

Baker Street Elementary

Year Four

Created by Joe Fay,
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Introduction by Jerry Margolin

Baker Street Elementary



Our Year in Print

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

Baker Street Elementary

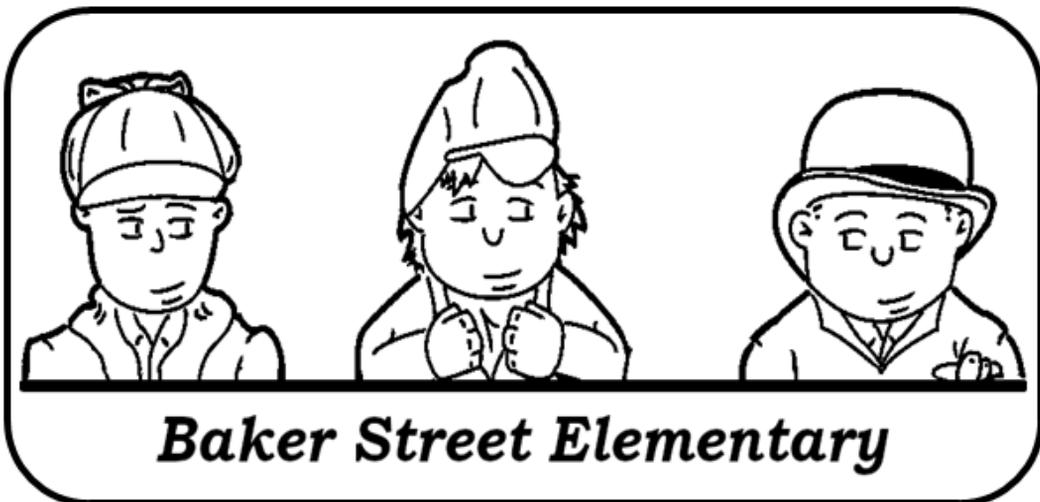
Year 4

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Baker Street Elementary

INTRODUCTION -- "ART IN THE BLOOD" BY JERRY MARGOLIN, BSI ("HILTON CUBITT")

AS A KID GROWING UP, THERE WAS NOTHING MORE IMPORTANT TO ME THAN MAKING SURE I HAD THE NEWEST ISSUE OF COMICS SUCH AS BATMAN, SUPERMAN, AND THE FLASH.

I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN A COLLECTOR; IT WAS IN MY BLOOD. MY PERSONAL COLLECTION OF COMICS WAS READ ONCE AND THEN PUT NEATLY AWAY. WHAT ALWAYS CAPTIVATED ME WAS THE ARTWORK.

EVEN IN THE EARLY DAYS, THERE WAS SOMETHING ABOUT THE WAY COMIC ARTISTS WERE ABLE TO CONVEY SUPER SPEED, FLYING, AND MULTIPLE OTHER POWERS MY SUPERHERO IDOLS WERE ABLE TO DEMONSTRATE.

LATER IN LIFE, AS I GOT INTERESTED IN SHERLOCK HOLMES AND BEGAN BUILDING MY HOLMES BOOK COLLECTION, I BECAME MORE AND MORE FASCINATED WITH THE ART ON THE DUST JACKETS FROM BOOKS STARTING IN THE EARLY 1900S AND BEYOND.

ONCE AGAIN, THE ART DEPICTING THE GHOSTLY HOUND JUMPING FROM THE PAGE OR HOLMES ON THE HUNT WERE BEAUTIFULLY DEPICTED. THIS LED TO A WANT, OR PERHAPS A NEED, TO OWN THE ART FOR THESE AND OTHER IMAGES OF HOLMES, FROM BUGS BUNNY TO ALFRED E. NEUMAN, AND THOUSANDS OF OTHER IMAGES, BOTH REALISTIC AND FUNNY OF THE GREAT DETECTIVE.

WHEN WALKING INTO A BOOKSTORE OF COMIC SHOP, IT IS ALWAYS THE ART OF A DUST JACKET OR COMIC COVER, WHICH DRAWS YOU TO THAT PARTICULAR ITEM. IT IS THIS FIRST, AND THEN YOU DELVE INTO THE PAGES WITHIN. THIS IS WHY A COMIC STRIP LIKE "ELEMENTARY" IS IMPORTANT.

IT CAN GET A YOUNG PERSON NOT ONLY TO TAKE THOSE EARLY STEPS TO HOLMES, BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY TO A LIFETIME OF READING A BOOK.

PORTLAND, OREGON

BAKER STREET Elementary
NUMBER 140 - 12/10/2017

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POINTS TO PONDER THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

IF YOU DON'T WANT CLOTHES FOR CHRISTMAS PRESENTS, REMIND YOUR PARENTS YOU STILL BELIEVE IN SANTA CLAUS.

THE FIRST ADVENTURES OF HOLMES AND WATSON

POINTS TO PONDER THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

IF YOU DON'T WANT CLOTHES FOR CHRISTMAS PRESENTS, REMIND YOUR PARENTS YOU STILL BELIEVE IN SANTA CLAUS.

POINTS TO PONDER THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

SO, IF SNOWMEN ARE MADE OF WATER, AND WATER HAS NO CALORIES, WHY DO WE BUILD FAT SNOWMEN?

POINTS TO PONDER THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

AND, IF SNOWMEN HAVE CARROTS FOR NOSES, DOES CARROT CAKE TASTE LIKE BOOGERS?



CHECKING IT TWICE

"his name among a list" [SIGN]

The countdown to Christmas Day is on. And whether one is a Christian, Muslim, Hindu, Jew, atheist or anything else, it's a day that is recognized across the globe.

As adults, we perhaps groan under the weight the holiday season puts on our shoulders: from shopping to planning meals to hosting relatives, it can be a series of responsibilities that add stress to that time of year that also has emotional land mines planted among the holidays.

But think back to Christmas (or any major holiday that was important to your family) when you were a child. There was a sense of wonder, of delight, and of anticipation. For the good children that meant excited anticipation; or the naughty children, perhaps it was mere nervous anticipation. Whichever side you fell on, you were certainly listless. And if you were naughty, perhaps you hoped a certain all-seeing, all-documenting someone was 'list-less' as well.

And so, it is over at Baker Street Elementary, where anticipation looms...

SO, THERE IS ONLY 7 DAYS LEFT 'TIL CHRISTMAS.



I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN FIT A WHOLE YEAR OF GOOD INTO ONE WEEK.



IT'S EXCRUCIATING HOW 'NAUGHTY' CAN COME BACK TO HAUNT YOU DURING THIS TIME OF YEAR.



AND IT'S SCARY TO THINK, IF ST. NICHOLAS PUTS ALL CHILDREN ON THE NAUGHTY LIST, IT MAKES HIS JOB MUCH EASIER.



SO, IGNATIUS, HOW DID YOU PROCURE YOUR NAME?



MY GIVEN NAME, "ARTHUR" WAS CHOSEN BY MY MOTHER, TO HONOR ARTHUR I, THE DUKE OF BRITTANY, WHO AT ONE TIME WAS IN LINE FOR THE THRONE... HE WAS KILLED BY KING JOHN AFTER STANDING AGAINST HIM... OF COURSE, IT IS ALSO LINKED TO KING ARTHUR... MY MOTHER IS FANATICAL ABOUT THE MEDIEVAL AGES...



I WAS GIVEN THE NAME 'IGNATIUS' TO HONOR ST. IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA, FOUNDER OF THE SOCIETY OF JESUITS... HE IS THE PATRON SAINTS OF SOLDIERS... AND BY THE WAY, WHEN I GET OLDER, I INTEND TO INCLUDE 'CONAN' IN MY NAME, TO HONOR MY GODFATHER, MICHAEL CONAN.



...AND OF COURSE, 'DOYLE' IS IRISH, FROM THE GAELIC 'DUB-GHAIL', MEANING 'DARK FOREIGNER'... THIS IS THE NAME THE CELTS GAVE VIKINGS WHEN THEY SETTLED IN IRELAND... IT REPRESENTS THE 'D'OILLYS', WHO SETTLED IN ENGLAND AND IRELAND WITH WILLIAM THE CONQUEROR...



INTERESTING... MORE THAN I WAS EXPECTING... OK, WATSON, YOU'RE NEXT...

Thanks to Roger Johnson and Peter Blau for their assistance on this strip.



BE IT SO RESOLVED

"one whose doubts are resolved" [SECO]

When we ring in the New Year, we typically do so with fanfare and a look toward the future, in an effort to put our best foot forward. And in doing so, we also take a look backward to assess our shortcomings and areas where we think we might improve.

It is human nature to anticipate, as well as to critique. We see a microcosm of this in the Sherlock Holmes stories. Sherlock Holmes was certainly one who offered his fair share of critiques of Scotland Yard, of the establishment, of Watson, and even of himself ("kindly whisper 'Norbury' in my ear").

But we can also find instances of anticipation in the Canon... Holmes grinning with glee as he surprised Watson or the occasional police detective with his clever disguises, and even Holmes looking forward to a visit with his old friend Watson.

*Naturally, at **Baker Street Elementary** we find an earlier incarnation of critiques and anticipation...*

Some Ponderings on New Years

MY MOTHER TOLD MY FATHER, "THIS YEAR, INSTEAD OF MAKING MYSELF BETTER, IT MIGHT BE EASIER JUST TO GET A NEW ONE OF YOU."



Some Ponderings on New Years

I AM CHANGING MY STRATEGY... SIMPLY WING IT THIS YEAR AND SEE WHAT HAPPENS.



Some Ponderings on New Years

REMEMBER, ON NEW YEAR'S EVE, YOU STILL HAVE 24 HOURS TO DO ALL THOSE THINGS YOU RESOLVE NOT TO DO NEXT YEAR.



Some Ponderings on New Years

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT'S BEEN A WHOLE YEAR SINCE I DIDN'T BECOME A BETTER PERSON.

AND MY WISH FOR NEXT YEAR IS THAT MY TROUBLES LAST AS LONG AS MY RESOLUTIONS.



SO MASTER WATSON, WOULD YOU LIKE TO EXPLAIN THE ORIGIN OF YOUR NAME?



IT'S NOT AS COLOURFUL AS 'IGNATIUS'... WATSON, A SCOTTISH NAME, STANDS LITERALLY FOR 'SON OF WALTER'.



MY GIVEN NAME, JOHN, IS IN HONOUR OF A PAST RELATIVE... AND OF COURSE, MY MIDDLE NAME 'HAMISH' IS SCOTTISH FOR JAMES.



MY MOTHER WANTED 'JAMES', BUT I ALREADY HAD AN OLDER BROTHER NAMED 'JAMES', AND WHO IN THEIR RIGHT MIND WOULD NAME MULTIPLE SIBLINGS, 'JAMES'?



A TIME AND SPACE FOR EVERYTHING

"through which we travel" [FINA]

For the most part, the Sherlock Holmes stories are tightly woven into reality. That is, they take place in a world that exists (or existed) and deal with events based in fact.

Even cases like The Hound of the Baskervilles, "The Devil's Foot," and "The Sussex Vampire," which seemed to be based on some kind of supernatural or other worldly influence, were easily explained away with scientific observations.

Very little of the Canon veers into science fiction. One exception might be in "The Creeping Man," where an individual takes on the behaviors and traits of something that is not quite human. (We'll leave the spoilers out of this)

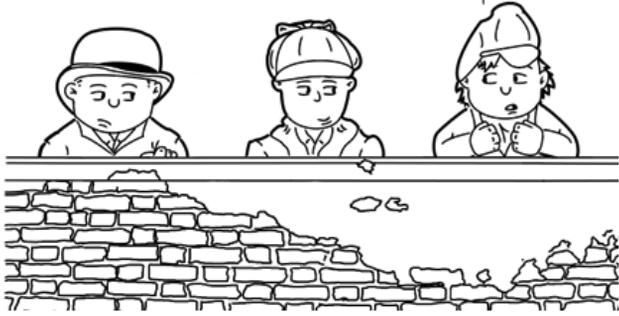
One member of the Baker Street Irregulars was Isaac Asimov, BSI ('The Remarkable Worm Unknown to Science'), who was a prolific writer of science fiction novels.

Of course, he also did some Sherlockian writing as well. The area where the two intersected was in Sherlock Holmes Through Time and Space, an anthology of science fiction Sherlock Holmes stories which he edited.

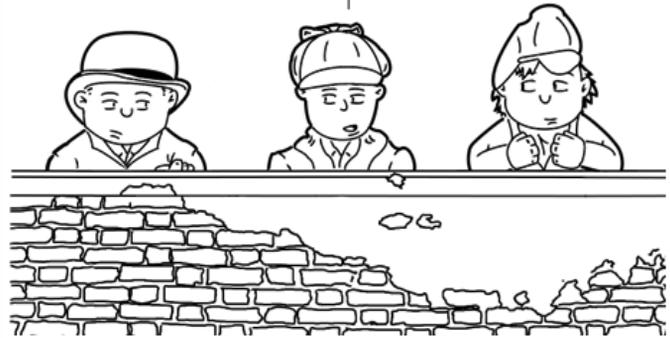
The boys at **Baker Street Elementary** seem to think they have a handle on what it takes to go from fact to fiction...

An homage to a modern-day partnership... clue: it's a big bang

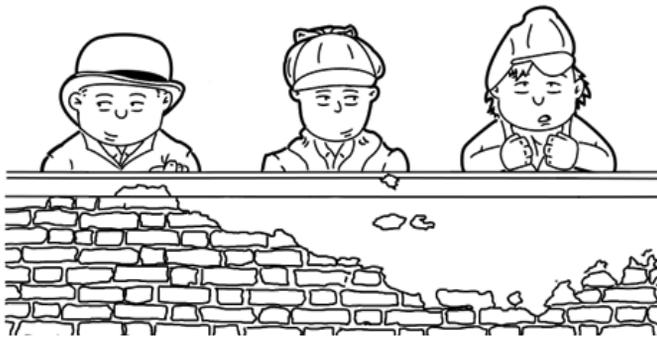
DO YOU THINK WE WILL EVER EXPERIENCE THE THRILL OF TIME TRAVEL DURING OUR LIFE-TIME?



LET'S AGREE THAT IF ANY OF US DISCOVER TIME TRAVEL, WE WILL MEET IN THIS SAME SPOT IN PRECISELY 5 SECONDS.



5... 4... 3... UHHH... 2... 1...



WELL... THAT'S DISAPPOINTING.



DO YOU THINK WE WILL EVER EXPERIENCE THE THRILL OF SPACE TRAVEL DURING OUR LIFE-TIME?

SO, YOUR TURN STAMFORD... IS
STAMFORD YOUR GIVEN OR SURNAME?



UMMM... ACTUALLY, IT IS BOTH MY
FIRST AND LAST NAME... MY FATHER HAS
A WEIRD SENSE OF HUMOUR.



HE CONVINCED MY MUM I WOULD LEARN
MY NAME FASTER THAN MOST CHILDREN,
SINCE I ONLY HAD TO LEARN ONE NAME...



AND IT WOULD BE CHEAPER TO PURCHASE
MONOGRAM SHIRTS AND OTHER ITEMS,
SINCE I WOULD ONLY NEED THE LETTER

'S'

I BELIEVE THIS EXPLAINS A LOT.



WHAT'S IN A NAME

"I have it in me to make my name famous" [STUD]

We know the main players in the Sherlock Holmes stories by the names that are familiar to many people throughout the world. But there has been some confusion along the way.

Sherlock Holmes was originally intended to be called 'Sherrinford' and John Watson was originally cast as 'Ormond Sacker.' But of course, Mrs. Watson had other ideas about what he should be called.

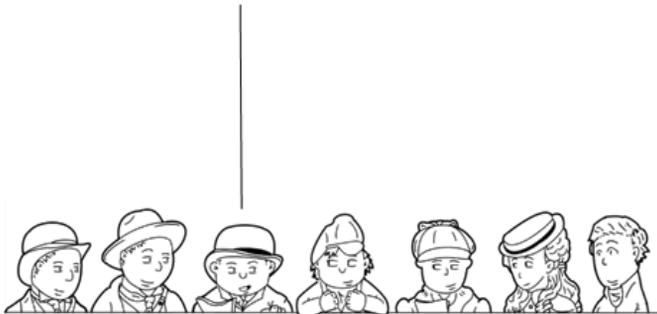
Conan Doyle went to great lengths in his selection of names (not quite so far as Charles Dickens), and Don Redmond, BSI ("Good Old Index") even penned A Study in Sources to trace a few origins.

Whether we know them by first or last name, by an American or British pronunciation (or spelling), or by their intended versus given names, they are, to us, all the same.

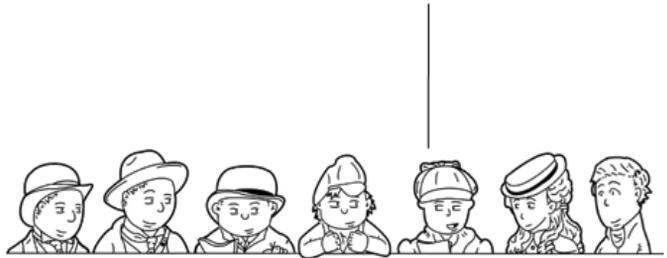
*No doubt the halls of **Baker Street Elementary** will be one day buzzing with the study of Romeo and Juliet, in which Juliet wonders:*

*"What's in a name? That which we call a rose
By any at her name would smell as sweet."*

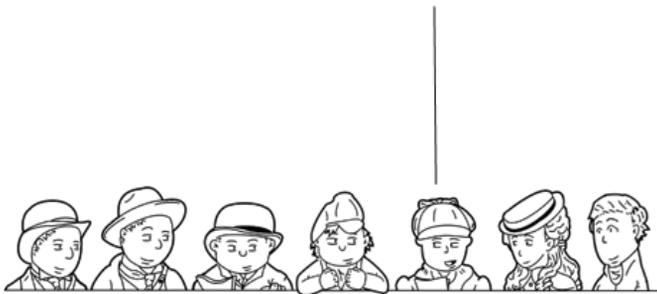
LAST AND CERTAINLY LEAST, HOLMES, YOUR TURN... WHERE DOES YOUR NAME ORIGINATE?



EASY... HOLMES IS NORTHERN ENGLISH, AND MEANS 'TO LIVE NEXT TO A HOLLY TREE, OR BUSH'.



FOR MY GIVEN NAME, MY FATHER WANTED TO NAME ME 'SHERRINFORD', BUT MY MOTHER DID NOT CONSIDER IT VERY MANLY... SHE INSISTED ON 'SHERLOCK', WHICH STANDS FOR 'BRIGHT LOCK OF HAIR'.

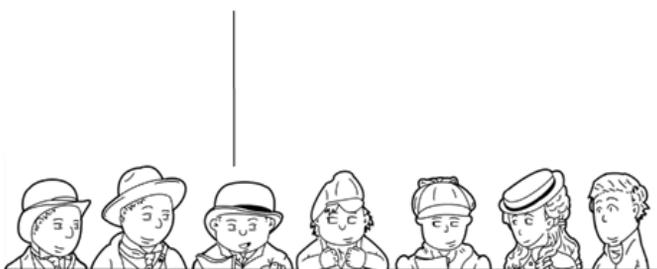


YOUR MOTHER THOUGHT 'SHERLOCK' WAS MORE MANLY? SERIOUSLY?

BIG TALK FROM SOMEONE WHO WAS ALMOST NAMED 'ORMAND'.



SO, TO SUMMARIZE... WE HAVE A 'TOBIAS', A 'G.', A KID WITH ONLY ONE NAME, AN 'IRENE' THAT NO ONE SEEMS TO BE ABLE TO PRONOUNCE CORRECTLY, AN 'IGNATIUS' WHO MAY ADOPT ANOTHER NAME BEFORE HE LEAVES SCHOOL, A 'SHERLOCK' AND A 'HAMISH'...



MAYBE THE HEADMASTER HAS IT RIGHT... JUST NAME ALL THREE OF YOUR KIDS 'JAMES', AND LET EVERYONE ELSE SORT IT OUT.



SO, IT SEEMS YOU HAVE BEEN TORMENTING YOUR TEACHERS... FOR SOME STRANGE REASON, THEY HAVE DECIDED TO HAVE ME TALK TO THE GROUP OF YOU... SIMPLY PUT, YOU ARE DRIVING THEM INSANE.



THE FACULTY STAFF SENT YOU TO STOP US? ALL WE ARE DOING IS QUESTIONING THE SUBJECTS THE TEACHERS ARE IMPOSING ON US.

BUT WHY?



BECAUSE IT IS OUR JOB AS CURIOUS CHILDREN TO QUESTION WHAT ADULTS MAKE US DO AND LEARN.

BUT WHY?

WE BELIEVE ADULTS DO NOT KNOW WHAT IS BEST TO TEACH US.

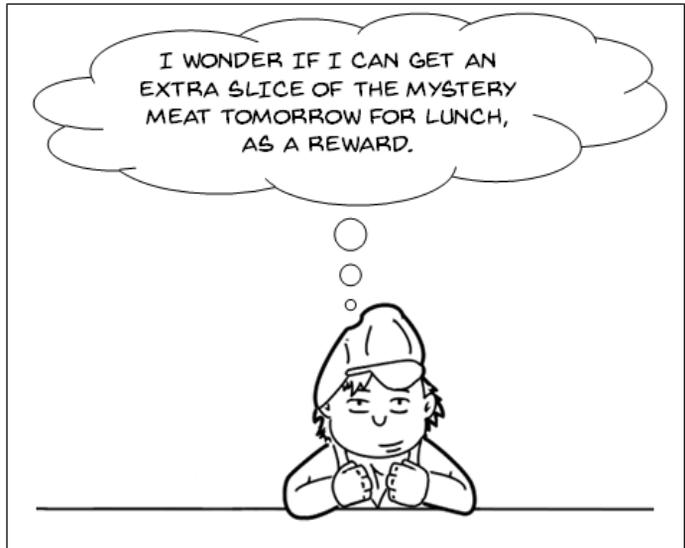
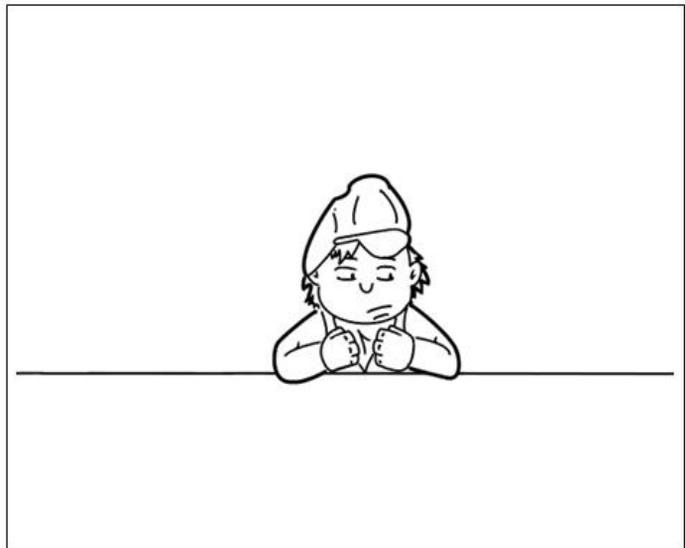
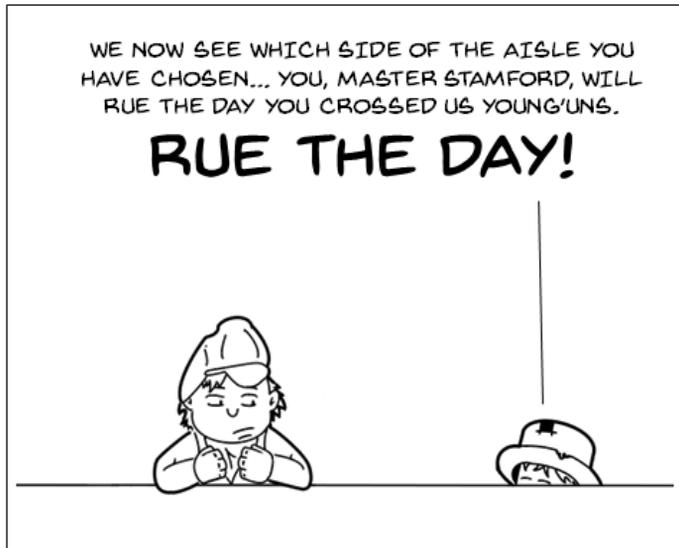
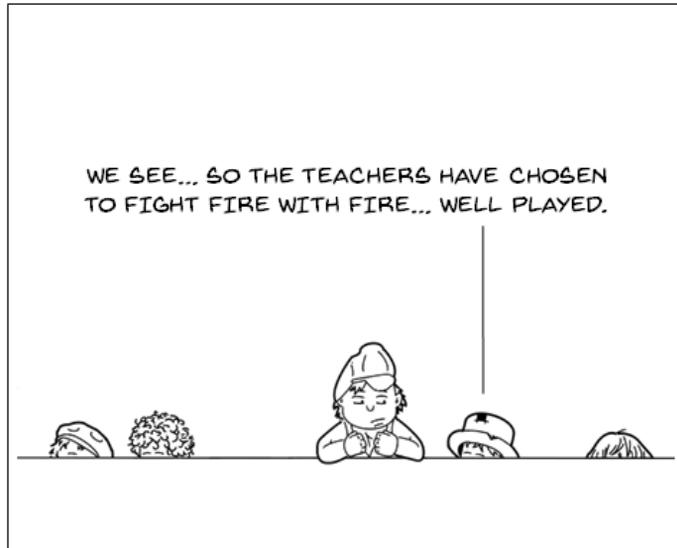
WHY?



WHY? WHY? POSSIBLY WE KNOW WHAT IS BEST FOR US TO LEARN MORE THAN THE TEACHERS DO.

WHY?





DRAWING A BLANK

"leaving blanks for the other to fill up" [REIG]

The Sherlock Holmes stories have their fill of codes and cyphers. "The Adventure of the Dancing Men" is probably the most easily recognized and well known.

But the clever spacing of words within a bit of nonsense writing in "The Gloria Scott" was an early code Holmes cracked, while recuperating at the country home of his university friend Victor Trevor.

In "The Reigate Squire," we find another type of word spacing-one requiring two writers, the first of whom would leave blanks and the second who would fill those blanks with words.

Ultimately, it was the handwriting and spacing that gave them away. Young Wiggins is trying his hand at cracking a code at **Baker Street Elementary**.

Will he achieve Sherlock Holmes level status, or will he come up blank? The answer awaits...

SO, THE FIRST ANSWER IS ALMOST ALWAYS TRUE.



THAT MEANS THE SECOND ANSWER IS FALSE, TO BALANCE OUT THE FIRST QUESTION... THE THIRD WILL BE FALSE TO BREAK THE PATTERN AND CONFUSE THE STUDENTS.



THEN A TRUE, TWO FALSE'S, THREE TRUES IN A ROW... SHE LIKES TO TOSS IN THREE TRUES IN A ROW... FOUR IN A ROW WOULD JUST BE RIDICULOUS, SO THE NEXT ANSWER MUST BE TRUE... AND THE LAST QUESTION IS ALWAYS FALSE.



IF YOU FIGURE OUT A TEACHER'S PATTERN, TRUE/FALSE TESTS CAN BE A BREEZE... SOMETHING WRONG, JOHN?



I REALLY HATE TO BREAK THIS TO YOU... IT'S A 'FILL IN THE BLANK' TEST.

EEEK... THAT'S NOT FUNNY, JOHN!

NOT MEANT TO BE.



MAYBE YOU CAN FAKE GETTING VIOLENTLY ILL, RUN OUT OF THE CLASSROOM, AND JUST GO HOME.



TRUST ME, IT WOULD NOT BE FAKING.

HOW WAS THE VISIT HOME THIS WEEKEND?



FINE, UNTIL THIS MORNING WHEN I TOLD MY MOTHER I WAS TOO SICK TO ATTEND SCHOOL TODAY.

AND DOCTOR, WHAT WAS YOUR SELF-INFLICTED DIAGNOSIS?



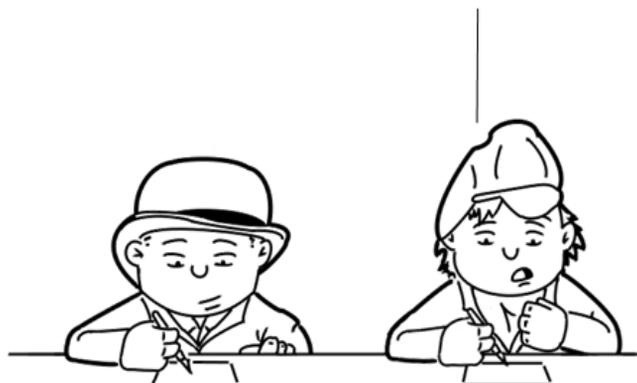
I TOLD HER I HAD 'ANAL GLAUCOMA'.

I COULD NOT SEE MY ARSE COMING TO SCHOOL... HA, HA, HA!

DID SHE LAUGH ALSO?



MY REAR END IS REDDER THAN LAST EVENING... AND YOU WILL NEVER HEAR ME USE THE TERMS 'SOAP' AND 'TASTY' IN THE SAME SENTENCE.



EVERYONE'S A CRITIC

"the critical part of my argument" [PRIO]

When one produces some public work of note, there's virtually never an instance of said work being universally acclaimed. It's met praise and scorn, depending on the view of the critic.

From weekend sport (from which the popular phrase 'Monday morning quarterback' gained popularity) to even some of the greatest works we know... such as the London premiere of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony... creative works are subject to negative reviews and skeptical audiences.

So, it comes as no surprise we occasionally glimpse Holmes' prickly attitude regarding the cases Watson has chosen to bring to life.

As early as The Sign of Four, we're granted a view of Holmes taking issue with the single previous story Watson has written up:

"You have attempted to tinge it with romanticism, which produces much the same effect as if you worked a love story or an elopement into the fifth proposition of Euclid." - A Study in Scarlet

Given that Holmes had the demeanor of an artist (recall he said he was descended from the French artist Vernet, and "Art in the blood is liable to take the strangest forms.")

It's not terribly surprising his reaction to Watson's artistry would be emotional... ironic, given that the topic over which he got so emotional was the discourse of the adventures arising from his logical faculties.

Could it be this bickering of 'professional beauties' [STUD] was rooted in something earlier in their relationship?

Something that happened, perhaps, at **Baker Street Elementary**...

HALLOA, IGNATIUS, PAGET... FROM THE SMILES, I DEDUCE THE CRICKET MATCH WENT WELL.



YES, BUT IT WAS A MIGHTY STRUGGLE... 3 DAYS.

HOLMES, DO NOT ATTEMPT TO CHANGE THE SUBJECT... I AM STILL VERY ANGRY AT YOU.



WHAT SEEMS TO BE THE TROUBLE?

AS YOU KNOW, THE SCHOOL PAPER JUST PUBLISHED MY ACCOUNT OF 'THE ADVENTURE OF THE MISSING CHALK ERASERS', CLEVERLY SOLVED BY HOLMES HIMSELF...



...TODAY, THERE WAS A 'LETTER TO THE EDITOR'... LET ME READ IT TO YOU...



EDITOR, PLEASE REFRAIN IN THE FUTURE FROM PUBLISHING SUCH 'OVER-EXAGGERATED TALES OF INTRIGUE.' I CAN PERSONALLY SAY THE SOLUTION TO THE CRIMES WAS NOT AS EXCITING AS CERTAIN CHRONICLER WOULD HAVE YOU BELIEVE...
SINCERELY, SIGERSON

THE PSEUDONYM 'SIGERSON' IS NOT FOOLING ANYONE.

I BELIEVE THERE IS A SPECIFIC CIRCLE IN HELL FOR LITERARY CRITICS.



RIGHT NEXT TO THE CIRCLE OF ART CRITICS.

SHERLOCK, I AM STILL CONFUSED...
HOW DID YOU SOLVE THE CHALK
ERASER DISAPPEARANCE MYSTERY?



EASY... I HAPPENED TO
NOTICE THE THIEF HAD
ACCIDENTALLY
PRESSED HIS RIGHT
THUMB INTO THE CHALK
DUST, INADVERTENTLY
CREATING A THUMB
MARK IN THE DUST.



I THEN ASKED EACH
STUDENT TO PRESS
THEIR RIGHT THUMB
INTO A COATING OF
CHALK DUST I HAD
SPREAD OVER A LAB
TABLE... THIS SYSTEM OF
COMPARISON IS NOW
BEING USED IN INDIA.



OF COURSE, WE HAD TO CONDUCT THE TEST
TWICE... JUST AS WE FINISHED, STAMFORD
VIOLENTLY SNEEZED, WIPING THE TABLE CLEAN
AND CREATING A LONDON FOG INDOORS.

HE CLAIMED TO BE
ALLERGIC TO CHALK DUST.



EACH PERSON'S MARK APPEARS TO BE UNIQUE, SO
IT WAS EASY TO MATCH UP THE PRINTS... ONCE I
IDENTIFIED THE THIEF, HE STATED THE ENTIRE
ESCAPADE WAS A PRANK AGAINST THE TEACHER,
SO HE ESCAPED ANY SERIOUS REPERCUSSIONS.



UNIQUE FINGER MARKS... NEXT YOU WILL
BE CONVINCING US OTHER BODY PARTS,
SUCH AS EARS, ARE ALSO UNIQUE.



HMMM... THERE MIGHT BE ANOTHER MONOGRAPH.

AS YOU LIKE IT

"a child has done the horrid thing" [SIGN]

One of the joys of preparing the biweekly dispatch from **Baker Street Elementary** is opening the Dropbox file that contains the artwork we'll be sharing. It's always a surprise, and it puts our Canonical insights and general knowledge into overdrive.

But it isn't often we're stumped. We're honored *IHOSE* itself is a feature in the latest round, and 'Master Burt' clearly expresses his reaction to the forthcoming *Sherlock Gnomes*, slated to be released on March 23 in the United States.

[Reminder: we wrote about it here: *Sherlock Gnomes: A First Look*]. And let's just say this type of entertainment is not everyone's cup of tea.

See if you find as much mirth at **Baker Street Elementary** this week as we did...

ENJOYING YOUR STAY OVER HERE, MASTER BURT?
I BET IT HAS BEEN NICE TO HAVE A BREAK
FROM WORKING ON THE IHOSE DISPATCH.



I HAVE, MASTER IGNATIUS... MASTER SCOTT
SEEMS TO BE HAVING FUN WITH IT WITHOUT
MY AID... I LOOK FORWARD TO WHAT HE
SELECTS FOR OUR SPRING PLAYS.

PLAYS? IN THE STATES, YOU RUN MULTIPLE
SHAKESPEAREAN PLAYS IN THE SPRING?



WHY YES, JOHN... WE HOLD THREE PLAYS
PER SPRING TERM AT OUR SCHOOL... THEY
ARE QUITE WONDERFUL.

IT APPEARS MASTER SCOTT HAS PUT A
FRAGMENT OF SAID UPCOMING PLAYS ON
THE BACK OF THE NEWEST DISPATCH.



OH? LET US SEE WHICH PLAYS HE
HAS SELECTED FOR THIS YEAR.

"THIS SPRING, IHOSE IS PROUD TO PRESENT
THREE SHAKESPEAREAN PLAYS WITH... A
TWIST." HMMM... I WONDER WHAT SCOTT HAS
UP HIS SLEEVE THIS YEAR.

A TWIST... HOW
EXCITING.



"THE PLAYS WILL BE IN THE OPÉRA BOUFFE
FORM"... NOT SURE WHAT TYPE OF STYLE THAT IS.

IT'S A GENRE OF
COMEDY, SATIRE,
PARODY, AND FARCE
ORIGINATING IN
FRANCE, MASTER
WOLDER.



OH, THAT SHOULD BE ENTERTAINING.

continued

"AS FOR THE MAIN TWIST THIS YEAR, INSTEAD OF LIVE ACTORS, WE WILL BE USING..." NO... NO... NO!



I THINK THE WORD YOU ARE LOOKING FOR IS 'GNOMES'.

HERE ARE THE NAMES MASTER SCOTT HAS SELECTED... 'JULIUS GNOMAR', 'MUCH ADO ABOUT GNOMING', AND 'THE TWO GNOMBLE KINSMEN'... THESE LOOK WONDERFUL.

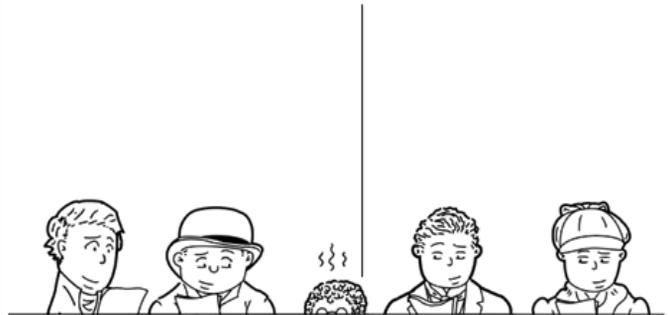


I WISH WE ALL COULD TRAVEL TO ATTEND THEM.

UMMM... ARE YOU ALRIGHT? YOU HAVE BECOME STRANGELY QUIET, MASTER WOLDER.



OF COURSE, MASTER SHERLOCK... I JUST REMEMBERED A SUPERB TRAGEDY I MUST SHARE WITH SCOTT WHEN I RETURN HOME... MOSTLY TRAGIC FOR SCOTT!



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MASTER BURT, I BELIEVE YOU SHOULD EMBRACE WHAT MASTER SCOTT ACCOMPLISHED... THINK OF THE MULTITUDE OF OPTIONS OPEN TO YOU... IMAGINE FOR EXAMPLE... 'THE GNOMES OF VENICE'.



NO...

I WOULD FAVOR 'COMEDY OF GNOMES'... OR...

NO...

'THE MERRY GNOMES OF WINDSOR'.

NO...



'THE TAMING OF THE GNOME' WOULD TAKE VERY IMAGINATIVE EDITING.

NO...

HOWEVER, 'THE TWO GNOMES OF VENICE' COULD BE A WONDERFUL START FOR YOUNG ACTORS.

NO...



'MUCH ADO ABOUT GNOMES' WOULD BE INSPIRED.

UUUH... NO...

...AND HOW COULD YOU NOT LOVE 'MIDSUMMER GNOME'S DREAM'?

HMMM... NO...



I SURRENDER... I GUESS 'GNAMEO AND JULIET' WOULD HAVE SOME INTERESTING POSSIBILITIES.

SORRY TO TELL YOU, OL' CHAP, BUT IT HAS ALREADY BEEN DONE.



THANK GOODNESS MASTER BURT HAS A WONDERFUL SENSE OF HUMOUR... WE HOPE.

NEVER TRUST THE OBVIOUS

"it was perfectly obvious" [REDH]

In "The Boscombe Valley Mystery," Dr. Watson told Sherlock Holmes: "I am afraid the facts are so obvious that you will find little credit to be gained out of this case."

And Holmes replied, "There is nothing more deceptive as an obvious fact."

In same ways, that feels like what we have in this week's strip from **Baker Street Elementary**.

I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere has been given two panels with which to work. Let's focus that phrase Sherlock Holmes uttered... a phrase that is even repeated outside of Sherlockian circles: "nothing more deceptive than an obvious fact."

Is that really true?

We take it at face value, of course, that because something looks true, it must be so.

But simply because something is easy to perceive or comprehend does not necessarily make it false.

But our way of comprehending things sometimes tricks the mind into believing something is so, due to our preconceived notions or expectations.

In short, Holmes was cautioning Watson (and us) against jumping to a conclusion that would support a false bias. But it does not necessarily follow obvious facts are always deceptive. It's a bit of a leap of logic to reach that conclusion.

However, things at **Baker Street Elementary** may need to be on the obvious side...

I'M PRETTY SURE THE TEACHER
DISLIKED MY REPORT... TO THE
POINT SHE THOUGHT IT WAS DUMB.



YOU'RE IMAGINING THINGS...
WHY WOULD YOU THINK THAT?



BECAUSE ON THE TOP OF THE PAGE SHE
WROTE, "THIS IS THE DUMBEST REPORT
EVER TURNED IN TO ME."

I DON'T THINK OUR TEACHERS
ARE PAID WELL ENOUGH.



AFTER ALL, SOCIETY'S INVESTMENT IN OUR
FUTURE IS PREDICATED ON THE QUALITY OF
THE EDUCATORS IN THESE HALLOWED WALLS.



TEACHERS SHOULD TAKE TO THE STREETS
TO DEMAND MORE COMPENSATION,
STARTING THIS MORNING.



DIDN'T FINISH YOUR HOMEWORK AGAIN?

IT ALL ADDS UP

"such rarefied heights of pure mathematics" [VALL]

Some students have a natural turn for certain subjects: history may be filled with exciting events and people for one student but may seem a boring litany of dates and unimportant facts for others. Mathematics elicits such dichotomous reactions from students as well.

We can see some beating their heads on their desks in frustration, while others seem to have a knack for it. Sherlock Holmes certainly seemed to be inclined toward mathematics, as he declared "The calculation is a simple one," and determined the speed of the train based on the distance of the quarter posts in 'Silver Blaze'.

Another indication of Sherlock Holmes' proficiency with mathematics is his ability with the violin. People who are adept at math often have a turn for music as well. The topic has been explored and recognized, even as early as Pythagoras, who wrote:

"There is geometry in the humming of the strings, there is music in the spacing of the spheres."

Last year, *Scientific American* documented: "Learning to play a musical instrument relies on understanding concepts, such as fractions and ratios, that are important for mathematical achievement."

However, the article noted it is still unclear whether musical training encourages mathematical ability, or whether math proficiency makes musical training more natural.

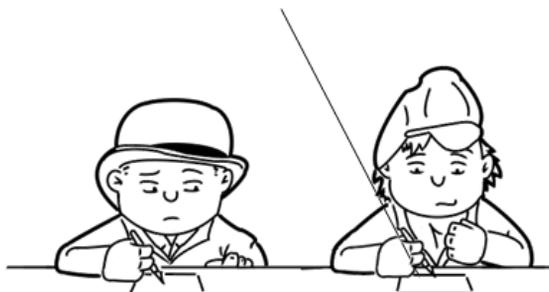
It's a chicken-and-egg phenomenon. One certain thing worth noting is there was a professor in the Sherlock Holmes stories who was "endowed by nature with a phenomenal mathematical faculty."

That was of course Professor Moriarty. Over the years, as Sherlockian scholarship and pastiches have bloomed, at least one source has postulated Moriarty could have been Sherlock Holmes' math tutor during his formative years. Did that tutelage take place in **Baker Street Elementary**?

If so, Wiggins was certainly not part of that study group...

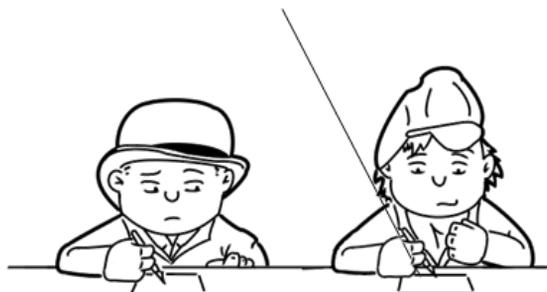
MATH POP QUIZ
QUESTION 1: FIND THE SQUARE ROOT OF 25.

IF IT IS MISSING, SHERLOCK CAN FIND IT.



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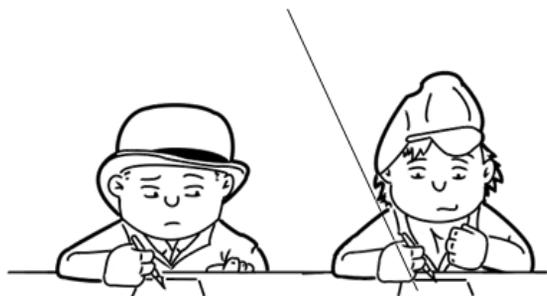
MATH POP QUIZ
QUESTION 2: HOW WOULD YOU DIVIDE 17
INTO 328"

I WOULDN'T!



MATH POP QUIZ
QUESTION 3: $4 + X = 12$; $X = 12 - 4$; $X = ?$

*YOU TAUGHT US IN ROMAN NUMERALS, $X = 10$...
IS THIS A TRICK QUESTION?*



THE ONLY MYSTERY IS
HOW YOU ARE STILL
IN OUR GRADE.

I AM STARTING TO GRASP
THE MYSTERIES OF MATH.



I HOPE EVERYONE HAS APPROPRIATELY CHOSEN THEIR COSTUME FOR QUEEN-VIC-CON THIS WEEKEND.



I HAVE CHOSEN PRINCE ALBERT, A GREAT SUPPORTER OF PUBLIC CAUSES.



IT MAY SOUND STRANGE, BUT I AM GOING AS EDWARD OXFORD, VICTORIA'S FIRST 'WOULD-BE ASSASSIN'.



I HAVE CHOSEN HER MAJESTY'S FIRST SON, EDWARD, WHO I BELIEVE WILL SOMEDAY RULE OVER OUR LANDS.



BOO!



STAMFORD, LET ME GUESS... THE GHOST OF PRINCE EDWARD, VICTORIA'S FATHER.

THINK I SHOULD BRING A TRICK OR TREAT BAG, JUST IN CASE?



RHETORICALLY, MY DEAR WATSON

"You are very welcome to put any questions that you like to me now" [STUD]

When it comes to teaching and learning, one of the first methods adopted by the western world, thanks largely to Aristotle, was rhetoric. Simply put, it is the art of discourse in which an individual seeks to inform, motivate or persuade an audience.

Rhetoric is the realm of the expert, the lawyer, or the public speaker. It is designed more toward lecturing rather than interaction. Which is why a rhetorical question typically requires no answer.

Early practitioners of rhetoric included Cicero, who as a Roman lawyer, senator and consul was one of the all-time great public speakers. His mantra was "If you wish to persuade me, you must think my thoughts, feel my feelings and speak my words." He was a masterful rhetorician.

Often times, we've witnessed Sherlock Holmes carrying on in this manner. Indeed, in 'The Adventure of the Dancing Men', Watson relates this scene:

"You see, my dear Watson"... he propped his test tube in the rack and began to lecture with the air of a professor addressing his class...

"...it is not really difficult to construct a series of inferences, each dependent upon its predecessor and each simple in itself."

Holmes himself viewed his work as being the perfect subject matter for teaching, as he scolded Watson in 'The Copper Beeches':

"Crime is common. Logic is rare. Therefore, it is upon the logic rather than upon the crime that you should dwell. You have degraded what should have been a course of lectures into a series of tales."

And it isn't only Watson who is subject to the lectures. Holmes was only too glad to sit down and tell Scotland Yard exactly what they were missing. Athelney Jones recalled him thusly in The Sign of Four:

"It's Mr. Sherlock Holmes, the theorist. Remember you! I'll never forget how you lectured us all on causes and inferences and effects in the Bishopgate jewel case."

But on occasion, it went beyond pure rhetoric as Sherlock Holmes allowed for question-and-answer time.

While this isn't purely the Socratic method -- because his questioners are merely looking for answers rather than engaging in debate or trying to disprove him - it does give Holmes' audience an opportunity to ask him questions.

For example, in 'The Adventure of the Norwood Builder', Lestrade suddenly realized he might not have all of the answers when it came to the disappearance of Jonas Oldacre:

"Wonderful!" said Lestrade.

"Wonderful! It's all as clear as crystal, as you put it. But what is the object of this deep deception, Mr. Holmes?"

It was amusing to me to see how the detective's overbearing manner had changed suddenly to that of a child asking questions of its teacher.

Probably even more stark is the final scene in Part 1 of A Study in Scarlet, when Sherlock Holmes, seemingly out of nothing, conjures up the murder, introduces him to Watson, Gregson, and Lestrade, and the accused leaps partially through the window of the sitting room of 221B Baker Street.

Then Holmes says:

"And now, gentlemen, we have reached the end of our little mystery. You are very welcome to put any questions that you like to me now, and there is no danger that I will refuse to answer them."

So once again, the expert sits at the front of the classroom, ready to inform and dazzle his students.

One could only wish for such a conclusion at **Baker Street Elementary...**

...AND THAT IS WHY WE
CELEBRATE MAY DAY ON MAY
1ST... ANY QUESTIONS?



WILL THAT LAST PART BE
ON THE TEST, MA'AM?



MASTER STAMFORD, WHY MUST
EVERYTHING BE BOILED DOWN TO A TEST
QUESTION? DON'T YOU WANT TO LEARN,
SIMPLY FOR THE SAKE OF KNOWLEDGE?



UHHH... WILL THOSE LAST TWO
QUESTIONS BE ON THE NEXT TEST?



MY DISGUISE IS ALMOST FINISHED... WITH THE CHANGE IN APPEARANCE, I SHALL BE ABLE TO SUCCESSFULLY CONCLUDE MY CURRENT INVESTIGATION.



I DON'T SEE MUCH OF A CHANGE.

THUS, THE BEAUTY... JUST A FEW SUBTLE IMPROVEMENTS.



DIRT ON THE SHOES, A LITTLE GREASE ON THE PANTS AND HANDS, AND SMUDGES ON MY FACE WILL TURN ME INTO YOUR AVERAGE STREET URCHIN.



ONE OF MY NEWEST DISCOVERIES... A COMBINATION OF IRON POWDER, CHARCOAL, AND TABLE SALT WILL ADD BLACK, GRAY, AND PALE SMUDGES TO MY VISAGE.

UHHH... HOLMES...



YES WATSON, I KNOW THERE ARE COMMERCIAL MAKE-UPS FOR ACTORS ON THE MARKET, BUT MY OWN CREATION WILL BE MUCH MORE REALISTIC.

UHHH... HOLMES...



NO, I WILL NOT LET YOU CHRONICLE MY DISCOVERY UNTIL YEARS FROM NOW.

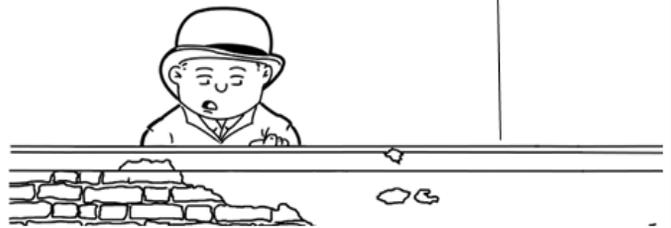


IF YOU HAD PAID JUST A LITTLE MORE ATTENTION IN CHEMISTRY, YOU WOULD KNOW THAT COMBINATION WILL PRODUCE A RAPID EXOTHERMIC REACTION, JUST ABOUT NOW.



ONCE AGAIN, A SUPER SLEUTH IN TRAINING IS TAKEN DOWN BY HIS OWN GREAT INTELLECT... YOU'RE RIGHT, I WILL KEEP THIS UNDER WRAPS.

**AARRGGHH!!
IT BURNS!**



OUR SOLEMN DUTY

"Some preposterous practical joke" [FIVE]

Who among us doesn't like a good practical joke? Well, the obvious answer to that rhetorical question would be the one upon whom the joke is played. But let's stick to the other end of it for present.

For we feel it is our duty to share our findings with you. Practical jokes are typically pranks that are played on an unsuspecting individual, in the hopes to embarrass them or cause them some level of societal discomfort.

So, they're different and separate from jokes that are told for a laugh, where we find common humor and stories to bring us together.

THE CANON WAS HILARIOUS

While we don't think of the Sherlock Holmes stories as being the place where we might find such humor, there are a few instances of characters mentioning this form of joke.

For example, in 'The Red-Headed League', Jabez Wilson was put out after learning the League was dissolved and he had been bamboozled.

"...I want to find out about them, and who they are, and what their object was in playing this prank -- if it was a prank-upon me. It was a pretty expensive joke for them, for it cost them two and thirty pounds."

James Windibank claims his turn as Hosmer Angel in 'A Case of Identity' was merely a bit of fun: "It was only a joke at first."

In 'The Five Orange Pips,' Elias Openshaw dismissed a threatening note and orange pips as "some preposterous practical joke."

Similarly, in 'The Dancing Men,' Elsie Cubitt tried to assuage her husband's fears by pooh-poohing the stick figures as "some senseless practical joke, and [he] should not take any notice of it."

When his hiding place was discovered in 'The Norwood Builder,' and his scheme regarding John Hector McFarlane, was laid bare, Jonas Oldacre feigned innocence, claiming,

"I am sure it was only my practical joke." And then later: "It was a joke, my good sir, a practical joke, nothing more."

John Scott Eccles, after waking in an empty house in 'Wisteria Lodge,' thought he "had been the victim of some absurd practical joke."

And though he perceived that to be 'grotesque,' as he shared with Sherlock Holmes, the truly grotesque could be found inside 'The Cardboard Box,' as this newspaper article indicated:

"Miss Susan Cushing, living at Cross Street, Croydon, has been made the victim of what must be regarded as a peculiarly revolting practical joke unless some more sinister meaning should prove to be attached to the incident."

*Meanwhile, for the truly revolting practical joke, we turn to **Baker Street Elementary**...*

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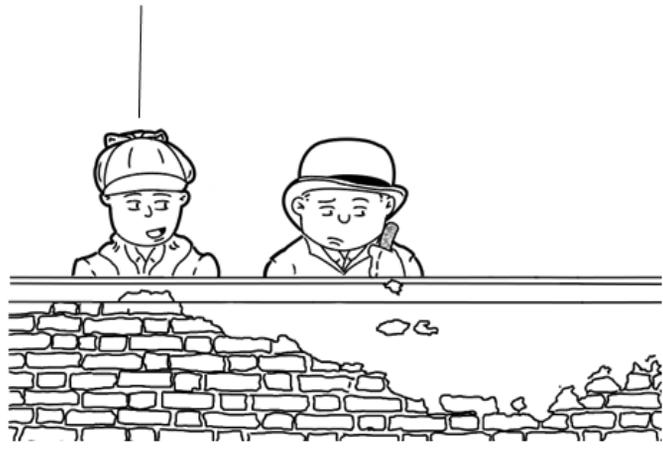
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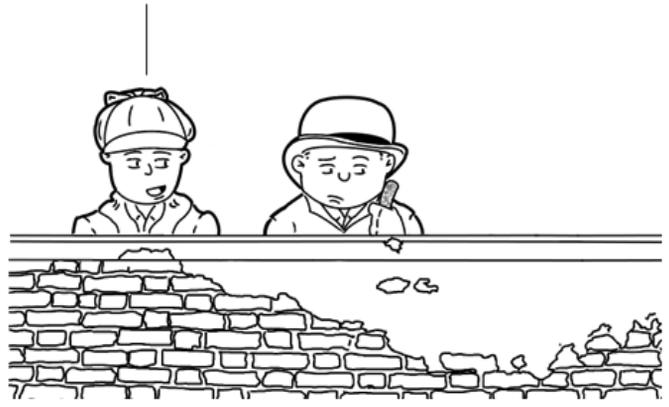
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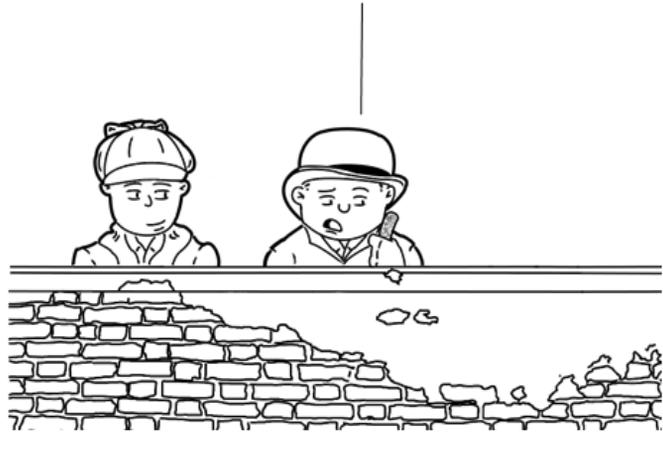
YOU HOLD IN YOUR HAND A VERY UNIQUE OBJECT
I INTEND TO SHARE AT SHOW AND TELL.



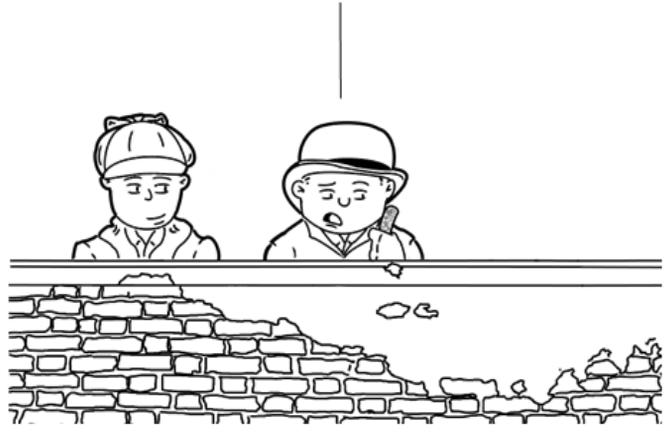
IT IS INDEED A RARITY... FOR IT IS A PIECE OF
LAVA FROM A VOLCANO IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC
CURRENTLY SPEWING FORTH ITS CONTENTS
ONTO THE SMALL ISLAND IT DOMINATES.



STRANGE... IT LOOKS VAGUELY LIKE
A PIECE OF DOG DROPPING.



EVEN STRANGER... IT HAS THE
ODOR OF DOG DROPPING.



IS THIS...

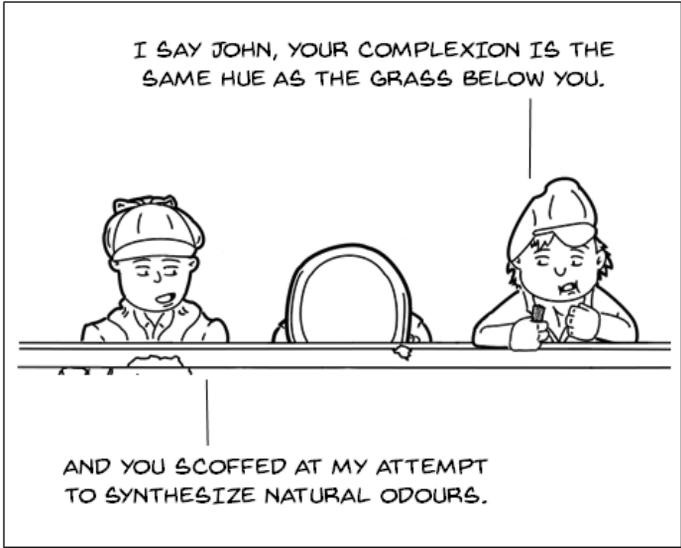
I
TOUCHED...



HOLMES, YOU FIEND...



HEY GENTLEMEN, WHAT IS GOING ON?



BIRDS ARE FLYING, FLOWERS ARE BLOOMING, AND GRASS IS GREENING... YOU KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS?



YES, MASTER BLAU... MY NOSE IS RUNNING LIKE A STEAM ENGINE... THE POLLEN IS KILLING ME.



NO SILLY, IT IS TIME FOR OUR ANNUAL SPRING PLAY... THIS YEAR WE WILL BE DOING THE CLASSIC, 'ROMEO AND JULIET'.



I HAVE SELECTED YOU FOR THE LEAD.



GREAT... AT LEAST I CAN HONE MY SMOOCHING SKILLS ON WHICHEVER GIRL YOU SELECT AS 'JULIET' FROM THE OTHER SCHOOL.



BAD NEWS, MY YOUNG 'LOTHARIO'... I HAVE DECIDED TO STAGE AN AUTHENTIC 'SHAKESPEAREAN PERFORMANCE'... MEANS AN ALL-MALE CAST.



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HIS LIMITS

"Philosophy, astronomy, and politics were marked at zero" [FIVE]

In A Study in Scarlet, we're getting to know Sherlock Holmes through the eyes of Dr. Watson. The good doctor noted some of the peculiarities of his friend and fellow lodger Mr. Sherlock Holmes, and he put together that helpful list that has defined what Sherlock Holmes was capable of.

- Sherlock Holmes-his limits.
- Knowledge of Literature. -Nil.
- Philosophy-Nil.
- Astronomy-Nil.
- Politics-Feeble.
- Botany-Variable. Well up in belladonna, opium, and poisons generally. Knows nothing of practical gardening.
- Geology-Practical but limited. Tells at a glance different soils from each other. After walks has shown me splashes upon his trousers and told me by their colour and consistence in what part of London he had received them.
- Chemistry-Profound.
- Anatomy-Accurate, but unsystematic.
- Sensational Literature-Immense. He appears to know every detail of every horror perpetrated in the century.
- Plays the violin well.
- Is an expert singlestick player, boxer, and swordsman.
- Has a good practical knowledge of British law.

As an aside, isn't it interesting Sherlockians somehow always come back to that famous list when analyzing Sherlock Holmes? As if that snapshot of life at Baker Street dictates how the Great Detective would forever exist, frozen in amber.

But we know for certain that such is not the case. Holmes became quite philosophical in his 'rose soliloquy' in 'The Naval Treaty':

"There is nothing in which deduction is so necessary as in religion," said he, leaning with his back against the shutters. "

It can be built up as an exact science by the reasoner. Our highest assurance of the goodness of Providence seems to me to rest in the flowers. All other things, our powers our desires, our food, are all really necessary for our existence in the first instance. But this rose is an extra. Its smell and its color are an embellishment of life, not a condition of it. It is only goodness which gives extras, and so I say again that we have much to hope from the flowers."

Watson himself was taken aback, but ascribed it more as naturalism than philosophy, noting it was "a new phase of his character to me, for I had never before seen him show any keen interest in natural objects."

Over the years, though, Holmes clearly became quite reflective. In the Preface to His Last Bow, Watson fills in the gaps from decades of their acquaintance:

"He has, for many years, lived in a small farm upon the downs five miles from Eastbourne, where his time is divided between philosophy and agriculture. "

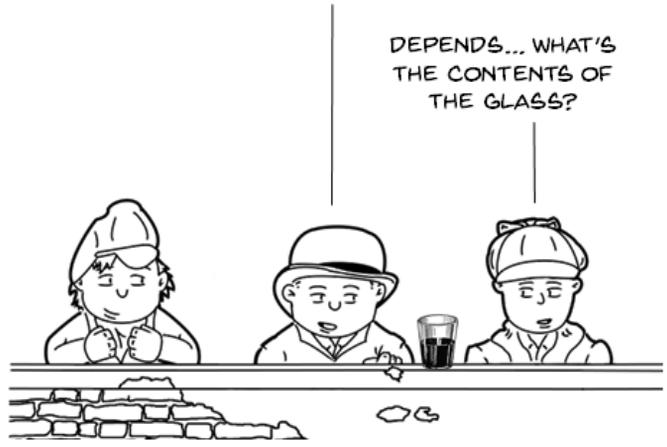
So, once again it's that confluence of nature and philosophy we witnessed in 'The Naval Treaty.'

Where did Holmes get it from. Perhaps it can be linked to an early experience at **Baker Street Elementary...**

HOLMES, I'M CONDUCTING A PHILOSOPHICAL
EXPERIMENT FOR ENGLISH CLASS.



WOULD YOU CONSIDER THIS GLASS
IS HALF-FULL OR HALF-EMPTY?



DEPENDS... WHAT'S
THE CONTENTS OF
THE GLASS?

OOOH... NON-ALCOHOLIC LAMB'S WOOL.



EMPTY.

THAT CLEARLY WASN'T ONE OF YOUR CHOICES.



SO, JOHN, I UNDERSTAND YOUR GOLF LESSONS ARE GOING FAIRLY WELL.



I AM NOT TOO SURE... I ASKED MY INSTRUCTOR WHAT I AM DOING WRONG?



AND HIS DIAGNOSIS?

I AM STILL STANDING TOO CLOSE TO THE BALL AFTER I HIT IT.



HOW IS THE CADDYING AT THE CLUB GOING FOR YOU ON THE WEEKENDS?



I WAS LET GO AFTER MY LAST PATRON COMPLAINED.

WHAT WAS HIS ISSUE?



I REPLIED, "THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE, THAT WOULD BE TOO MUCH OF A COINCIDENCE..." NO SENSE OF HUMOUR.



AFTER A REALLY BAD ROUND, HE COMMENTED, "I WAS THE WORST CADDIE IN THE WORLD..."

A MONSTROUS SENSE OF HUMOR

"I'll humour you" [DYIN]

What was Sherlock Holmes' sense of humor like? Did he even have a sense of humor? It wasn't until 'The Priory School' (the 31st story, part of The Return of Sherlock Holmes) that we read about Holmes' 'admirable good humour'. Not long afterward in 'Black Peter', we see...

"Well, well," said Holmes, good humouredly.
"We all learn by experience."

Similarly, in 'The Three Students,' Sherlock Holmes had been performing some research on early English charters when he was interrupted by Hilton Soames with a problem, and Holmes didn't want distractions.

But soon, Watson wrote Holmes "was recovering his good-humour as his attention became more engrossed by the case."

Both stories were in The Return. Of course, the most frequently cited and widely recognized turn of phrase regarding humor is in The Valley of Fear, in which Holmes comments on Watson's little joke.

"A touch! A distinct touch!" cried Holmes. "You are developing a certain unexpected vein of pawky humour, Watson, against which I must learn to guard myself."

If we can infer Sherlock Holmes' sense of humor by his physical reactions -- that is, his smiles, chuckles and laughter -- there are opportunities to do that.

As early as A Study in Scarlet and "A Scandal in Bohemia," we have the simple phrase "Holmes laughed."

Soon afterward we find "Holmes laughed softly to himself," [BOSC] and again "Holmes laughed" [BLUE]. In other instances, Holmes laughed "heartily" [REIG], "good naturedly" [FRIO], and "good humoredly" [WIST].

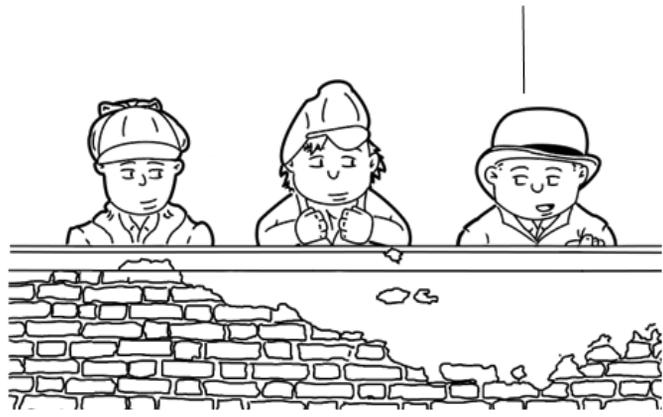
And so, we head over to **Baker Street Elementary**, where, as at most schools, the boys are busy trying to crack each other up...

And he seemed to chuckle quite a bit as well, including "heartily" [SPEC] and while "rubbing his hands" [SOLI, VALL]. There are also numerous instances of Holmes smiling; Steven Rothman (The Valley of Fear) compiled a few examples of that on the @BakerStJournal Twitter account on National Smile Day.

And Jeremy Brett brought a unique and warmer aspect to Holmes through humor, which is chronicled in With a Wink and a Smile.

And so, we head over to **Baker Street Elementary**, where, as at most schools, the boys are busy trying to crack each other up...

I JUST FINISHED READING THE NOVEL,
FRANKENSTEIN, BY MARY SHELLEY... SUCH
AN AMAZING IMAGINATION SHE SHOWED.



IT IS AN INTRIGUING THESIS, CREATING
LIFE FROM AN INANIMATE OBJECT.



IT HAPPENS EVERYDAY IN CLASS
WHEN THE FINAL BELL IS RUNG.

DO YOU KNOW WHY DR. FRANKENSTEIN
PRODUCED A MIXTURE OF ASPIRIN AND GLUE?

OK, I'LL BITE.

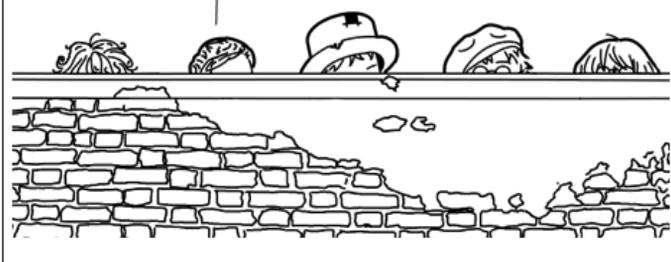


HIS MONSTER KEPT HAVING
SPLITTING HEADACHES.



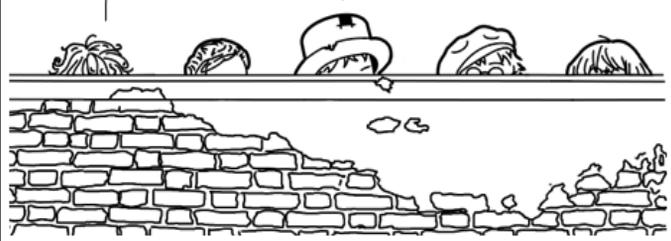
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MASTER PETER, I WANT TO CONGRATULATE YOU ON CHOOSING 'ROMEO AND JULIET' AS THE SHAKESPEAREAN PLAY THIS SPRING.



OH YES, IT IS THE GREATEST LOVE STORY OF ALL TIME.

AU CONTRAIRE, MADemoISELLE.



THE GREATEST LOVE STORY ISN'T ROMEO AND JULIET, WHO DIED TOGETHER AT SUCH A YOUNG AGE, BUT MY GRANDPARENTS, WHO HAVE GROWN OLD TOGETHER, AND ARE STILL IN LOVE.



OH, YOU ARE ALL CURMUDGEONS... MASTER BRAD, I WAGER YOU LOVE THE ROMANTIC STORYLINE.



MISS CHRISTINA, IT'S A 3-DAY RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN A 13-YEAR-OLD AND A 17-YEAR-OLD THAT RESULTS IN 6 DEATHS.

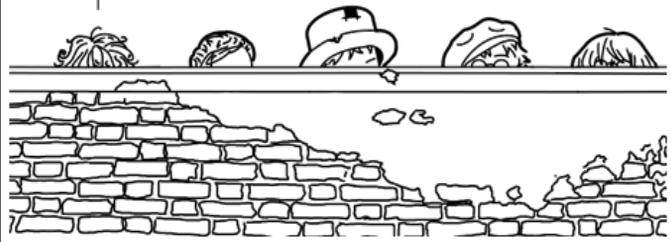
MAYBE ROMEO SHOULD HAVE CONTINUED PURSUING ROSALINE.



JULIET WOULD STILL BE ALIVE IF SHE HAD STUCK WITH PARIS.

LISTENING TO YOU MALES, I FEEL MY BRAIN COMMITTING SUICIDE, ONE CELL AT A TIME.

DRINK SOME BRANDY.



NOTHING NEW

"Male costume is nothing new to me" [SCAN]

One of the early and surprising elements of the Sherlock Holmes Canon is when Irene Adler, dressed as a man, confirmed her suspicions after Sherlock Holmes invaded her home, walking by 221B Baker Street and saying, "Good night, Mr. Sherlock Holmes."

She later explained in her letter she disguised herself as a man in order to ascertain that. But interestingly, she also added, "I often take advantage of the freedom which it gives."

Irene Adler came from a theatrical background, having retired from the stage. So, she must have seen her fair share of men dressed as women, in the Shakespearean tradition, where men played female roles for the first few hundred years of performances.

But what about the other way around... women taking on male roles? It would seem almost unheard of in Victorian times. Or would it?

Ellen Terry, a leading Shakespearean actress in the late Victorian / early Edwardian period, wrote a debt was owed to Shakespeare "for his vindication of women in [his] fearless, high-spirited, resolute and intelligent heroines."

Terry should know. as she played the cross-dressing Portia in The Merchant of Venice as early as 1875. And let's not forget the legendary Sarah Bernhardt, who played the title role in Hamlet in 1899.

Similarly, the boys at Baker Street Elementary decide it's time to broaden their theatrical casting ...

WELCOME TO OUR PLAY REHEARSAL, IRENE... I ASSUME PETER HAS ASKED YOU TO HELP DESIGN THE COSTUMES FOR ROMEO AND JULIET.



ACTUALLY, MASTER BLAU HAS ASKED ME TO PORTRAY JULIET IN YOUR PRODUCTION... I'M ON LOAN FROM OUR SCHOOL'S DRAMA CLUB.



INTRIGUING... OUR SCHOOL HAS MAINTAINED THE TRADITION OF AN ALL-MALE-CAST FOR MANY YEARS.



TRUE, BUT IT IS THE 1800'S, WE HAVE A GRACIOUS LADY AS OUR RULER... MASTER SHAW AND MYSELF BELIEVE INCLUSION OF THE LADIES WILL ONLY ENHANCE THE PERFORMANCE... PLUS THE GIRLS PROGRAM SENT US SEVERAL REQUESTS, ON PAPER BAGS, TO BE INCLUDED IN THE CAST... YOU HAVE TO GIVE THEM CREDIT FOR PERSISTENCE.



WAIT... DOES THIS MEAN I WILL... BE... KISSING...



DO YOU THINK HE WILL CONTINUE THESE FAINTING SPELLS IN ADULTHOOD?



THAT WOULD BE A SAFE WAGER.

I'LL FETCH THE BRANDY AND AMMONIA... OR SHOULD I JUST SLAP HIM?

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WHAT WOULD YOU CALL AN ADULT SAPLING WITH
A TRUNK MADE COMPLETELY OF FIRE, AND ITS
BRANCHES MADE OF ICE, DIRT, AND WIND?



AFRAID TO ASK, BUT WHAT?

AN ELEMENT TREE!! PUNS
ARE SO PART OF MY LIFE.



EXTREMELY SHORT-SIGHTED

"But the eye-glasses?" [GOLD]

There are a number of people in the Sherlock Holmes stories who wear glasses: Jephro Rucastle, Charles Augustus Milverton, Lord Robert St. Simon, Hosmer Angel, Wilson Kemp... are you sensing a pattern here?

Each person is of questionable character. We might say villains, but Lord St. Simon isn't particularly villainous; rather he is motivated by monetary interests. A thin line, you might say, but still.

Glasses play a central role in 'The Adventure of the Golden Pince-Nez,' with the named object being found in the clutches of the murdered secretary.

The strength of the prescription indicated the suspect was "extremely short-sighted," and Holmes deduced "anyone who wore such glasses could be slatternly in other respects."

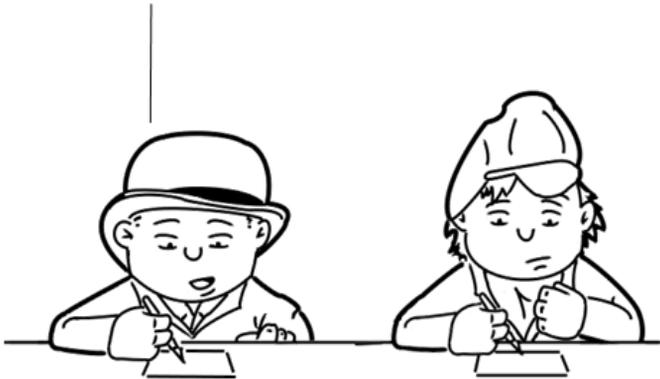
You might be interested in more about pince-nez; please check out the Trifles episode 'A History of Pince-Nez' for more information.

And we come to discover quite a bit about the checkered history of Professor Coram and Anna as the case concludes. One might even deign to judge the character of Anna based on a number of decisions she made over the course of her life, both forced and voluntary.

Perhaps the strength of her prescription correlates to the strain of flaws in her? Lots of discussion on this story is in the book, The Wrong Passage, from the BSI Press Manuscript Series.

When it comes to the parentage of John H. Watson, good taste, and eyeglasses, one has to wonder what other character traits Holmes might deduce when the boys of **Baker Street Elementary** get talking ...

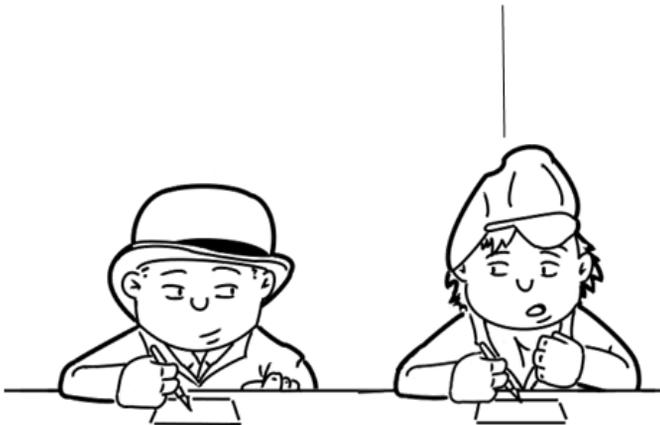
MY FATHER CONSTANTLY STATES AFTER HE AND MY MOTHER WERE MARRIED, HE HAD TO TEACH HER GOOD TASTE.



LUCKY FOR YOU AND YOUR BROTHER HE DID NOT TEACH HER BEFORE THE WEDDING.



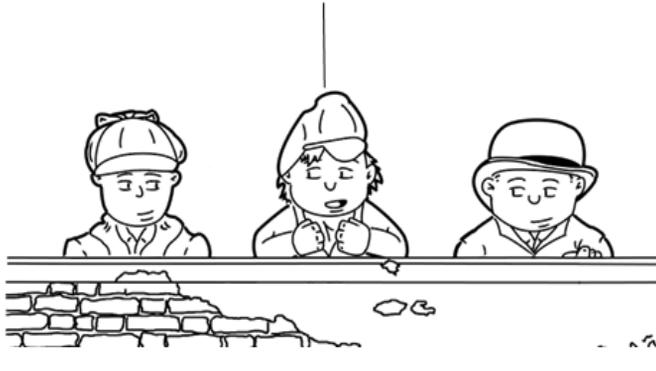
DOESN'T YOUR MOTHER CLAIM IT WAS LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT?



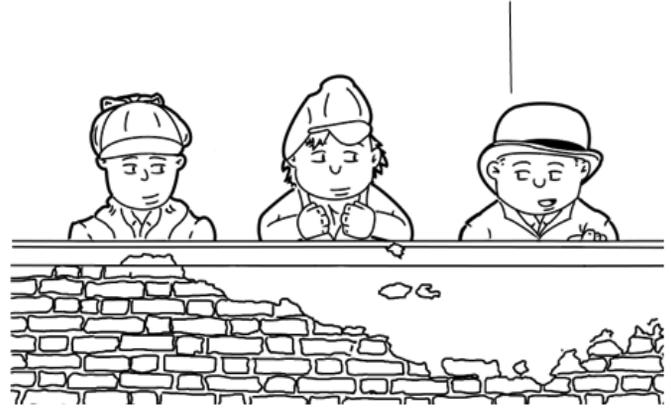
YES, BUT AS SHE RECALLS THE DAY SHE MET MY FATHER, "WAS THE ONLY TIME IN HER LIFE SHE FORGOT HER GLASSES."



HOLMES, THE SCHOOL PAPER HAS PUBLISHED A BRILLIANT WRITE-UP ON YOUR SOLUTION TO THE MISSING GYMNASIUM SOCKS MYSTERY.



I FEEL 'THE ADVENTURE OF THE BOGUS LAUNDRY AFFAIR' WAS AN INSPIRED TITLE ON MY PART... I AM ALSO PROUD OF THE NARRATIVE I PUT TOGETHER.

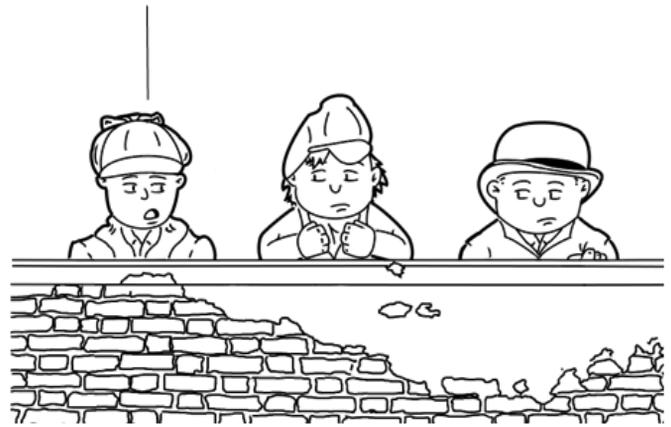


YET, I FEEL THE MYSTERY IS NOT COMPLETELY RESOLVED.



WHAT IS LEFT? MASTER MORAN HAS ADMITTED TO THE CRIME, HE HAS RECEIVED HIS PUNISHMENT, AND THE SOCKS HAVE BEEN RETURNED.

I DO NOT BELIEVE HE ACTED ALONE... THERE IS A CENTRAL POWER BEHIND THE AGENT, NOT SUSPECTED BY THE SCHOOL'S ADMINISTRATION.



THIS DEEP ORGANIZING POWER STANDS IN THE WAY OF THE LAW, AND THROWS ITS SHIELD OVER ALL THE WRONG-DOERS WITHIN THIS SCHOOL.



AGAIN AND AGAIN, I HAVE FELT THE PRESENCE OF THIS FORCE.



THIS IS CREEPY.

OR JUST AN OVER-ACTIVE IMAGINATION.



I WILL SEIZE UPON A THREAD, AND FOLLOW IT, EVEN IF IT LEADS ME THROUGH A THOUSAND CUNNING WINDINGS, UNTIL I DISCOVER THE TRUTH.



AND THIS MY FRIENDS, IS NOT-SO-SUBTLE FORESHADOWING.



CAN YOU FORESHADOW THE COMPLETE CRACK-UP OF A FRIEND?

TAKES ONE TO KNOW ONE

"a brain of the first order" [FINA]

In "The Final Problem," Sherlock Holmes said Professor Moriarty was "a genius, a philosopher, an abstract thinker." He also said, "Mediocrity knows nothing higher than itself, but talent instantly recognizes genius," in The Valley of Fear.

Interestingly, those are both stories in which Moriarty played a role. It seems fairly certain how Sherlock Holmes considered himself compared with the professor.

But when it came to sharing his observations -- not only on his arch nemesis, but on his method of observation and logic - Holmes was only too willing to give a monologue.

Watson's role was one of audience member rather than flat-mate or colleague.

It was clear Holmes needed to give his soliloquies to someone, and Watson was the perfect foil. William James wrote:

"Geniuses differ from ordinary men less in the character of their attention than in the nature of the objects upon which it is successively bestowed."

And it seemed clear Holmes' attention was on the problems at hand, rather than on his sole friend.

And it looks like the boys of **Baker Street Elementary** got an early clue about that behavior...

SO, YOU ARE CONVINCED THERE IS A MYSTERIOUS BEING BEHIND ALL THE PETTY THEFTS AND OTHER SHENANIGANS OCCURRING ON THE PLAYGROUND



A black and white illustration of three boys looking over a brick wall. The boy on the left is wearing a cap and a jacket. The boy in the middle is wearing a cap and a jacket, and has a notably large forehead. The boy on the right is wearing a cap and a jacket. They are all looking towards the right side of the frame.

YES, THIS 'NAPOLEON' OF CRIME'S TRUE IDENTITY STILL ELUDES ME.

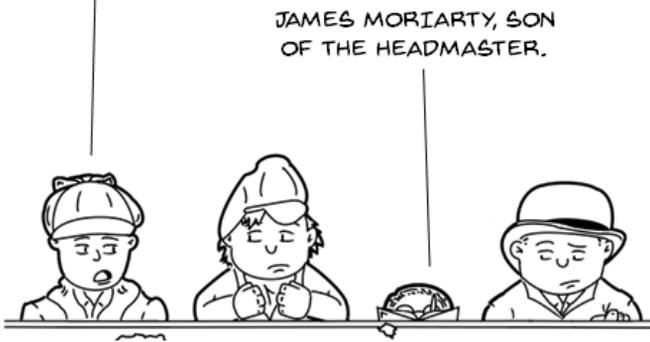
MASTER MORIARTY.



A black and white illustration of three boys looking over a brick wall. The boy on the left is wearing a cap and a jacket. The boy in the middle is wearing a cap and a jacket, and has a notably large forehead. The boy on the right is wearing a cap and a jacket. They are all looking towards the right side of the frame.

WHILE HE SITS MOTIONLESS, LIKE A SPIDER IN THE CENTRE OF ITS WEB, I WILL DO ALL I CAN DO TO DISCOVER HIM.

JAMES MORIARTY, SON OF THE HEADMASTER.



A black and white illustration of three boys looking over a brick wall. The boy on the left is wearing a cap and a jacket. The boy in the middle is wearing a cap and a jacket, and has a notably large forehead. The boy on the right is wearing a cap and a jacket. They are all looking towards the right side of the frame.

WHILE HE MAY SEE EVERY STEP WHICH I TAKE TO DRAW MY TOILS ROUND HIM, I WILL ULTIMATELY SUCCEED.

UHHH... HOLMES...

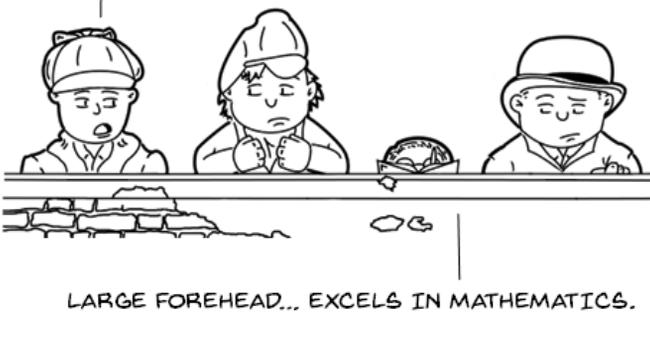
HAS TWO BROTHERS, BOTH NAMED JOHN.



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PART OF THE DIFFICULTY LIES IN THE FACT HE DOES LITTLE HIMSELF... HE ONLY PLANS.

LARGE FOREHEAD... EXCELS IN MATHEMATICS.



A black and white illustration of three boys looking over a brick wall. The boy on the left is wearing a cap and a jacket. The boy in the middle is wearing a cap and a jacket, and has a notably large forehead. The boy on the right is wearing a cap and a jacket. They are all looking towards the right side of the frame.

IN THE INTEREST OF THE PUBLIC, I CHEERFULLY ACCEPT THIS CHALLENGE.

MIGHT AS WELL BE TALKING TO THE WALL.

I HAVE SIMILAR FEELINGS FROM TIME TO TIME, MASTER LES.



A black and white illustration of three boys looking over a brick wall. The boy on the left is wearing a cap and a jacket. The boy in the middle is wearing a cap and a jacket, and has a notably large forehead. The boy on the right is wearing a cap and a jacket. They are all looking towards the right side of the frame.

SOMEWHERE IN RUSSIA, I BELIEVE
THERE IS A YOUNG BOY, MUCH YOU AND I,
WHO YEARNs FOR A LIFE OF FREEDOM.



AND HE HAS HEARD OF OUR JOLLY OL'
ENGLAND... HE DREAMS OF LIVING IN
SUCH A LAND OF FREEDOM.



I WANT TO PERSONALLY MEET
THAT FINE, YOUNG LAD...



AND TELL THE PAINFUL TRUTH
ABOUT THIS PLACE WE CALL HOME.

WATSON, IT WAS A POP
QUIZ... GET OVER IT.



WALKING A TIGHT-ROPE

"No one but an acrobat" [ABBE]

Oh, how the class clown fascinates us. He (and it's typically a boy) has an oversized sense of humor and knows how to employ it to the amusement of his classmates and the annoyance of his teacher.

Humor is a tough thing for anyone in front of a group. It's hit or miss. In many ways, it's like being an acrobat. When you see an opportunity, you go for it, hoping you don't slip and fall.

Especially when there's no net.

Sherlock Holmes did make a few attempts at humor -- in some cases with more snark and insult ('The Three Gables,' anyone?) -- but knew enough to stay away for the most part.

But he did know a thing or two about Niagara Falls. In A Study in Scarlet, Watson read from The Book of Life:

"From a drop of water," said the writer, "a logician could infer the possibility of an Atlantic or a Niagara without having seen or heard of one or the other. So, all life is a great chain, the nature of which is known whenever we are shown a single link of it."

He quickly discovered it was Sherlock Holmes himself who had written that article.

While it may have seemed fanciful, it was quite obvious a drop of water had an origin somewhere else, and likely had friends with which it congregated.

And to Holmes, foreseeing a Niagara Falls was a simple logical inference. And if you've got such a natural wonder as Niagara Falls, why not make use of it? So thought Jean Francois Gravelet, otherwise known as Charles Blondin. Blondin first crossed the Niagara on tightrope on June. 30, 1859 and made a name for himself.

You can read about his life and other exploits at IHOSE, including an instance in which a tightrope crossing gone wrong cost two men their lives.

But Holmes fancied himself a Blondin (which by that time had become a generic name for anyone in the tightrope-walking profession) in The Sign of Four:

"Now run downstairs, loose the dog, and look out for Blondin."

You see, at that moment, Sherlock Holmes was planning to walk the roof line of Pondicherry Lodge.

But back at **Baker Street Elementary**, young Master Sherlock finds himself walking a very different tightrope altogether...

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*But back at **Baker Street Elementary**, young Master Sherlock finds himself walking a very different tightrope altogether...*

TODAY FOR 'SHOW AND TELL' I BROUGHT
A TINY MARVEL OF OUR ENVIRONMENT...



ONE SMALL, MINISCULE INDIVIDUAL
SNOWFLAKE... OUTSIDE IT WAS UNIQUE, ONE OF A
KIND, A TRUE DISTINCTIVE ELEMENT OF NATURE...



BUT ONCE IN THE CLASSROOM, IT BECOMES
JUST ANOTHER BORING DROP OF WATER, NO
CREATIVITY, WITH NO PERSONALITY OF ITS OWN.



I HOPE THIS SUBTLE ANALOGY IS
NOT LOST ON THE REST OF YOU.

ONCE AGAIN, PLEASE PASS
ON MY SYMPATHIES TO THE
HEADMASTER'S OFFICE.



THE TEACHER HAS CHALLENGED ME TO SPEAK UP MORE DURING THE CLASS DISCUSSIONS.

THAT SHOULD BE EASY.



YOU KNOW, I CONSIDER MYSELF A CHILD OF FEW WORDS.



MAYBE IF YOU READ MORE, YOU WOULD INCREASE YOUR VOCABULARY.



ERECTOR THREAT

"I should erect an obvious dummy" [EMPT]

One of the challenges of running this biweekly comic strip (something we've been doing every other Sunday since February 2017) is coming up with relevant and entertaining commentary to preface each strip.

We secretly think the **Baker Street Elementary** crew deliberately tries to stump us, which makes us try even harder.

In this case, if Watson assessed our knowledge of engineering like he assessed Sherlock Holmes' knowledge of various topics in A Study in Scarlet, it would fall somewhere between 'nil' and 'feeble'.

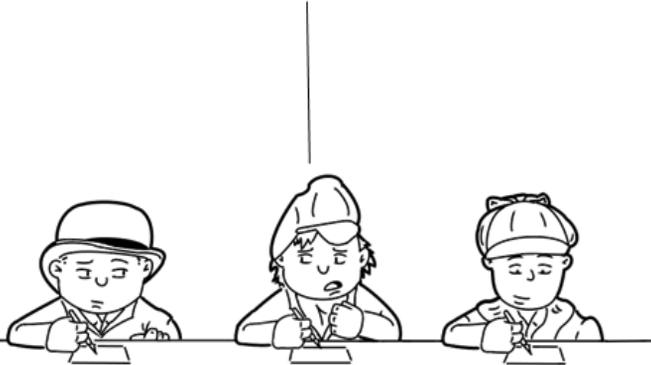
However, our appreciation for puns, witticisms, and wordplay would be on the 'profound' level. As such, we developed a few alternate titles for this particular strip, including:

- The Problem of More Bridge
- The Engineer's Dumb (imagine our surprise when we discovered it had already been used!)
- The Nor-Would Builder
- Knowledge of Engineering - Practical (Joking)

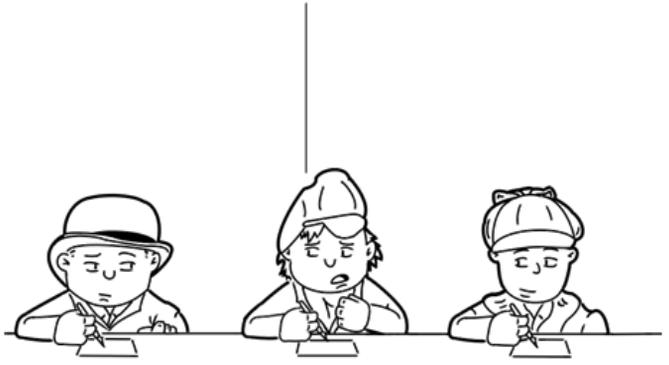
Perhaps our readers have suggestions for some pun-laden titles?

Meanwhile, the boys at **Baker Street Elementary** befuddle their physics and mathematics tutors...

ON THE FIELD TRIP YESTERDAY, I
NOTICED THE MAIN BRIDGE HAD A SIGN
WHICH READ, 'WEIGHT LIMIT: 12 TONNES'.

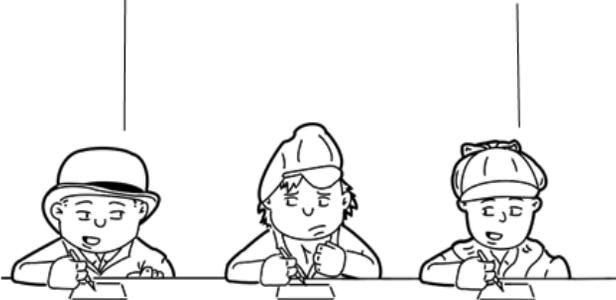


HOW DO THEY DETERMINE HOW MUCH
WEIGHT THE BRIDGE CAN HOLD?



IT IS REALLY AN AMAZING FEAT OF
ENGINEERING, USING SOME VERY COMPLICATED...

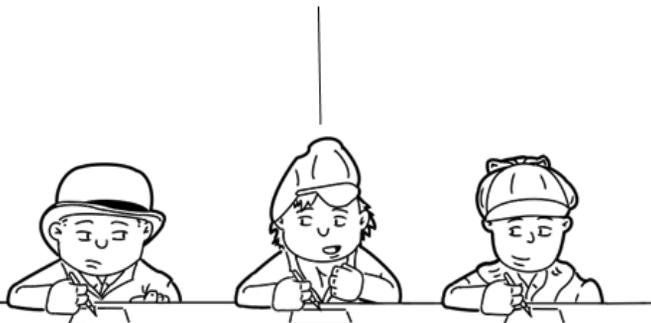
...ACTUALLY, IT'S QUITE SIMPLE.



- 1... THEY BUILD THE BRIDGE;
- 2... THEY STACK DRUMS FILLED WITH WATER
ONTO THE BRIDGE UNTIL IT COLLAPSES;
- 3... THEY WEIGH THE DRUMS;
- 4... THEY REBUILD THE BRIDGE;
- AND, 5...THEY PUT THE SIGN UP.



AND YOU SAID IT WAS COMPLICATED.



ENGINEERS THROUGHOUT ENGLAND
JUST COLLECTIVELY SHUDDERED.



I WONDER IF THEY ERECT
BUILDINGS THE SAME WAY?

I LEARNED A VALUABLE LESSON IN NEGOTIATION AND COMPROMISE THIS WEEKEND.

WHICH WAS?



I ASKED FOR AN INCREASE IN MY ALLOWANCE FROM MY FATHER, DUE TO THE INCREASE IN COSTS AT THE LOCAL CONFECTIONER... MY NEGOTIATION PLOY WAS TO START HIGH AND THEN GO DOWN.



HE THEN EXPLAINED HE HAD CALCULATED HOW MANY POUNDS IT WAS GOING TO COST TO RAISE ME TO ADULTHOOD.

THIS CAN'T END WELL...



HE THEN ASKED WHETHER I THOUGHT THOSE FUNDS WOULD BE A 'GRANT' OR A 'LOAN' WITH INTEREST?



AND WHAT PART WAS THE COMPROMISE?



IF I DROPPED THE ISSUE, I WOULD BE ABLE TO SIT DOWN FOR THE REST OF THE WEEKEND.



ABSTRACT THINKING

"You will excuse a certain abstraction of mind" [CREE]

If there 'sone thing that plagues every writer from time to time, it's writer's block. That is, the inability to create something due to a lack of ideas, or an inability to proceed.

When counseling others in this regard, some writers offer the helpful advice:

"Just write something!"

The notion is that, through the process of typing away in a stream of consciousness, the block will lift. When one considers Conan Doyle wrote 60 Sherlock Holmes stories (that's four novels and 56 short stories, for you folks following along at home), and that most of them had unique plots (we'll forgive him the similarities between 'The Red-Headed League' and 'The Three Garridebs' as one example), he did remarkably well.

*We're up to the 40th installment of **Baker Street Elementary**, and now have our greatest challenge to date.*

The Fay-Masons are determined to stump the band. And we nearly succumbed as well. As Neil Gibson said to Holmes in 'The Problem of Thor Bridge,' "I have broken stronger men than you. No man ever crossed me and was the better for it."

And we take great pride in responding as Sherlock Holmes did:

"So many have said so, and yet here I am," said Holmes, smiling.

*Onward, to the creative grounds of **Baker Street Elementary** we go ...*

YES MA'AM, I DO BELIEVE YOU ARE
PARTIALLY TO BLAME FOR MY LOW GRADE.



YOUR TESTS ARE BIASED TOWARD THOSE
STUDENTS WHO ANSWERS THE QUESTIONS
CORRECTLY, AND NOT ENOUGH CREDIT IS GIVEN
TO THOSE WHO ANSWER THEM CREATIVELY.

SO, MY ANSWERS ARE CREATIVE?



Question 1: Please summarize your three favorite Shakespearean plays in less than 200 words.



EASY... HAMLET, EVERYONE DIES;
MACBETH, EVERYONE DIES;
KING LEAR, EVERYONE DIES!!



ANOTHER MIGRAINE
FOR THE TEACHER.

Question 2: Describe your favorite Shakespearean character in less than 100 words.

I DON'T LIKE ANY OF THEM.



EASIER... MACBETH KILLED
CHICKENS... HE COMMITTED 'A
MURDER MOST FOUL... I DON'T
LIKE CHICKENS.'



SHE'LL NEED A
WEEK OF LEAVE!!

ANALYZE THIS
"volumes of poetry" [ENGR]

Over the years, we've seen a number of creative approaches to Sherlockian material through poetry. For example, at one Autumn in Baker Street, we heard The Hound of the Baskervilles recited in the style of Robert Service.

Isaac Asimov is legendary for his Sherlockian limericks. Each BSI Weekend we look forward to the annual year in review poem in doggerel, written and performed by Al Rosenblatt, BSI ('Inspector Bradstreet') and Betsy Rosenblatt, BSI ('Lucy Ferrier').

And then there are the classics. Vincent Starrett's immortal '221B,' which gave us the now legendary phrase "it's always 1895," and is often recited at the conclusion to Sherlockian society meetings.

Or another favorite meeting-closer, Bill Schweikert's moving 'A Lang Evening With Holmes.' And the elusive and mysterious poetess laureate of the BSI, Helene Yuhasova. Yes, we have plenty of poetry that touches on Sherlock Holmes.

*It's no mystery when we link the heart and the mind, the magic happens -- just like at **Baker Street Elementary...***

STUDYING POETRY RUINS THE POEMS...



WHY DO WE FEEL THE NEED TO EXPLAIN
WHAT A POEM ACTUALLY 'MEANS'? IT'S
COMPARABLE TO TRYING TO EXPLAIN 'ART'.



TRY TO EXPLAIN AWAY A BEAUTIFUL SUNSET
ON THE EDGE OF THE SEA, SNOW ON A
HILLSIDE, OR A SOFT SUMMER BREEZE.



OR HOW SOMEONE SOLVES A MYSTERY?



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YES MA'AM, WE COMPLETED THE GROUP READING PROJECT... THE HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME... THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR EXPANDING OUR MINDS AGAIN WITH SUCH A CHALLENGING NARRATIVE.



I COULD ALMOST FEEL THE SARCASM DRIPPING OFF THAT STATEMENT.

MA'AM, DID YOU KNOW 'QUASIMODO' ACTUALLY HAD A TWIN BROTHER?



OH NO, HERE WE GO AGAIN.

HIS NAME WAS 'QUEASIMODO' AND HE HELD THE SAME OCCUPATION AS HIS SIBLING.



SADLY, HE DIED JUST ONE DAY AFTER QUASIMODO DID.



MOURNERS AT HIS FUNERAL HAD A 'HUNCH' HE WOULD BE 'BACK' AND BELIEVED HIM TO BE A 'DEAD RINGER' FOR HIS BROTHER.



HAVE EITHER OF YOU NOTICED THE TEACHER MIMING 'HANGING HERSELF' MORE OFTEN LATELY?

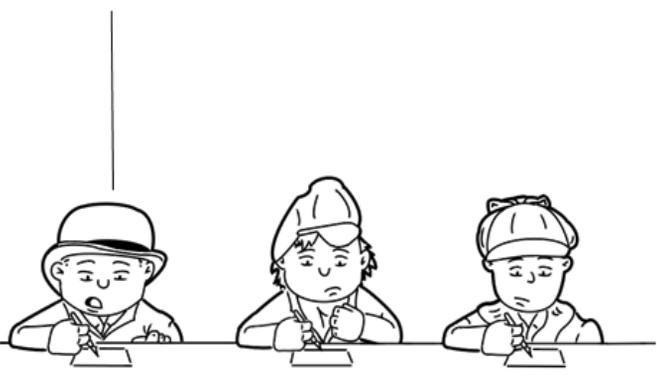


181 - 09-23-2018

SHORT STORIES

*"tried to interest myself in a yellow-backed novel" [BOSC]**Who among us hasn't been tempted to short-cut assigned classroom reading with CliffsNotes or York Notes, in those pre-Internet days when Wikipedia wasn't readily available?**Well, the more literary-inclined have not - a group to which Sherlockians generally tend to gravitate -- but for the masses, let's agree they may have. We're reminded of Watson's recounting of his doings in Hereford with Sherlock Holmes in 'The Boscombe Valley Mystery,' whiling away his time while Holmes ran down a few clues.**"I walked down to the station with them, and then wandered through the streets of the little town, finally returning to the hotel, where I lay upon the sofa and tried to interest myself in a yellow-backed novel."**A yellow-backed novel? Was Watson perusing an early version of CliffsNotes? Hardly.**Yellow backed novels were cheap (sixpenny or shilling) editions of a book with illustrated covers of glazed and vividly illustrated yellow boards, intended for railway travellers.**According to a note in The New Annotated Sherlock Holmes by Leslie S. Klinger, BSI ('The Abbey Grange'),**"Also known as 'sensation novels,' books of this genre revelled in stories of adultery, bigamy, murder, and illegitimacy. For example, in Mary Elizabeth (M.E.) Braddon's Lady Audley's Secret (1862), the heroine abandons her child, murders her husband, and considers poisoning her second husband... Sensation novels were in many ways precursors to thriller and even detective fiction."**In The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes (The Oxford Sherlock Holmes edition), edited by Richard Lancelyn Green, BSI ('The Three Gables'), the note explains:**"The first 'yellowbacks' were published in 1847 by Simms and McIntyre, and other publishers quickly followed suit, such as Routeledge, Chapman & Hall, Frederick Warne, Maxwell, Chatto & Windus, and Ward, Lock, & Co.**ACD's work twice appeared in this format: the reissue of the anthology Strange Secrets, issued by Chatto & Windus in 1890, and A Study in Scarlet issued by Lever Brothers in 1894.**The yellowback was superseded by the sixpenny paperback novel at the end of the century."**So, it stands to reason Watson, a railway traveller to Hereford, would have a yellow-back novel in his possession. Interesting too that the plot of 'The Boscombe Valley Mystery' involved what seemed to be patricide.**Watson himself acknowledges the publication held no interest for him:**"The puny plot of the story was so thin, however, when compared to the deep mystery through which we were groping, and I found my attention wander so continually from the fiction to the fact, that I at last flung it across the room and gave myself up entirely to a consideration of events of the day."**Sounds much like a quote often erroneously attributed to Dorothy Parker:**"This is not a novel to be tossed aside lightly. It should be thrown with great force."**Which sounds suspiciously like the force of the teacher's head at **Baker Street Elementary**...*

TALE OF TWO CITIES? SERIOUSLY, WE JUST READ THE HUNCHBACK... SHE'S KILLING US.



SOMEONE SHOULD DEVELOP SUMMARIES OF ALL LITERARY WORKS OVER 50 PAGES, SO WE DON'T HAVE TO READ THEM FROM COVER TO COVER.



INTERESTING CONCEPT, STAMFORD... I THINK STUDENTS OF ALL AGES COULD BENEFIT FROM SUCH BRIEFS.

I WOULD CALL THEM CLIFF'S NOTES.

WHY THAT?



BECAUSE EVERY TIME SHE ASSIGNS US ANOTHER READING PROJECT, I FEEL I AM ON A 'CLIFF-EDGE' WITH HER HOLDING A KNIFE TO MY BACK.

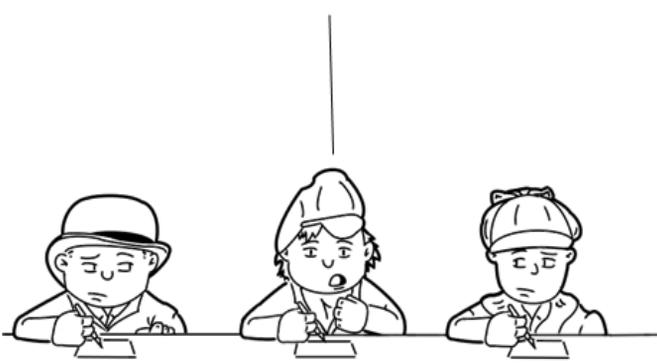


GREAT IDEA, STAMFORD... WHY DON'T YOU DEVELOP THESE SUMMARIES AS A CAREER?



WELL MA'AM... I WOULD HAVE TO READ THE NOVELS TO WRITE THE SUMMARIES... DEFEATS THE PURPOSE OF THE NOTES, DOESN'T IT?

HER DESK-TOP MUST BE A WARM TEMPERATURE... SHE'S CONSTANTLY LAYING HER HEAD ON IT.



MONOMANIA

"their insular conventions" [LAST]

To the external world, Sherlockians must seem like a strange bunch. We get together, often multiple times a year, in venues to eat, drink and listen to talks about a figure who dates from the 1880s.

Some take part in Victorian cosplay, others argue. Sherlock Holmes was fictional (can you imagine?), and many debate over who was the best impersonator of Holmes on stage or screen.

This weekend marked the highly anticipated From Gillette to Brett V conference in Bloomington, Indiana, where 140 Sherlockians gathered to celebrate multiple iterations of Sherlock Holmes over the years.

Peter Cushing, Basil Rathbone, Arthur Wontner, Jeremy Brett, Jonny Lee Miller, and even Michael Caine were part of the program.

In one recorded interview with Jeremy Brett, he showed his appreciation for the admiration he received, but was very quick to point out he would be supplanted by someone else as the next generation found its ideal Sherlock Holmes.

This is of course nothing new to those who have followed great works of literature whose main characters have been reinvented, recreated, and resurrected for generation after generation.

In fact, the boys at **Baker Street Elementary** may be learning about one of those about one of these author...

ACCORDING TO THE LATEST DISPATCH FROM AMERICA, OUR FRIENDS SCOTT AND BURT ARE HELPING TO HOST AN INTERESTING SYMPOSIUM THIS WEEKEND.



'BURBAGE TO TERRY', THE DREAM OF THEIR CLASSMATES, MARK AND STEVE, WILL FOCUS ON BRINGING THE GREAT WRITER'S WORKS TO THE STAGE.



SCOTT AND BURT WILL BE INTERVIEWING ATTENDEES TO SEE WHY THEY BELIEVE SHAKESPEARE IS STILL RELEVANT, AND WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS IN SHAKESPEAREAN STUDIES.



STILL A MYSTERY TO ME, THIS ADULATION OVER ONE PERSON.

LOOKS LIKE THEY HAVE A FEW SPECIAL GUESTS... CHARLOTTE CUSHMAN WILL BE DOING A DRAMATIC READING IN HER ROLE OF LADY MACBETH.

WAIT... WHAT?



IT ALSO SEEMS THEY HAVE ACQUIRED THE BOOTH BROTHERS, EDWIN, JOHN, AND JUNIUS... IF THEY PERFORM TOGETHER, THAT WILL MAKE IT THE FIRST TIME THE BROTHERS WERE ON STAGE TOGETHER.



HOW IS THIS EVEN POSSIBLE?

REMEMBER, HOLMES, YOU ONCE SAID... "ONCE YOU ELIMINATE THE POSSIBLE, WHATEVER IS LEFT, NO MATTER, HOW IMPASSABLE, MUST BE THE ANSWER."



I... I DID NOT EVER... THAT MAKES NO SENSE, WATSON... MUCH LESS ANSWERS HOW KIDS YOUNGER THAN US ARE ABLE TO CONDUCT AN EVENT OF THIS SCALE.

WHY WAS I NOT IN CLASS
YESTERDAY... A FUNNY STORY.



MY PARENTS FORGOT TO GET THE
SUNDAY PAPER OFF THE PORCH.



AND WHEN I FOUND IT MONDAY, I THOUGHT
IT WAS SUNDAY... YOU'RE NOT LAUGHING.



184 - 10-08-2018

HAVE YOU EVER CONSIDERED HOW HARD IT WOULD HAVE BEEN TO BE AN INSURANCE AGENT IN NURSERY RHYME LAND?



WHAT ARE YOU BABBLING ABOUT?

THINK ABOUT IT... THE PIGS' HOUSES ARE BLOWN OVER BY AN ANIMAL... THE DISH IS CONSTANTLY STEALING CUTLERY FROM SOME POOR FARMER...



PERSONAL INJURIES FOR AN EGG WHO KEEPS FALLING OFF A WALL.



PAPA'S ILL-CONCEIVED PURCHASES (RINGS TURNING TO BRASS, LOOKING-GLASS BREAKING, CART AND BULL TURNING OVER.

OLD MEN KNOCKING THEMSELVES OUT IN THE MORNING IN BED.



POOR JACK BREAKS HIS CROWN... AND JILL WITH BODILY INJURIES.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST TO REPLACE A FLOCK OF LOST SHEEP... AND HOW DO YOU INSURE A 'TUFFET'?



LOTS OF LIABILITY WHEN YOU SELL 9-DAY OLD PORRIDGE TO YOUR CUSTOMERS.

EXPLAINS WHY PEOPLE'S CUPBOARDS WERE BARE... THEY COULDN'T AFFORD THE PREMIUMS.

WONDER WHAT THE INSURANCE RATES WERE ON A HABITABLE SHOE?





A SINGULAR SET OF PEOPLE

"The date being-?" [CREE]

Sherlockians have been accused of being somewhat... singular.

Our hobby is a precursor of many others that have risen to more mainstream occultism, such as fans of Star Trek, Star Wars, and the hundreds of others that can make up attendance of Comic Con.

We've often said at a Sherlockian society event, you will meet everyone from plumbers to presidents, and everyone in between. Our gatherings are easily a cross section of humanity, all held together with Canonical-strength glue.

Now perhaps we can delve into our lesson plans and put together a comprehensive guide...

...MEANWHILE,
IN THE U.S. ...

BURT, WE RECEIVED A NOTE
FROM MASTER JOHN WATSON.

REALLY? WHAT DOES
HE HAVE TO SAY?



"SCOTT AND BURT... PLEASE PASS ON MY
CONGRATULATIONS TO MARK AND STEVE
ON THE SUCCESSFUL SHAKESPEAREAN
CONFERENCE... IT APPEARS THE ENTIRE
PROGRAM, INCLUDING THE NEW PLAY, WAS
EXCELLENT... THEY SHOULD BE PROUD."

"WE ARE VERY ENVIOUS OF YOUR COUNTLESS
AMERICAN SOCIETIES, FORMED TO STUDY AND
HONOUR THE MASTER... WE WOULD LIKE TO DO
THE SAME."



"SHERLOCK OPINES, 'JUST GATHER ALL YOUR FRIENDS WHO STILL LIVE IN THEIR PARENT'S BASEMENT OR ATTIC AND WILL PROBABLY NEVER HAVE A REAL DATE... YOU NOW HAVE A SOCIETY.'"



THAT'S A LITTLE HARSH, DON'T YOU THINK...

DON'T YOU LIVE IN YOUR PARENT'S BASEMENT??



"P.S. MAYBE OF YOUR FUTURE DISPATCHES COULD FOCUS ON SOCIETIES (HOW TO FORM, RUN, OR MAINTAIN ONE... HINT, HINT)."



HAVE YOU EVER BEEN ON A DATE??



I AM IN THE PROVERBIAL 'DOG-HOUSE' AGAIN AT HOME.



WHAT DID YOU DO, OR FAIL TO DO, THIS TIME?

TO SAVE THE EFFORT OF EMPTYING A CHAMBERPOT, I CHOSE TO USE THE GREAT OUTDOORS.

WE HAVE ALL DONE THAT... HOW DID THAT GET YOU IN TROUBLE?



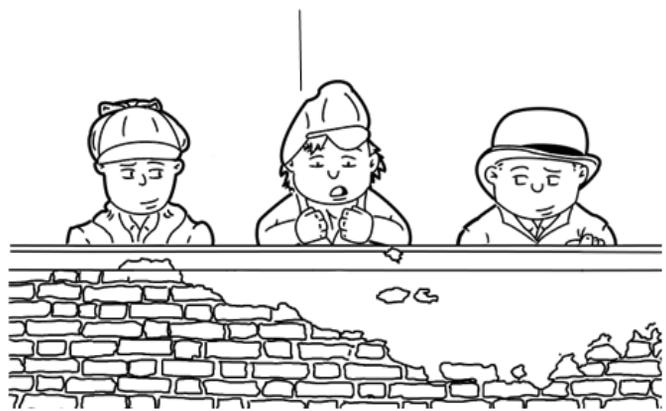
UNLESS WE'RE TALKING #2!

I CHOSE THAT TIME TO PRACTICE MY CURSIVE WRITING SKILLS.



I ADMIT I USUALLY ONLY PRINT IN THE SNOW, BUT I STILL DON'T SEE THAT BEING A PROBLEM.

THERE WAS NO SNOW... I WAS PRACTICING ON THE SHEETS DRYING ON THE LINE... AS I SAID, I MAY AS WELL JUST PLAN ON LIVING THE REST OF MY HOME-LIFE IN THE DOG-HOUSE.



CAVITY SEARCH

"I assure you that I am armed to the teeth" [CHAS]

Throughout the course of his adult life, Sherlock Holmes must have had dental problems.

We're aware of the complaints he mentioned, such as getting his canine knocked out by Matthews, in the waiting room of Charing Cross Station [EMPT]. And how he would have been well-advised to take protective precautions for his teeth when he boxed against McMurdo [SIGN].

Any serious dental work on Sherlock Holmes must have been easily hidden. After all! it was Arthur Pinner's gold-stuffed tooth that gave him away [STOC]. Surely Holmes' many disguises would have required inconspicuous dental work so as to keep his identity a secret.

*More observations like this are available in a letter from Charles S. Wilson, D.D.S. to Charles Goodman, D.D.S. under the title "The Dental Holmes" from Profile By Gaslight. Let's see if there's an origin story to those concerns at **Baker Street Elementary**...*



EXCUSE ME... IT IS NOT AN ADDICTION...
IT IS A SIMPLE PLEASURE TO HELP
RELIEVE MY BOUTS OF SEVERE BOREDOM
AT THIS INSTITUTION.



AND I CAN QUIT AT ANYTIME, I ASSURE YOU.



HOLMES, AS YOUR FRIEND, AND ALLY, I CANNOT
POSSIBLY SANCTION YOUR ILLICIT USE OF...

WAIT... THESE ARE NECTAR SOUR DROPS...
SIMPLE SUGAR CANDY.



WHAT DID YOU EXPECT TO SEE?? TOBACCO??



EVEN I CAN DEDUCE WHICH ONE OF YOU WILL
BE SOLVING THE CASES IN THE FUTURE.

THAT WAS ONE OF THE EASIER
ESSAYS I HAVE EVER TURNED IN... I
HOPE SHE SEES MY POINT OF VIEW.

WILL MR. 'NO
COMMENT'
PLEASE STAY
AFTER CLASS?



THE HEIGHT OF INANITY

"But why do they want to intimidate you?" [3GAB]

Bullying is nothing new. Amid the latest anti-bullying campaigns, it's instructive to note humans have been dealing with bullies and aggressive behavior since our earliest days.

Even in the animal kingdom, we see instances of alpha male behavior and even exclusion of some weaker members of tribes by certain groups. A quick glance at the Sherlock Holmes Canon will turn up any number of mentions of bullies:

- *Ronder was remembered as "A huge bully of a man" and "a coward as well as a bully." [VEIL]*
- *"A more perfect compound of the bully, coward, and sneak than Master Silas Brown I have seldom met with" was how Holmes referred to a suspect. [SILV]*
- *Moriarty was perhaps even more intimidating than a bully, as his conversational style had "a conviction of sincerity which a mere bully could not produce," according to Holmes. [FINA]*
- *Jack Woodley was "a dreadful person, a bully to everyone else," according to Violet Smith. [SOLI]*
- *When cornered by a victim, Charles Augustus Milverton, one of the greatest bullies by blackmailing London knew, countered with a weak and eventually ineffective "Don't imagine that you can bully me." [CHAS]*
- *When instructed one of his officers may have allowed a citizen into a crime scene, Inspector Lestrade demonstrated his authority: "a few moments later his bullying voice sounded from the back room." [SECO]*
- *Very effective at keeping visitors away, Colonel Emsworth "was sometimes a bully." [BLAN]*
- *And we can't forget Watson himself, who in his schoolboy years, participated in the bullying of Percy 'Tadpole' Phelps, the nephew of a great conservative politician Watson admitted "it seemed rather piquant thing to us to chevy him about the playground and hit him over the shins with a wicket." [NAVA]*

Because children are pretty much the same all over the world, it should be no surprise we find some bullies at Baker Street Elementary.

But we may also find their protectors there as well.

MASTER CHRIS, I UNDERSTAND YOU WERE PICKED ON BY AN OLDER STUDENT TODAY.

TOO TRUE CHRISTINA... I GUESS IT MAKES THEM FEEL BIGGER TO BELITTLE A YOUNG'UN... PUN INTENDED

THERE ARE CERTAIN PERKS TO BEING SMALLER.

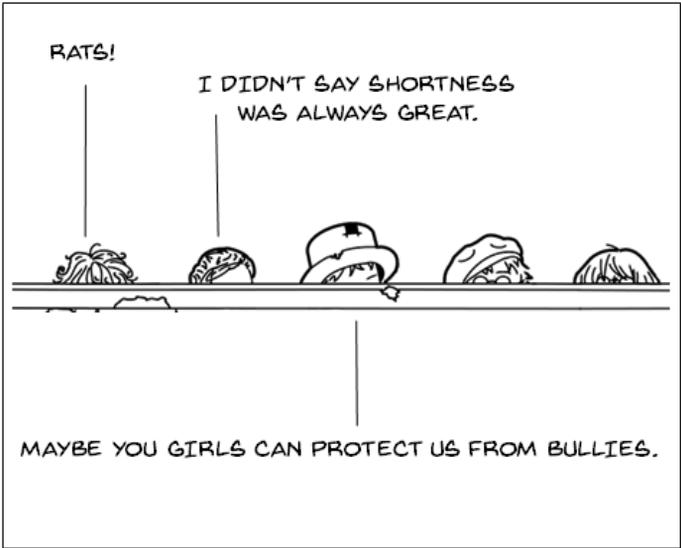
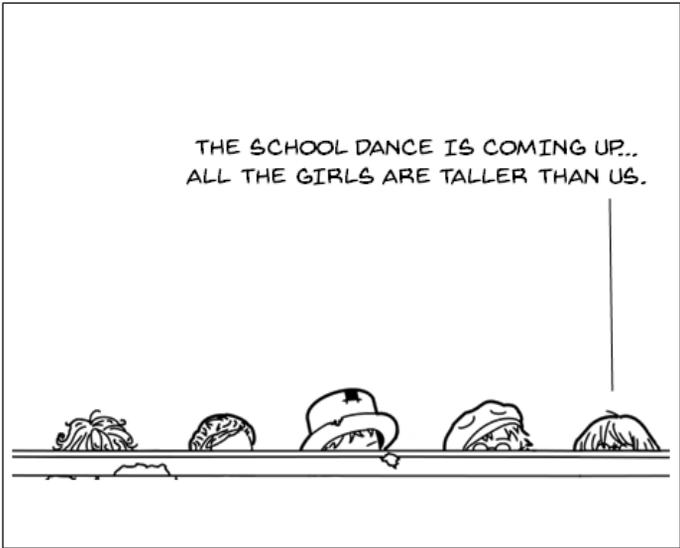
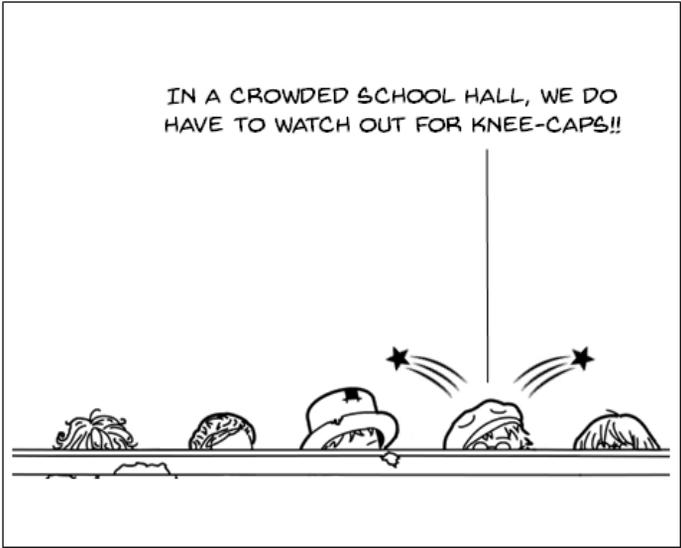
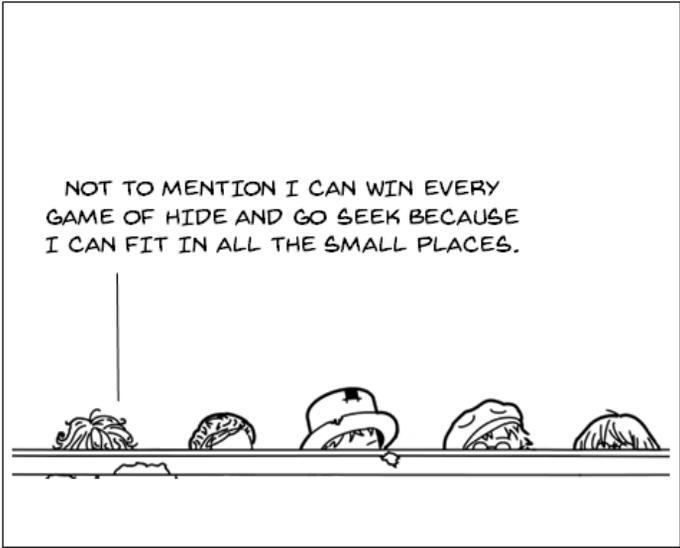
I GUESS I AM TOO SHORT TO SEE THEM... THE PERKS MUST BE ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THIS WALL, BRAD.

OH, FOR EXAMPLE, WE MAY BE THE LAST TO KNOW IT'S RAINING, BUT WE'RE THE FIRST TO KNOW IT'S FLOODING.

THERE'S A LOGIC TO THAT, PETER.

AND MY MOTHER SAYS YOU CAN ALWAYS HEM LONG PANTS, BUT YOU CAN'T MAKE TOO SHORT PANTS LONGER.

I CAN WALK UNDER ALMOST ALL THINGS WITHOUT DUCKING.



MY MOTHER HAD AN INTERESTING
OBSERVATION THIS WEEKEND?

WHICH WAS?



SUMMER IS THE TIME OF YEAR WHEN
PARENTS REALIZE JUST HOW GROSSLY
UNDERPAID TEACHERS ACTUALLY ARE.



I WROTE A THANK YOU NOTE TO THE TEACHER
FOR MAKING ME SLIGHTLY LESS STUPID.



THE TEACHER TOLD ME THE LAST
DAY OF SCHOOL IS A LITTLE LATE
TO ASK FOR EXTRA CREDIT WORK.

I WONDER IF THE TEACHERS ALSO LOOK
FORWARD TO SUMMER VACATION?

ARE YOU KIDDING? NOW
I CAN GO TO THE
BATHROOM WITHOUT
WAITING FOR A BELL.





Home of the Hounds

