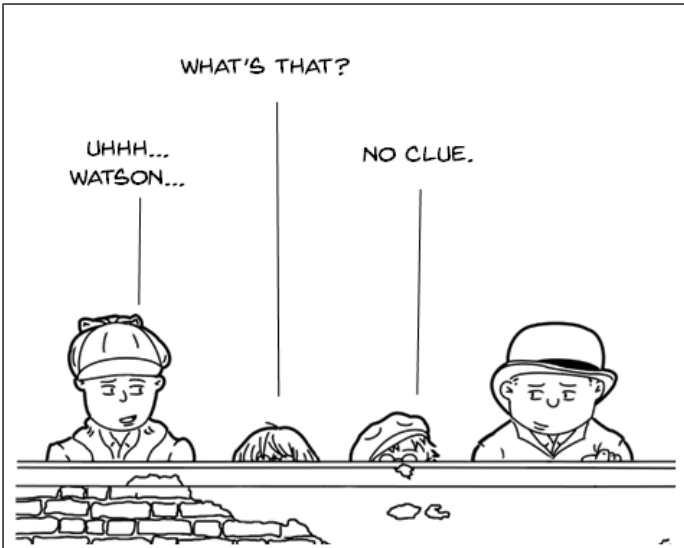
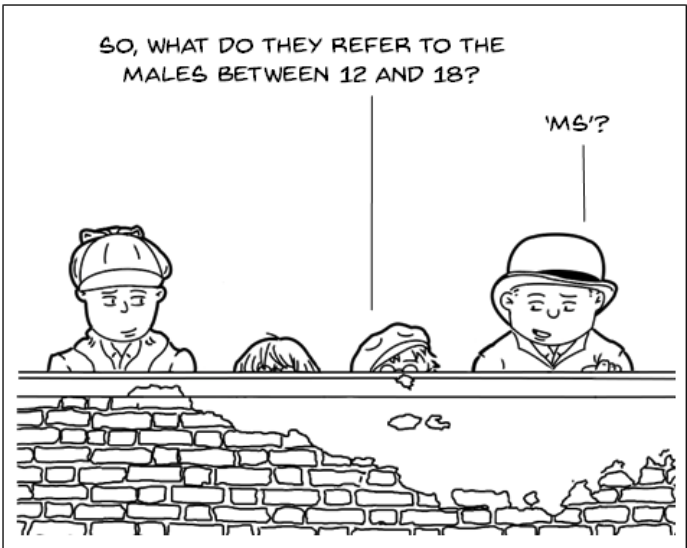
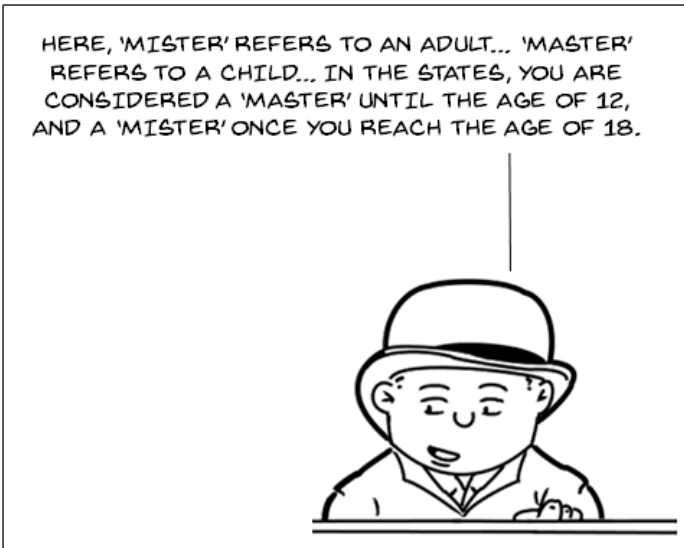
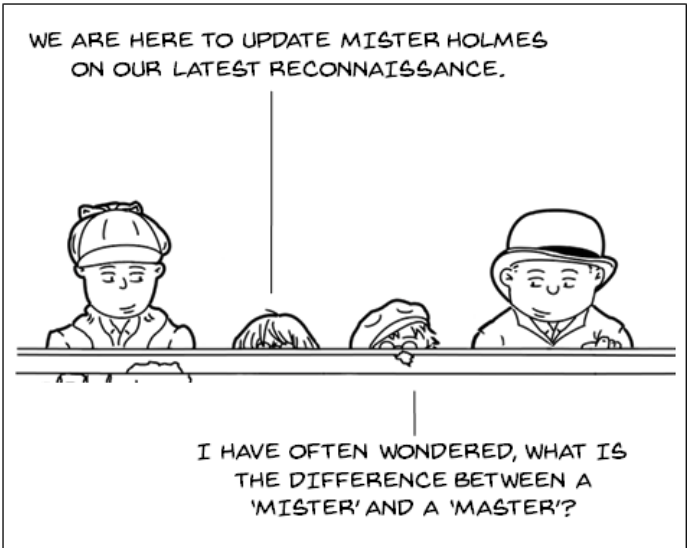
DO NOT CONFUSE A CUTE JOKE WITH DETAILS.



IN YOUR LATER LIFE, PEOPLE WILL NOT
UNDERSTAND YOUR SENSE OF HUMOUR.

OH, THE SHARP ONES WILL.





126 - 09-10-2017

KNOWLEDGE OF CHEMISTRY

"from amid the mad elements" [FIVE]

At some point, we've all experienced the humorless, information-rich decorations of a classroom. From the instructive white and green cursive alphabet to the classic 'Age of Reptiles' mural from the Yale University Peabody Museum of Natural History.

But the grand daddy of them all has to be the Periodic Table of Elements. That multi-column, multi-row chart with all of the known elements, grouped by metals / non-metals, then further by subcategories such as alkalis, noble gases, etc.

For those not predisposed to appreciate the logical arrangement of the elements on the chart (or even the logic of their abbreviations), there's Tom Lehrer's 'The Element Song' which sets the periodic table to the tune of 'I Am the Very Model of a Modern Major General'.

Meanwhile, at Baker Street Elementary, the boys seem to be having a gas...

ATOMIC WEIGHT, PERIODICITY... I WILL NEVER UNDERSTAND CHEMISTRY.

STAMFORD, HAVE HEART, IT'S NOT THAT DIFFICULT.



OK, SMARTY... QUICK... WHAT ELEMENTS ARE REPRESENTED BY H, C, BR, AND AC?



HYDROGEN, CHLORINE, BROMINE, AND NICE TRY... NOT YET DISCOVERED.

I MUST ADMIT, I AM TRULY IMPRESSED.

WHILE YOU SHOULD BE, HONESTLY, IT WAS ELEMENTARY, MY DEAR WATSON.



SERIOUSLY, ALL OF YOU KNEW THIS WAS COMING SOONER OR LATER.



<< THE GAME'S AFOOT... >>



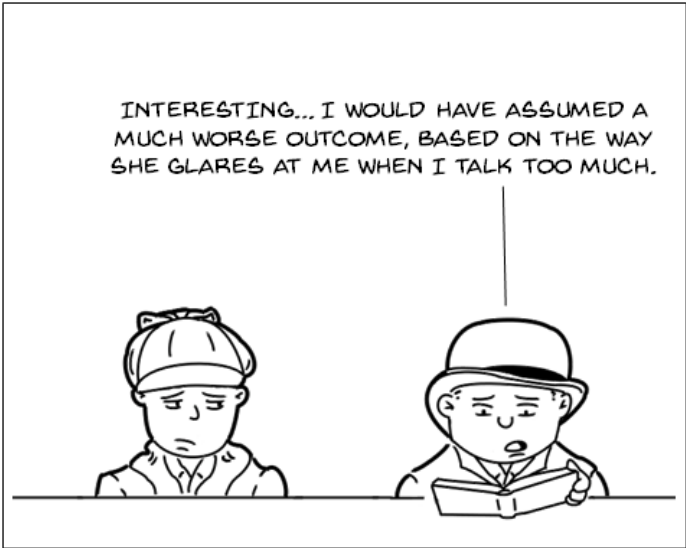
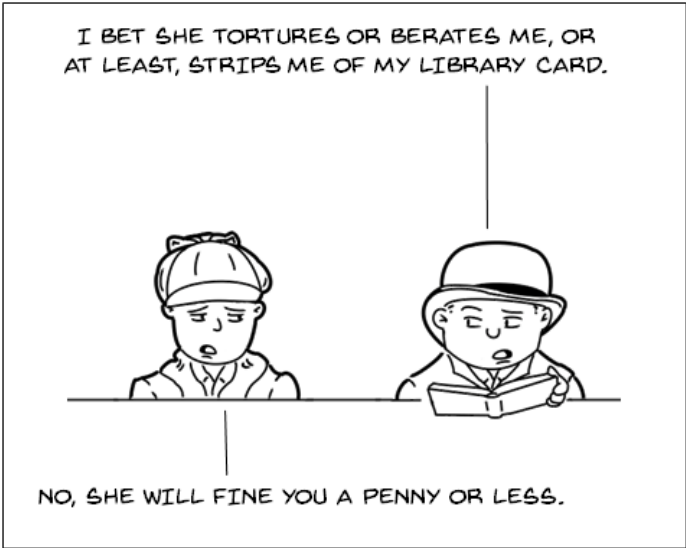
STOP IT!!

I CAN'T... I HAVE TROVES OF THESE IN MY BRAIN-ATTIC.



AROUND YOU TWO, I BELIEVE I MUST POSSESS A BRAIN-CELLAR.

127 - 09-17-2017



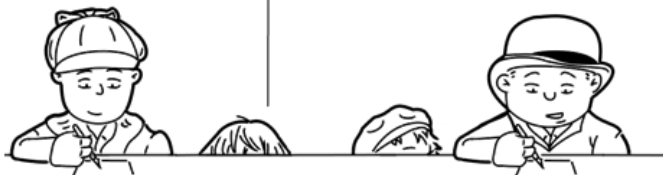
128 - 09-24-2017

PLEASE EXPLAIN THIS
TO ME... FOR MY BOOK
REPORT, IF I COPY
FROM ONE SOURCE IN
THE LIBRARY, IT IS
PLAGIARISM, BUT IF I
COPY FROM VARIOUS
SOURCES, IT'S
RESEARCH?



OH, JOY... BACK TO TUTORING, HOPE YOU TWO HAVE BEEN STUDYING... LET'S SEE, FIRST QUESTION... WHAT HISTORIC EVENT ENDED AT THE START OF 1856?

1855?

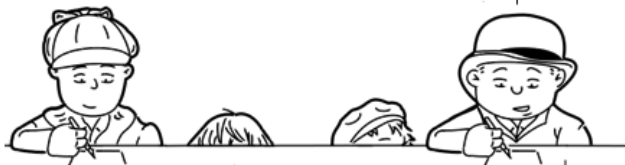


UMMM... IT IS TRUE IT DID, BUT I WAS LOOKING FOR THE CRIMEAN WAR... HOLMES, HAVE YOU BEEN 'HELPING' THEM AGAIN?



I CAN'T HELP IT IF THEY ARE EAGER TO LEARN FROM ME.

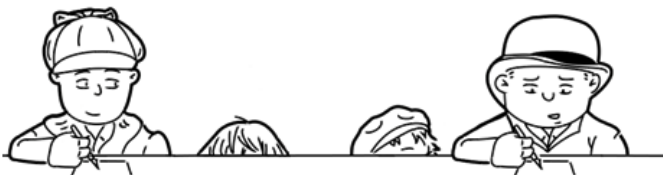
WHERE WERE THE SURVIVORS OF THE GREAT POTATO FAMINE BURIED?



NOWHERE... YOU DON'T BURY SURVIVORS.

SOMEONE CHANGED THE QUESTION.

I... SEE... YOUR POINT... WE'LL JUST CONSIDER THAT A TRICK QUESTION.

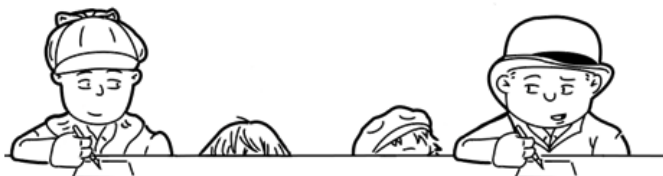


IT'S SIMPLE... MASTERS KEEFAVER AND REDMOND HERE WILL BE THE LEADERS IN THEIR FIELD, AND A WELL-GROUNDED, SARCASTIC SENSE OF HUMOUR WILL HELP THEM SUCCEED... ESPECIALLY, IF THEY DECIDE TO WRITE A BOOK OR DO A NEWSLETTER.



I WONDER IF MASTER HOBBS WOULD CO-WRITE WITH ME?

OK, HOLMES, I KNOW YOU ARE TEACHING THE YOUNG'UNS THESE ANSWERS... WHAT IS YOUR END GAME IN ALL OF THIS?



THIS DISPATCH OF 'I HEAR OF SHAKESPEARE EVERYWHERE' IS INTERESTING.



THE TYPES OF GAMES KIDS PLAY DURING WARTIME, QUITE ENLIGHTENING.

SEEMS LIKE THE KIDS IN THE U.S. PLAY MORE WAR- THAN PEACE- THEMED GAMES... I WONDER WHY?



AS WE HAVE DISCUSSED BEFORE, PAGET, IT PROBABLY IS DUE TO NOT ENOUGH ROLE MODELS FOR KIDS TO EMULATE.

I DO NOT SEE THE ISSUE... WE PARTICIPATE IN MANY PEACE GAMES.



WHAT...??



WE TRIED PLAYING MERCHANT SHIPS ALONG THE MARITIME ROUTE OF THE SILK ROAD... YOU HAD A FLEET OF PIRATE SHIPS RAID US AND PLUNDER OUR GOODS AND SUPPLIES.

IT'S CALLED BEING AN ENTREPRENEUR.



YOU TOOK OUR WOMEN AND
MADE ME WALK THE PLANK.

IT'S KNOWN AS A HOSTILE
TAKEOVER, WATSON.



CRYSTAL AND HEATHER HAVE NOT
RECOVERED FROM THE ORDEAL YET.

THEN THERE IS THE TIME WE
PLAYED 'SENATORS OF ROME'.

WHAT'S THE
PROBLEM THERE...
I LOST THAT TIME.



YOU WANTED MORE POWER... YOU
DESIRED TO BECOME A CAESAR.

SO, YOU KILLED OFF EVERY
OPPONENT, AND BECAME A CAESAR.



SO, ULTIMATELY, WE KILLED YOU
AS A CAESAR SHOULD DIE.

HOW ABOUT A QUICK GAME OF 'ATTILA THE
HUN' VERSUS THE ROMANS... THAT'S A
CHARACTER I COULD GROW IN TO... I'LL SPOT
YOU THREE YOUNG'UNS AS SOLDIERS... JUST BE
WARY OF MY SINGLE-STICK PROWESS.



UMMM... MA'AM... WOULD YOU EXPECT TO PUNISH ME FOR SOMETHING I DIDN'T DO?



ABSOLUTELY NOT... THAT WOULD BE ENTIRELY UNFAIR TO YOU, DON'T YOU THINK?



GREAT, THAT'S A RELIEF... I DIDN'T DO MY HOMEWORK AGAIN.



A KERNEL OF TRUTH

"how long have you been playing this trick" [VALL]

In 1922, Doyle himself wrote a Holmes parody. Until that time, he had suffered at the hands of parodists who created versions of Holmes in stories, comics, plays and more.

But Doyle's story "How Watson Learned the Trick" was unique addition in that it was created specifically for Queen Mary's Dolls House... a project that called for top artists and craftsmen to contribute to the building of and possessions within a doll house for Queen Mary, wife of George V.

Doyle wrote the 503-word story, taking up 34 pages, which was bound into a tiny volume for a bookshelf, measuring 1.5 inches high by 1.25 inches wide. The "trick" Watson supposedly learned was Holmes's methods of observation and inference, only to have Holmes bat down his every assumption.

Meanwhile, the boys of Baker Street Elementary demonstrate a much early trick Watson learned...

132 - 10-18-2017 (continued)

WELL, STAMFORD, I LEARNED A NEW TRICK THIS SUMMER AT MY HOUSE.

OH? WHAT WAS THAT, JOHN?



POPPING CORN WITHOUT A LID IS MUCH MORE EXCITING.



IT TOOK MY MOTHER ALL NIGHT TO FIND ALL THOSE KERNELS... IT SEEMS SOME EVEN MADE IT UPSTAIRS.



WHAT'S THE MATTER? YOU LOOK DISAPPOINTED.

WHY DIDN'T I THINK OF THAT?



A GRIM HOLMES

The Crew of the Barque Lane Star was founded as a scion society of the Baker Street Irregulars in November 1970. Through the years, the society has been home for many authors of fiction, Sherlockian criticism, and other non-fiction pieces of work.

So, as we approach our 50th anniversary of existence, it just seemed appropriate to have our present members develop a Sherlock pastiche. The theme for a book was borrowed, having Holmes and Watson solve nursery rhymes and Grimm's Fairy Tales...

When approached, several members of our society enjoyed the idea of trying their own skill at the same type of pastiche. Thanks for your efforts...

LAST WEEKEND, MY MOTHER READ ME
SEVERAL GRIMM'S FAIRY TALES...
THEY WERE VERY DISTURBING.



THE BROTHERS ORIGINALLY WROTE
THE STORIES FOR ADULTS... ONLY
LATER EDITIONS WERE 'SANITIZED'
TO BE MORE SUITABLE FOR CHILDREN.



I THINK I WILL STICK WITH
MOTHER GOOSE STORIES.



ARE YOU SURE? HUMPTY DUMPTY
DOESN'T END WELL EITHER.



MAYBE I'LL TRY EDGAR ALLEN POE... I
HEAR HIS STORIES ARE INTERESTING.



ONLY IF YOU DON'T PLAN ON SLEEPING
AGAIN UNTIL YOU'RE AN ADULT.



134 - 10-29-2017

SO, STAMFORD, HOW IS YOUR 500-WORD ESSAY ON THE MESOPOTAMIA WARS GOING?



I ESTIMATE I AM ABOUT 50% COMPLETED.



IF I USE 'THE' AT LEAST 25 TIMES, 'AND' ABOUT 20 TIMES, 'BUT' 2 OR 3 TIMES, AND IF DESPERATE, 'IF' AND 'WHEN' A FEW TIMES, I AM MORE THAN HALFWAY DONE, BEFORE I EVEN START WRITING.



LOOKS LIKE WE CAN RULE OUT MAJORING IN ENGLISH OR MATH FOR COLLEGE.

IF I COUNT SPACES AND PUNCTUATION MARKS, I BET I AM ALREADY FINISHED.



WARLOCK HOLMES

"Mr. Holmes, you are a wizard, a sorcerer" [SECO]

Halloween has just passed (something we just acknowledged in Trifles Episode 44: The Supernatural) and Sherlockians and the public at large enjoyed the spectacle of costumes and candy that pervade neighborhoods across the land.

The notion of things that go bump in the night, from a spectral hound, to possible vampires and devilish influences should be familiar to anyone who was read the Canon. And with it comes the opportunity to put one's faith in the known world and to dismiss that which is ethereal, glowing, or even effervescent.

*But over at **Baker Street Elementary**, it's not quite as easily dismissed as we're exposed to the typical humor of prepubescent boys...*

DID THE THREE OF YOU ENJOY
MISCHIEF NIGHT LAST NIGHT?



NO... SHERLOCK CONVINCED WATSON AND I TO
DRESS UP AS ALMONDS... EVERYWHERE WE
WENT, PEOPLE THOUGHT WE WERE NUTS.



AND WHAT DID YOU GO AS, SHERLOCK?



I WORE A SIMPLE SHIRT WITH 'PAST',
'PRESENT', AND 'FUTURE' ON IT.

SO, YOU WERE TENSE.



DID I JUST HEAR A DRUM ROLL?



UMMM... SORRY... I ATE TOO MANY
CANDIED PRUNES LAST NIGHT.



136 - 11-12-2017

YES MA'AM... I FINISHED MY ESSAY ON
CHEMIST HUMPHRY DAVIS... DOCTORS
COULDN'T HELIUM, SO THEY HAD TO BARIUM
HIM AFTER HE HAD SULFURED ENOUGH.



SHE LOOKS 'PUNNY'... LOOKS LIKE WE'RE
GETTING ANOTHER SUBSTITUTE TOMORROW.



137 - 11-19-2017

HE HAS GAS LAID ON*"the equinoctial gales had set in" [FIVE]*

One of the advantages of having powers that are uncommon is one's peers might tend to think toward the fantastical. Sherlock Holmes' clients, and even Dr. Watson on occasion, thought the conclusions he drew were otherwise impossible to attain.

Holmes of course set them straight with his explanation of the details he observed. But to the mere common folk, it might appear as witchcraft or sorcery. If we look throughout the Canon, there are a number of mentions of the cultish. There are but two concerning witchcraft, however.

For example, when Inspector MacDonald sees the message Holmes deciphered in The Valley of Fear, he said, "Birlstone! What's this, Mr. Holmes? Man, it's witchcraft! Where in the name of all that is wonderful did you get those names?"

In "Shoscombe Old Place," the reference was more to the appearance of a corpse. He turned and tore open the coffin lid behind him. In the glare of the lantern, I saw a body swathed in a sheet from head to foot, with dreadful, witch-like features, all nose and chin, projecting at one end, the dim, glazed eyes staring from a discoloured and crumbling face.

However, turning away from the distaff side and instead searching for the term "wizard, we're rewarded with no fewer than four entries in the Sherlock Holmes' stories: Inspector Hopkins in 'The Abbey Grange':

"I believe that you are a wizard, Mr. Holmes. I really do sometimes think that you have powers that are not human. Now, how on earth could you know that the stolen silver was at the bottom of that pond?"

The Right Honourable Trelawney Hope in 'The Second Stain':

"Thank you! Thank you! What a weight from my heart. But this is inconceivable --impossible. Mr. Holmes, you are a wizard, a sorcerer! How did you know it was there?"

James M. Dodd in 'The Blanched Soldier':

"From South Africa, sir, I perceive."

"Yes, sir," he answered, with some surprise.

"Imperial Yeomanry, I fancy."

"Exactly."

"Middlesex Corps, no doubt."

"That is so. Mr. Holmes, you are a wizard."

And in 'The Retired Colourman' from Watson, no less:

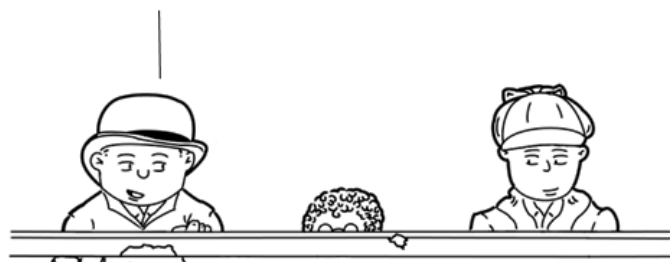
"I am convinced that he was following me."

"No doubt! No doubt!" said Holmes. "A tall, dark, heavily moustached-man, you say, with gray tinted sun-glasses?"

"Holmes, you are a wizard. I did not say so, but he had gray-tinted sunglasses."

Over at Baker Street Elementary, we can see the humble beginnings of such a reputation...

HOLMES, LET ME INTRODUCE THE
NEWEST TRANSFER STUDENT AND
YOUNG'UN, MASTER HOLDER.

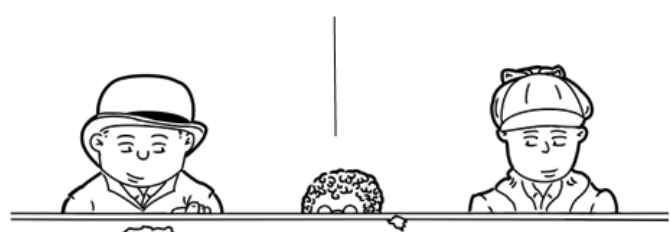


PLEASD TO ME YOU, MISTER
HOLMES... I AM HERE FOR ONE TERM.

I HOPE YOU ADAPT WELL TO THE BRITISH
WAYS, SO FAR FROM YOUR HOME IN NEW YORK.



HOW DID YOU KNOW I WAS FROM THE STATES?



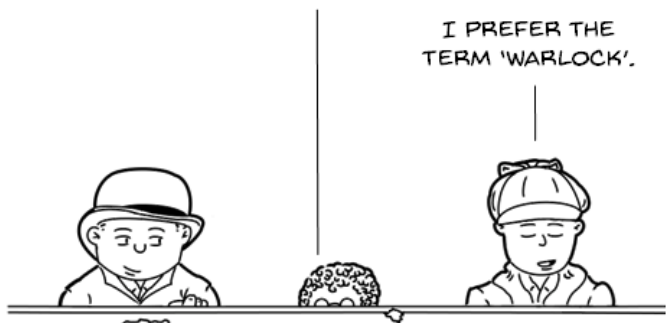
THERE IS THE OBVIOUS NON-RHOTIC ACCENT
FROM THE SOUTHEAST PENNSYLVANIA AREA,
AS WELL AS THE BOOTLACE KNOTS, WHICH
ARE DEFINITELY NOT ENGLISH...



YOUR TIE CLASP IS AN AMERICAN THREE CENT
PIECE, AND THE LOOP STYLE OF THE TEMPLE SLIDE
OF YOUR GLASSES IS UNIQUE TO THE NEW ENGLAND
AREA... I HAVE WRITTEN A SMALL MONOGRAPH ON
SEVERAL VARIETIES OF PINCE-NEZ'S...



ARE YOU A WITCH?



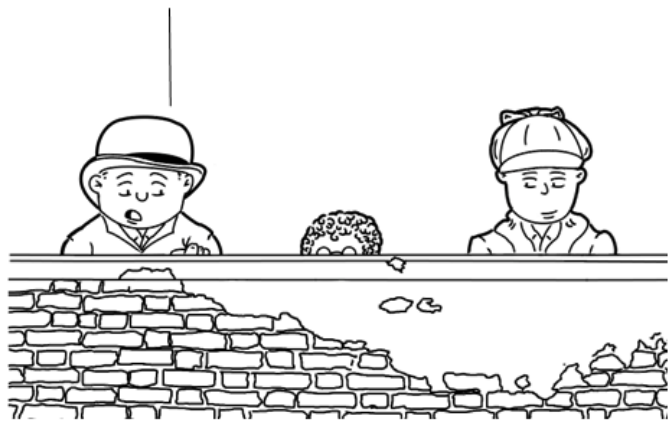
I PREFER THE
TERM 'WARLOCK'.



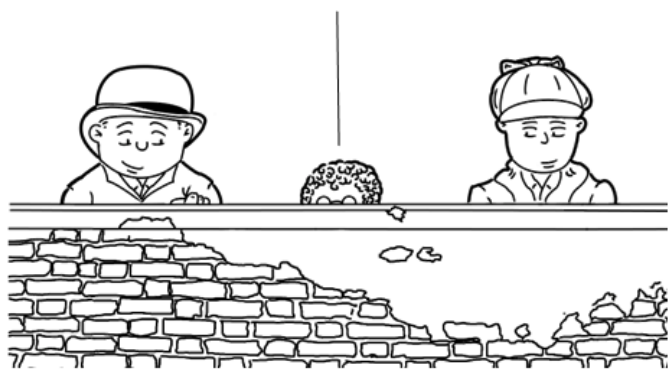
I SHOULD POINT OUT, MY NAME IS ACTUALLY 'WOLDER', NOT 'HOLDER, MISTER WATSON.



WAIT, SURELY NOT THE WOLDER WHO IS THE CREATIVE GENIUS BEHIND 'I HEAR OF SHERLOCK EVERYWHERE'.

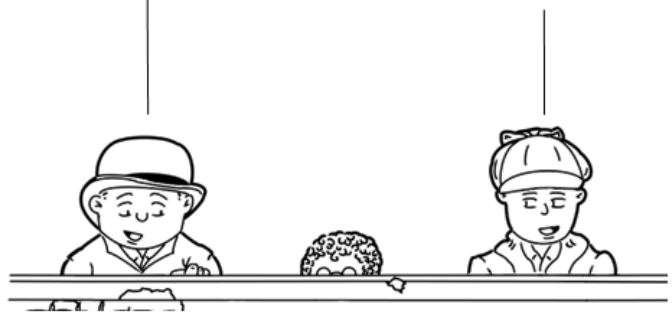


WELL, I DO PARTICIPATE IN A SMALL WAY, BUT MASTER MONTY PLAYS A VERY IMPORTANT PART IN THE PROCESS TOO.

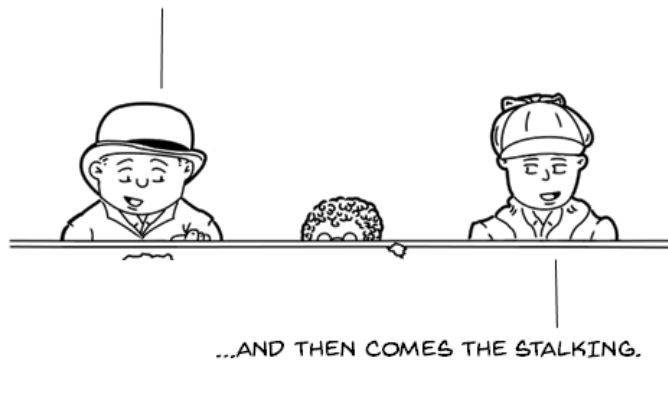


YOUR INSIGHTS ARE PURE GENIUS, NOT TO MENTION YOUR AMAZING 'FAKE' ADVERTISEMENTS.

THUS, THE GIDDINESS BEGINS.



YOU'RE SIMPLY BRILLIANT... I WILL BE WITH YOU ALL TERM TO ATTEMPT TO ABSORB JUST A SMALL PORTION OF YOUR TALENTS.



...AND THEN COMES THE STALKING.

HOW LONG ARE THE 'TERMS' OVER HERE?

YOU MAY CONSIDER A 'RESTRAINING' OR 'PROTECTIVE' ORDER.



FAMILIAR FACES

"this comic interlude" [3GAB]

The Sunday funnies. Perhaps you recall the golden days of childhood when you'd awaken on Sunday mornings, and you'd rush outside to pick up the multiple-pound Sunday paper and bring it inside to rifle through the sections until you got to the comics.

Or perhaps you'd find dad already downstairs, comfortably slouched in his favorite chair in his robe and slippers, already enjoying the same. But childhood is irrevocably linked with the Sunday funny pages.

We all had our favorites, whether it was Peanuts, Garfield, Dilbert, Terry and the Pirates, Beetle Bailey, Hi and Lois, Hagar the Horrible, Cathy, Doonesbury, the Far Side, Calvin and Hobbes, Stone Soup, Dick Tracy, or any of the hundreds of others that have had their color panels appear in papers across the land over the years.

*And so, it is over at **Baker Street Elementary**, where history comes to life...*

DO YOU SUBSCRIBE TO THE THEORY
HISTORY TENDS TO REPEAT ITSELF?



WHAT DO THEY MEAN BY 'SUBSCRIBE'?

IT MEANS 'ACCEPT'
OR 'ACKNOWLEDGE',
YOU BLOCKHEADS.



I THINK THIS CYCLE APPLIES TO
EVERYTHING... LITERATURE, ART,
CULTURE, POLITICS, AND RELIGION.



EVEN CARTOONS?

WHAT IF WE DON'T LEARN
LESSONS FROM THE PAST?



I DON'T DO SO WELL AT TESTS... NO ONE
TOLD ME THERE WOULD BE QUESTIONS.

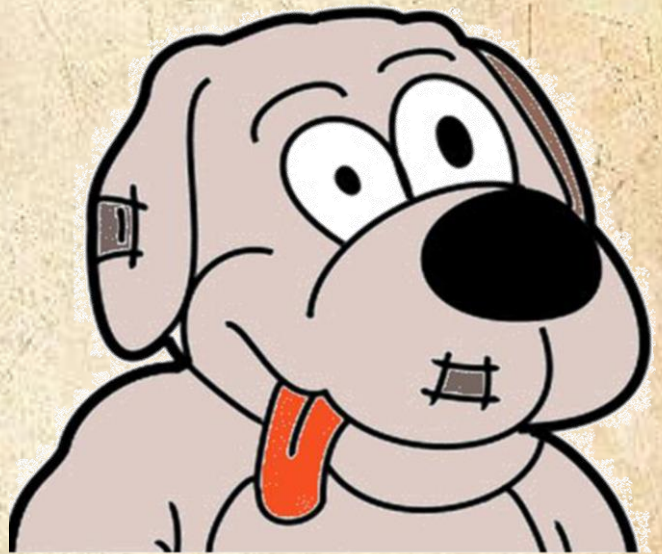
HIS TRAIN OF THOUGHT SHOULD
BE LOADING ANY MINUTE NOW.



MAYBE WE COULD JUST REPEAT THE GOOD THINGS.

WHO GETS TO DECIDE WHICH ARE
GOOD, AND WHICH ARE BAD, THINGS?





Home of the Hounds



Master Curtis



*Master David
Master Brad*



*Miss Kristina
Master Les
Miss Lyndsay*



*Master Peter
Master Chris
Master Burt*