

# *Baker Street Elementary*

## *Year Five*

*Created by Joe Fay,*

*Rusty Mason & Steve Mason*

*Introduction by Les Klinger*



*The first adventures of*

*Sherlock Holmes, John Watson, & Stamford*

# Baker Street Elementary

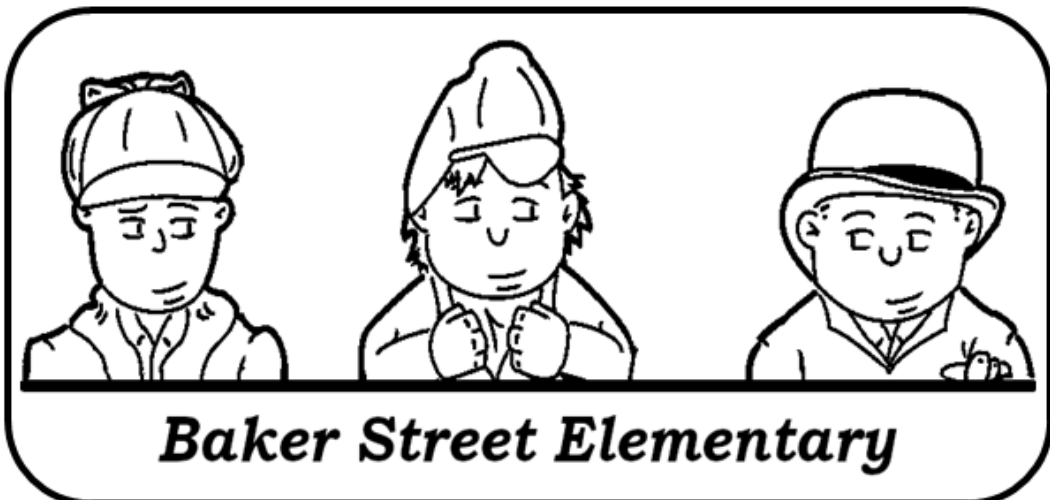
## Year 5

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PUBLISHED IN DENTON, TEXAS

STRIPS # 192 -- 247

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## INTRODUCTION

### BY LES KLINGER, BSI ("THE ABBEY GRANGE")

AFTER A TALK I GAVE RECENTLY ON SHERLOCK HOLMES, A WOMAN CAME UP TO ME TO TELL WHAT A TREMENDOUS FAN SHE WAS OF THE GREAT DETECTIVE.

SHE WAS SO PLEASE TO ATTEND MY TALK, BECAUSE, SHE EXCLAIMED, "I DIDN'T KNOW THERE WERE BOOKS!"

WHILE I SUSPECT SHE WAS A FAN OF SCREEN INCARNATIONS OF HOLMES, SHE MIGHT AS WELL HAVE BEEN SPEAKING OF FINDING HOLMES IN CARTOON IMAGES, FOR MANY A READER THE IMAGE OF A DETECTIVE IN DEERSTALKER AND CAPE THER FIRST.

SHERLOCK HOLMES, OR A FAIR COPY, HAS BEEN THE SUBJECT OF COMIC STRIPS, COMIC BOOKS, AND GRAPHIC NOVELISTS FOR MOST OF HIS LIFE.

CARTOONS OF PICKLOCK HOLMES, AND HIS FRIEND POTSON, ACCOMPANYING TALES TOLD BY ONE 'CUNNIN TOIL',

BEGAN IN PUNCH MAGAZINE IN AUGUST 1893, AND RAN OCCASIONALLY FOR MORE THAN 20 YEARS.

A SHORT-LIVED SERIES ABOUT 'PADLOCK BONES' APPEARED IN HEARST DAILY NEWSPAPERS IN 1904 AND SHERLOCK GUNK, AN ESKIMO DETECTIVE, APPEARED IN RUDOLF DIRK'S SUNDAY TALES OF THE KATZENJAMMER KIDS IN 1907.

THE SERIES SHERLOCKO THE MONK (LATER HAWKSHAW THE DETECTIVE) RAN IN THE HEARST NEWSPAPERS FROM 1910 TO 1952, WITH SEVERAL LONG ABSENCES.

IN 1930-31, A SERIES OF STRIPS BASED ON THE ORIGINAL STORIES AND DRAWN BY LEO O'MEALIA APPEARED IN THE BELL SYNDICATE, COLLECTED BY ETERNITY COMICS IN THREE ISSUES IN 1990.

THE FIRST COMIC BOOK TO FEATURE A SERIOUS HOLMES WAS CAPTAIN MARVEL, JR. IN 1942, IN WHICH FREDDY FREEMAN ENLISTED THE HELP OF HOLMES IN FIGHTING CAPTAIN NAZI (PROBABLY INSPIRED BY THE UNIVERSAL FILMS).

THE FIRST REAL HOLMES STORY, HOWEVER, WAS NOT SURPRISINGLY THE 1944 CLASSICS ILLUSTRATED, WHICH DEPICTED THE SIGN OF FOUR, FOLLOWED IN 1947 BY A RETELLING OF THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES AND IN 1953 BY A STUDY IN SCARLET AND "THE SPECKLED BAND".

ALTHOUGH OTHERS HAVE EXAMINED HOLMES AS A YOUNG MAN (SHERLOCK HOLMES: YEAR ONE) OR AS AN ADOLESCENT (RECENTLY KID SHERLOCK), NONE HAVE EMBRACED THE ENTIRE COTERIE OF THE CANON-HOLMES, WATSON, YOUNG STAMFORD, AND MORE -- AS LOVINGLY OR AS ENDEARINGLY AS **BAKER STREET ELEMENTARY**, FROM THE MINDS OF JOE FAY, STEVE MASON, AND RUSTY MASON.

'PAWKY' IS NOT A FIT DESCRIPTION FOR THE HUMOR OFFERED HERE.

ADJECTIVES THAT COME TO MIND ARE 'WACKY', 'BIZARRE', 'WRY', 'SOPHISTICATED', 'CHARMING', OCCASIONALLY 'SOPHOMORIC', BUT MOST OF ALL, 'ENJOYABLE'.

A RARE TREAT IS IN STORE FOR THE NEW READER OF **BAKER STREET ELEMENTARY**, AND DEEPLY SATISFYING PLEASURE IS AT HAND FOR ITS OLD FRIENDS.

READ ON!  
THE GAME IS AFOOT!

MALIBU, CA



## PROCRASTINATION IS MAKING ME WAIT

"I wondered what the cause of the delay could be" [NAVA]

*Have you ever procrastinated? We won't wait for you to answer that. Of course, you have. We all have, at one time or another. But making a habit of procrastination might be a sign of something deeper.*

*If you procrastinate chronically, there may be a connection to ADHD. Whether it's difficulty focusing, feeling overwhelmed, fear of failure... there may be a number of underlying reasons.*

*One is that sense of panic or a rush that comes with trying to complete something on a time-constricted deadline. It's like a stimulant to the brain. And there is a connection between stimulants and ADHD, which often leads to non diagnosed ADHD patients turning to drugs and alcohol to self medicate.*

*Which brings us to Sherlock Holmes.*

*Could he have had ADHD? His use of cocaine is well known, and it was typically at times when he didn't have work. He said he needed something to keep his mind busy, comparing it to "a racing engine," [SOLI] that "racks itself to pieces" [DEVI].*

*We get the most clear explanation of this in the opening of The Sign of Four, when Holmes was using cocaine "three times a day for many months":*

*"My mind rebels at stagnation. Give me problems, give me work, give me the most abstruse cryptogram or the most intricate analysis, and I am in my own proper atmosphere. I can dispense then with artificial stimulants. But I abhor the dull routine of existence. I crave for mental exaltation."*

*We're not neuropsychologists (nor do we play them on TV), so we'll leave the final diagnosis to the experts as to whether or not Sherlock Holmes had ADHD.*

*Meanwhile the boys at Baker Street Elementary deal with procrastination in their own way...*



WELL, HAVE YOU TWO SELECTED YOUR  
TOPIC FOR THE ESSAY DUE TOMORROW?



I HAVE YET TO FIND THE PROPER INSPIRATION.

WHAT ESSAY?



YOU CAN'T CREATE INSPIRATION  
OUT OF NOTHING... THERE HAS TO  
BE RIGHT MOOD AND SETTING.

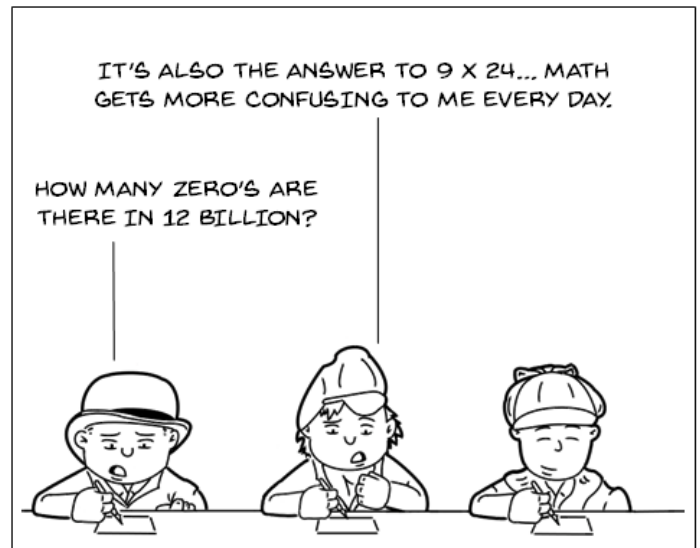
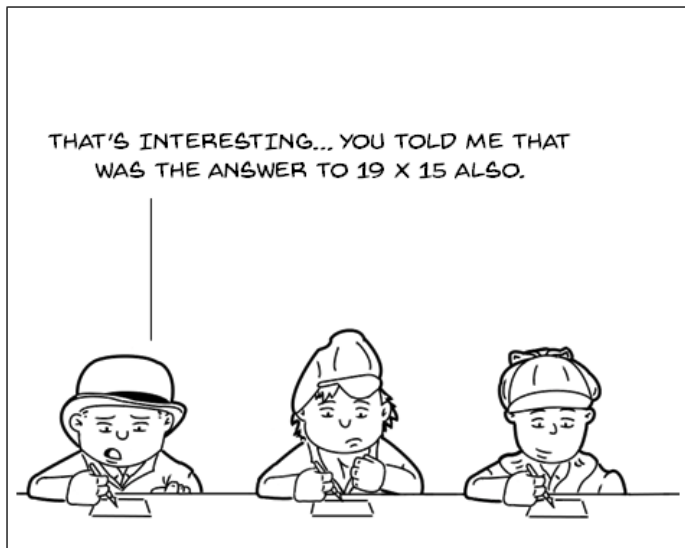
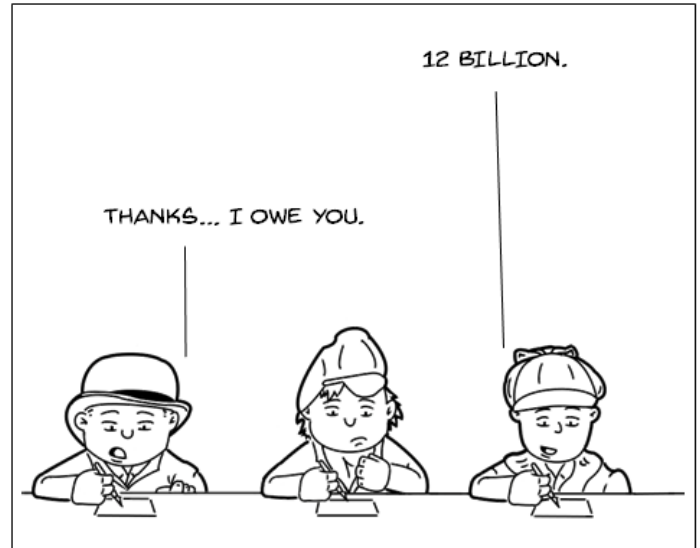
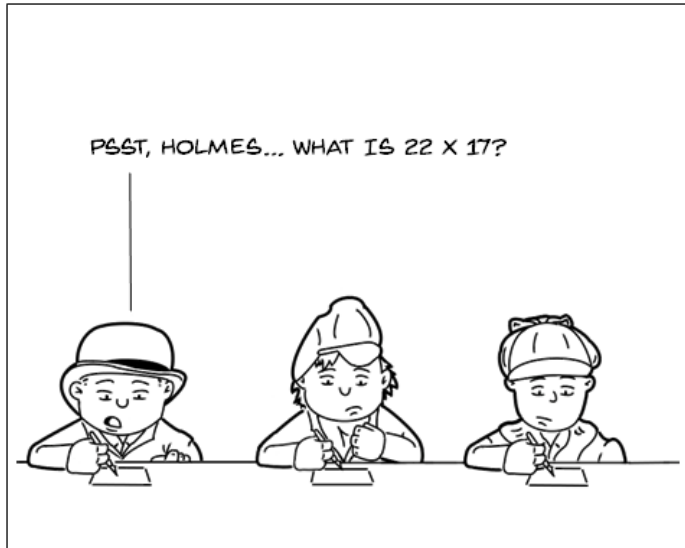


AND THAT MOOD AND SETTING WOULD BE?

PURE, LAST MINUTE,  
PANIC DOES IT FOR ME.



CAN I WRITE ABOUT NOTHING?





## RIDDLE ME THIS

*"Crime is common. Logic is rare." [COPP]*

Malcolm Gladwell's 2008 Book Outliers posited it takes 10,000 hours of deliberate practice to master anything. A recent study has debunked that claim. But the notion dedication results in expertise is a powerful one.

We look around at our fellow Sherlockians and imagine how much time, collectively, has been spent not only with the Sherlock Holmes stories, but the thousands of books, art ides and other media that have sprung up as a result of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's creation.

The original Constitution and Buy-Laws of the Baker Street Irregulars stated:

*"The current round shall be bought by any member who fails to identify, by title of story and context, and quotation from the Sacred Writings submitted by any other member.*

Qualification A. If two or more members fail so to identify, a round shall be bought by each of those so failing.

Qualification B. If the submitter of the quotation, upon challenge, fails to identify it correctly, he shall buy the round

There's no way this exercise could be seriously undertaken unless the attendees put in hours of reading, over and over again. And one might think in today's world, where online and offline search capabilities of the Canon make us lazier in this regard.

In our case, we strenuously object. Years of reading the Sherlock Holmes stories closely and watching the Jeremy Brett Granada episodes... which quite often lifted dialog directly from the Canon... it's burned into our brain.

We use the search capability to ensure we get the wording exactly right for the quote that precedes every article here.

Meanwhile the boys at **Baker Street Elementary** have a unique way of getting expertise...



STAMFORD, YOU FAILED YOUR  
GEOMETRY TEST... THAT'S A \_\_\_\_\_  
NEW CLASS RECORD.

I DON'T BELIEVE IT'S MY  
FAULT.



EXPERTS SUGGEST IT TAKES AT  
LEAST 10,000 HOURS OF PRACTICE  
TO MASTER A PARTICULAR SKILL...



...WE HAVE ONLY SUFFERED THROUGH  
GEOMETRY CLASSES FOR ONE HOUR A DAY  
FOR THE PAST TWO MONTHS OF SCHOOL...



...EVEN BY THE END OF THE YEAR, I WILL STILL  
BE THOUSANDS OF HOURS SHORT OF A THOROUGH  
UNDERSTANDING TO MASTER THE SKILL... DON'T  
YOU HAVE TO ACCEPT PART OF THE BLAME?



YES MA'AM... YOU SUGGEST I ATTEND 1  
HOUR OF DETENTION UNTIL THE END OF  
THE YEAR TO HELP MAKE UP THE HOURS??



YOU FORGET THE TEACHER HAS OVER 10,000  
HOURS OF DEALING WITH STUPID ARGUMENTS.

HARD TO ARGUE WITH HER LOGIC.



IT'S TIME FOR OUR CHRISTMAS PUNS... THIS YEAR, WE ARE FOCUSING ON 'OL SAINT NICK.



WHY DOES SANTA CLAUS GO DOWN THE CHIMNEY ON CHRISTMAS EVE?

BECAUSE IT SOOTS HIM.



WHAT DO YOU CALL THE ELVES THAT WORK AT THE NORTH POLE?

SUBORDINATE CLAUSES.



WHY DOES SANTA HAVE 3 GARDENS?

SO, HE CAN HO-HO-HO.



WHAT DO YOU CALL SANTA WHEN ACCIDENTALLY FALLS IN A FIREPLACE?

KRISP KRINGLE.



WHAT NAME DOES SANTA CLAUS USE WHEN HE TAKES A REST FROM DELIVERING PRESENTS?

SANTA PAUSE.



WHY DID SANTA GO TO JAIL?

HE SLEIGHED AN ELF.



DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE MALL SANTA WHO LOST HIS JOB?

HE WAS FIRED FOR CLAUS.



WHAT DO YOU CALL SOMEONE WHO IS AFRAID OF SANTA?

CLAUS-TROPHOBIC.



*merry christmas and happy new year*



## BE IT SO RESOLVED

*"Holmes showed signs of irresolution" [STUD]*

*We all have our struggles. And as we turn the page of the calendar, moving from one year to the next, the New Year holiday gives many people an excuse to change a behavior or try something new. Based on what we know about Holmes and Watson, how likely do you think it would have been either one of them would have had New Year's resolutions? And what might they have been?*

*Holmes strikes us as the type to not be concerned with the artificial stimulant of January 1. With his ordered brain and logical thinking, he could set himself to a new set of behaviors when he wanted to {although he struggled from time to time with his drug mania Watson helped free him from... "the fiend was not dead, but sleeping." [MISS].*

*Watson's family had its own issues with addiction... Holmes deduced in The Sign of Four Watson's brother was an alcoholic, and Holmes himself had to lock away Watson's cheque-book lest Watson gamble away his pension. Perhaps Watson tried his hand at resolutions regarding his betting habits. Either way, these resolutions may have been quickly forgotten on the occasion of Holmes's birthday on January 6<sup>th</sup>...*



I DON'T BELIEVE IT'S NEW YEARS ALREADY.



MY FATHER HAS A NEW WITH RESOLUTIONS... JUST WRITE OUT EVERYTHING YOU DID ON NEW YEAR'S EVE, AND AT THE BEGINNING, ADD THE WORD 'STOP'.



I WAS GOING TO QUIT ALL MY BAD HABITS, BUT THEN I REMEMBERED NOBODY LIKES A QUITTER.



MY NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION IS TO STOP HANING OUT WITH PEOPLE WHO ASK ME ABOUT MY NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS.

# 197 - 01-06-2019

MA'AM, I UNDERSTAND TRYING TO KEEP US BUSY OVER THE HOLIDAYS BY ASSIGNING US A TALE OF TWO CITIES...



WHAT DID I LEARN? EASY... IF YOU READ EVERY OTHER WORD, IT TAKES ONLY HALF THE TIME, AND MAKES JUST AS MUCH SENSE TO ME.



## PRESENTLY WITH AN EXCLAMATION OF SATISFACTION

*"bursting into an explosion of laughter" [STUD]*

*The Baker Street Irregulars Weekend is just wrapping up in New York, where the Irregulars and other Sherlockians have spent eating and drinking their way through Midtown.*

*Each year, we gather to celebrate the birthday of Sherlock Holmes, which traditionally has been marked as January 6. But it leads us to wonder... would Sherlock Holmes have celebrated his own birthday?*

*The master logician, to whom things like roses were not a necessity, but an extra, might not have believed the anniversary of his own existence was something that needed celebrating.*

*However, in his days at **Baker Street Elementary**, you can rest assured he hadn't yet matured into the 20 something he was when he and Watson first met...*



SO, HOLMES, DID YOU ENJOY YOUR BIRTHDAY?



FOR THE MOST PART, BUT IT'S STILL A WORK IN PROGRESS.

A WORK IN PROGRESS? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

OH, I DECIDED TO GIVE MYSELF MY OWN PRESENT THIS YEAR.



PLEASE TELL ME YOU ARE NOT BURNING ANYTHING UP AGAIN.



I WILL NOT HAVE DIRECT CONTACT IN THE MANNER, MY DEAR WATSON... HOWEVER, THE USE OF FLAMES IS INVOLVED... JUST LOOK OVER THERE.

I SEE IGNATIUS PRACTICING CRICKET.

WARM...

LESTRADE AND GREGSON SHAKING DOWN SOME YOUNG'UNS



WARMER...

THERE... THERE... IS... OH...

UMMM... I SEE AN OPEN FLAME WITH STAMFORD STANDING NEXT TO IT, POKING SOMETHING.



HE IS POKING AT COAL IN THE FIRE... SADLY, OUR POOR FRIEND RECEIVED A BLACK GEN FOR CHRISTMAS AND LOOKED LIKE HE NEEDED SOME CHEERING.

I INFORMED HIM COAL IS JUST ANOTHER FORM OF CARBON, AND DIAMONDS ARE JUST CARBON PUT UNDER EXTREME HEAT AND PRESSURE... SO, OUR LITTLE GEMOLOGIST IS SWEATING OVER THE FIRE, ABOUT TO START HAMMERING AWAY FOR HIS OWN DIAMOND.



SO, SOMEHOW YOU CONVINCED STAMFORD HE COULD MAKE HIS OWN DIAMOND?



WITH A LITTLE STRETCH OF THE TRUTH, YES.

WHAT DID YOU GET HIM TO APPLY THE PRESSURE?

I FOUND AN OLD POST MAUL.

IS THAT NOT OVERDOING IT?

I WANTED TO BE SURE IT WAS DONE IN ONE BIG STRIKE.



ONE STRIKE FOR WHAT?

MY BIRTHDAY PRESENT...



I THOUGHT THE DIAMOND ITSELF WAS THE PRESENT FOR YOU.

NOT AT ALL, JUST WAIT.

**STRIKE!**

**BOOM**



IT... IT EXPLODED... WHAT HAPPENED?

I TUCKED SOME COAL DUST IN THE MAUL HEAD... WHEN IT STRUCK THE BURNING COAL, IT CREATED MY BIRTHDAY PRESENT.



WHAT, A FIRE?

NO. FIREWORKS, OR IN THIS CASE, ONE BIG ONE.

I NEED TO MAKE SURE STAMFORD IS OKAY...

HE IS... JUST ENOUGH FOR A BIG FLASH... JUST A FEW BURNT HAIRS... BUT I SHOULD INFORM THE NURSE, ALL THE SAME.



HMMM... YOU MIGHT GRAB SOME AMMONIA.

PLEASE DO NOT DO ANYTHING FOR MY BIRTHDAY!!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, STAMFORD... AMAZING MY TWO  
BEST FRIENDS HAVE A JANUARY BIRTHDAY.



WE DON'T CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS IN MY FAMILY.



MY MOTHER STILL HAS NOT RECOVERED FROM  
THE TRAUMA OF CHILDBIRTH, SHE SAYS.



DID THE STORK ATTACK HER???



WHEN I WAS BORN, MY MOTHER SAID, "OH WHAT A TREASURE," AND MY FATHER SAID, "OK, LET'S BURY IT." HE HAD THAT BLACK EYE FOR ALMOST A WEEK.



MY GRANDMOTHER ONCE TOLD ME, "STATISTICS SHOW THOSE WHO HAVE THE MOST BIRTHDAYS LIVE THE LONGEST."



AND MY FATHER SAYS EVERY YEAR, "FORGET ABOUT THE PAST, YOU CAN'T CHANGE IT... FORGET ABOUT THE FUTURE, YOU CAN'T PREDICT IT... FORGET ABOUT THE PRESENT, I DIDN'T GET YOU ONE."



# 200 - 01-27-2019

## WE HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR

"I ain't afeared of anything on this side o' the grave" [STUD]

If there's one constant about what moves men and women, it is fear. Fear of the gods and fear of Achilles' anger was the basis of *The Iliad*. The Old Testament of the Bible features a God that is vengeful and is to be feared by his believers.

The Gothic tales of *Frankenstein*, *Dracula*, and *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* all trade on our fears... real or imagined.

The Sherlock Holmes stories as a whole are classified as mysteries, and a number of them contain elements of fear as part of the plot. From the Avenging Angels of *A Study in Scarlet* to the savage Tonga in *The Sign of Four*, we're introduced to unknown and unfamiliar elements, making us unsure and afraid.

By the time we reach the short stories, there are plenty of things to fear... the unseen hand of the KKK in 'The Five Orange Pips,' Jephro Rucastle's hardened grin of rage and threat to throw Miss Hunter to the mastiff in 'The Copper Beeches,' and the hostage situation at The Myrtles in 'The Greek Interpreter,' to name a few.

Conan Doyle had a way with words, and from the descriptions of houses to the settings of nature, he was able to effectively make us feel just as terrified as his characters.

Take this scene in 'The Speckled Band' with this exchange between Sherlock Holmes and Helen Stoner:

"I am glad to see that Mrs. Hudson has had the good sense to light the fire. Pray draw up to it, and I shall order you a cup of hot coffee, for I observe that you are shivering."

"It is not cold which makes me shiver," said the woman in a low voice, changing her seat as requested.

"What, then?"

"It is fear, Mr. Holmes. It is terror."

And you must be made of stone. if the hair on the back of your neck didn't rise at this exchange in *The Hound of the Baskervilles*:

"He said that there were no traces upon the ground round the body. He did not observe any. But I did... some little distance off, but fresh and clear."

"Footprints?"

"Footprints."

"A man's or a woman's?"

Dr. Mortimer looked strangely at us for an instant, and his voice sank almost to a whisper as he answered:

"Mr. Holmes, they were the footprints of a gigantic hound!"

Other stories based on fear, terror, and dread of the unknown that immediately spring to mind: 'Wisteria Lodge,' 'The Sussex Vampire,' 'The Blanched Soldier,' 'The Devil's Foot,' and 'The Creeping Man.'

Oh, and let's not forget an entire novel called *The Valley of Fear*. Perhaps you have others to name.

Meanwhile, let's see just what it is that's scaring the boys at **Baker Street Elementary**...



I SAW A SPIDER THIS MORNING... I AM SO AFRAID OF THOSE EIGHT-LEGGED MONSTERS.



YOU SUFFER FROM WHAT EXPERTS CALL 'ARACHNOPHOBIA', GREGSON.



HEIGHTS SCARE ME TO DEATH... I CAN'T EVEN CLIMB A TREE.



THAT WOULD BE 'ACROPHOBIA', LESTRADE.



I CAN'T STAND CLIMBING STAIRS.



WATSON, THAT MIGHT BE WHAT I REFER TO AS 'CLIMACOPHOBIA'... YOU MIGHT WANT TO GET OVER THAT ONE.

MY DOCTOR CAME UP WITH A TERM... HE SAYS I SUFFER FROM 'PANOPHOBIA'.

WHAT IS THAT?



I'M SCARED OF EVERYTHING.

HOLMES, I HAVE A QUESTION CONCERNING YOUR ANSWER DURING CAREER DAY TODAY.



NOT SURE THE TEACHER LIKED MY CAREER CHOICE.

YOU TOLD HER YOU WANT TO BE A CONSULTING DETECTIVE... THE FIRST ONE EVER.

UNEMPLOYED CAN BE A CAREER CHOICE.



HOW CAN YOU TAKE A JOB LIKE THAT, WHEN YOU BASICALLY DON'T LOVE MANKIND?



AS MY UNCLE SAYS, "HARD WORK PAYS OFF IN THE FUTURE, LAZINESS PAYS OFF NOW."

OH, THAT'S EASY... I LOVE MANKIND... IT'S SOME PEOPLE I CAN'T STAND.

IF A JOB'S WORTH DOING, IT'S TOO HARD.



## INCORRIGIBLE

*"I was able to follow the trend" [HOUN]*

*There were a number of individuals in the Canon who we can easily call irredeemable.*

*Merriam Webster defines irredeemable as... 'being beyond remedy... hopeless.'*

*Certainly, individuals like Grimesby Roylott, the evil stepfather in 'The Speckled Band', the jovial, rotund, yet nefarious Jephro Rucastle in 'The Copper Beeches', and the wicked, plotting Culverton Smith in 'The Dying Detective'.*

*But what about individuals who carried out some perfidy, yet were victims of their circumstances? People like Eugenia Ronder in 'The Veiled Lodger', or Isadora Klein in 'The Three Gables'?*

*Probably not irredeemable, but horribly wronged in some way, forcing them to act in otherwise negative fashions. What about those who might have been incorrigible?*

*That is, "those incapable of being corrected or amended"?*

*It's a lesser adjective than above, but still denotes a lack of some kind of judgement. Again, the Rucastle family comes to mind, with little Edward and his cockroach-smacking slippers.*

*What about others? Sherlock Holmes typically sees punishment is meted out on those who deserve it, and mercy is granted to those who have mitigating circumstances.*

*So, it's difficult to think of anyone who was incorrigible. Except for one servant, mentioned early on. She's called out in this singular use of the word in the Canon.*

*It comes from Watson's mouth directly, as Holmes deduces the state of the Watson household in 'A Scandal in Bohemia'...*

*"How do I know that you have been getting yourself very wet lately, and that you have a most clumsy and careless servant girl?"*

*"My dear Holmes," said I, "this is too much. You would certainly have been burned, had you lived a few centuries ago. It is true that I had a country walk on Thursday and came home in a dreadful mess, but as I have changed my clothes, I can't imagine how you deduce it. As to Mary Jane, she is incorrigible, and my wife has given her notice."*

*Now Stamford is another case entirely at Baker Street Elementary...*

QUICK, NAME UNIQUE ITEMS THAT EVERYONE  
IS DIFFERENT FROM THE OTHERS.



MY SCHOOL TEST SCORES...



SNOWFLAKES?




REASONS MY MOTHER PUNISHES ME...



EARLOBES.

EARLOBES?

TRUST ME ON THAT ONE.




A row of seven cartoon characters, including a girl with a hat, a boy with a hat, a boy with a hat, a girl with a hat, a boy with a hat, a girl with a hat, and a boy with a hat, looking upwards. A vertical line connects the text 'EARLOBES?' to the first character. Another vertical line connects 'EARLOBES.' to the fourth character. A third vertical line connects 'TRUST ME ON THAT ONE.' to the fourth character.

WAYS TO EARN DETENTION.



A row of seven cartoon characters, including a girl with a hat, a boy with a hat, a boy with a hat, a girl with a hat, a boy with a hat, a girl with a hat, and a boy with a hat, looking upwards. A vertical line connects the text 'WAYS TO EARN DETENTION.' to the fourth character.

YOU KNOW, STAMFORD, THERE SEEMS TO BE  
A GENERAL THEME IN YOUR ANSWERS.



A row of seven cartoon characters, including a girl with a hat, a boy with a hat, a boy with a hat, a girl with a hat, a boy with a hat, a girl with a hat, and a boy with a hat, looking upwards. A vertical line connects the text 'YOU KNOW, STAMFORD, THERE SEEMS TO BE A GENERAL THEME IN YOUR ANSWERS.' to the seventh character.



YOU KNOW GENETICS IS AN INTERESTING STUDY TO STUDY... MY THANKS TO MISTER IMRE FESTERICS.



MY PARENTS KEEP SAYING I HAVE MY MOTHER'S EYES.

I THINK I HAVE MY FATHER'S EARS.



WHEN I LOOK IN A MIRROR, I SEE MY GRANDFATHER'S HAIR LINE.



SADLY, IT WOULD BE MY LUCK TO HAVE MY OWN BRAIN.



THE HAWK-SHAPED NOSE IS DEFINITELY A FAMILY CHARACTERISTIC.

## ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL

"did you say you wished to travel?" [3GAB]

The genre of science fiction owes its beginnings to a handful of writers. Jules Verne (1828 -1905) is perhaps one of the best known and the earliest.

But H.G. Wells (1866 -1946) was another, and he was a contemporary of Conan Doyle.

Naturally, there's an intersection between Wells and Sherlock Holmes, and it comes partly through the artifice of Manly Wade Wellman, BSI ("Wisteria Lodge") and his son.

Manly Wade Wellman (not wanly made) was a science fiction writer of note whose association with Sherlock Holmes goes back to the early days of the BSI.

Ellery Queen included one of Wellman's stories in The Misadventures of Sherlock Holmes, which was published and celebrated at the famed Trilogy Dinner in March 1944. And later on, together with his son, Wellman birthed Sherlock Holmes's War of the Worlds.

Here, Peter Blau, BSI ("Black Peter") remembers Wellman in Vol. 36, No. 3 of **The Baker Street Journal**... Manly Wade Wellman, who died in April 1986, was a fine writer in the worlds of mystery, science fiction, and fantasy, and in ours.

His 1941 pastiche "But Our Hero Was Not Dead" was chosen by Ellery Queen for reprinting in The Misadventures of Sherlock Holmes, and his contributions to the Journal ranged from tales-in-verse to an article suggesting that Bertie Wooster's valet Jeeves was Sherlock Holmes's son.

In 1975 he and his son Wade Wellman combined all of his enthusiasm in Sherlock Holmes' War of the Worlds, pitting Holmes, Watson, and Challenger against the invading Martians.

The loss of his varied talents is sad indeed.

Now let's take a Time Machine back to **Baker Street Elementary**...

GOOD DAY, MASTERS HOLMES,  
STAMFORD, AND WATSON.

GOOD DAY TO YOU... HOW GOES THE  
STORY CREATING THESE DAYS?



I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN A LITTLE  
CONFUSED... DO WE ADDRESS YOU  
AS 'HERBERT' OR 'GEORGE'?



ACTUALLY, MY FAMILY REFERS TO BE AS 'BERTIE'...  
I HAD A VERY INTERESTING DREAM LAST NIGHT  
THAT COULD LEAD TO A VERY GOOD YARN.

I HAD CREATED A 'CONTRAPTION'  
THAT WOULD DELIVER ME EITHER  
FORWARD OR BACKWARD IN TIME.



THAT WOULD BE A WONDEROUS MACHINE... WOULD  
YOU WANT TO VISIT THE PAST OR FUTURE?



I THINK I WOULD START WITH THE PAST.

WOULD YOU BE ABLE TO RIGHT WRONGS THAT YOU OR OTHERS HAVE PERPETRATED IN THE PAST?



WOULD I HAVE TO RE-TAKE ALL MY SCHOOL TESTS?

YOU WOULD NEED TO BE CAREFUL TINKERING WITH THE PAST...



...WE MIGHT END UP WITH A WORLD WHERE DINOSAURS RULE, AND WE ARE THEIR PETS.

HAVE YOU CONSIDERED SIMPLY GOING BY YOUR INITIALS?



SO, HOW WOULD YOU REACT TO THE IDEA OF RELIVING YOUR LIFE OVER AGAIN?

I DON'T KNOW BERTIE... YOU MEAN EXACTLY AS I LIVED IT?



SO, HOW WOULD YOU REACT TO THE IDEA OF RELIVING YOUR LIFE OVER AGAIN?

I DON'T KNOW BERTIE... YOU MEAN EXACTLY AS I LIVED IT?



NO CHANGES AT ALL? IT WOULD BE JUST AS IF IT WAS THE FIRST TIME?



YEP, NO CHANGES WHAT-SO-EVER.

I BET MY PARENT'S REACTION WOULD BE DIFFERENT THAN MINE.



I'M BETTING THE ENTIRE WORLD'S REACTION WOULD BE DIFFERENT THAN MINE.



HELLO, MASTER HOLMES... MASTER WATSON... I HAVE A FAVOUR TO ASK YOU.



WE WILL TRY TO ASSIST YOU, MASTER NEWNES.

I HAVE BEEN ASKED TO WRITE AN ESSAY FOR THE SCHOOL NEWSPAPER ON FRIENDSHIP... MAY I IMPOSE UPON YOU TO RELATE YOUR FIRST MEETING?



THAT WOULD BE EASY... I HAD JUST TRANSFERRED TO THIS SCHOOL... HOLMES WAS LOOKING FOR A NEW LAB PARTNER... LONG STORY... AND STAMFORD INTRODUCED US.

UNIQUE, TO SAY THE LEAST.

I AM SURE WATSON IS GLAMORIZING THE EVENTS TO A CERTAIN EXTENT.

OF COURSE, ONE WEEK LATER, HOLMES DESTROYED THE LAB, TORCHING OFF EVERY HAIR ON OUR HEADS... THE HEADMASTER SUGGESTED WE WEAR HATS, AND THEY HAVE BECOME OUR 'TRADEMARKS'.



NO, I THINK WATSON HIT IT RIGHT ON THE HEAD.



DID I MENTION HOLMES TRYING TO GET ME KILLED SEVERAL TIMES WHILE SOLVING PETTY MYSTERIES AROUND THE SCHOOL?

## WHAT A GUII-BULL

"the young giant's naive astonishment" [MISS]

You'll recall in last our last **Baker Street Elementary** strip, we discussed the connection between H.G. Wells and Sherlock Holmes, made through Manly Wade Wellman's work Sherlock Holmes' the War of the Worlds.

The original The War of the Worlds was developed into a radio drama in 1938 by The Mercury Theater on the Air (more on that shortly) famously directed and narrated by Orson Welles (no relation to H.G.) on October 30, 1938.

The production was so convincingly done some listeners mistook it for a program of real news bulletins and some broadcasters called for better regulation of the new-ish audio medium.

The Mercury Theater on the Air was created by Orson Welles and first aired on July 11, 1938 on CBS Radio. Welles' idea was to adapt classic literary works to an hour-long radio drama and use his Mercury Theater repertory company (established in 1937)....

The first episode was *Dracula*, followed by *Treasure Island*. Interestingly, both Bram Stoker and Robert Louis Stevenson were contemporaries and associates of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.

But just one month prior to the now infamous The War of the Worlds episode... on September 25, 1938... the Mercury Theater performed an adaptation of William Gillette's play *Sherlock Holmes*.

Welles took the title role, with Ray Collins as Dr. Watson (Collins later went on to portray Lt. Tragg in *Perry Mason* on television).

Interested followers can listen to the episode on YouTube.

One other connection of interest... Orson Welles later went on to play Professor Moriarty in the John Gielgud / Ralph Richardson radio adaptations The New Adventures of Sherlock Holmes from 1955.

And now off to see how many we can fool at **Baker Street Elementary**...

GOOD DAY BERTIES... I ENJOYED YOUR  
IDEA LAST WEEK OF TIME TRAVELING.

IT WAS A  
WONDERFUL TALE.



THANKS... I HAD ANOTHER INTERESTING  
DREAM LAST NIGHT THAT COULD ALSO  
TURN INTO A GREAT YARN.



I DREAMED CREATURES FROM  
ANOTHER WORLD, SAY MARS, CAME  
TO EARTH IN SOME SORT OF SHIP.



DID THEY LOOK LIKE US?



NO, THEY WERE MONSTROUS  
LOOKING... SIMPLY HIDEOUS.

I HOPE YOU DON'T THINK THE PUBLIC  
WOULD BELIEVE THIS TYPE OF FICTION.



OH, I DON'T KNOW... YOU GET THE RIGHT AUDIENCE,  
WITH THE RIGHT CIRCUMSTANCES, YOU MIGHT BE  
ABLE TO CONVINCE THEM IT WAS ACTUALLY  
OCCURRING... PEOPLE CAN BE VERY GULLIBLE.



ISN'T IT WEIRD THE BAD REPUTATION STEP-MOTHERS RECEIVE IN ALL THE FAIRY TALES?



YES, THEY ALWAYS SEEM TO BE THE ANTAGONIST TO THE PRINCE OR PRINCESS.

I WILL TELL YOU WEIRD... MY OLDEST BROTHER MARRIED A WIDOW, MARY, WHO HAD A GROWN-UP DAUGHTER, VIOLET.



MY FATHER, RICHARD, WHO IS A WIDOWER, FELL IN LOVE WITH VIOLET AND SOON THEY WERE ALSO WED.



THIS MADE MY DAD JACK'S SON-IN-LAW, AS WELL AS MAKING VIOLET MY STEP-MOTHER.

KEEPING UP, WATSON?



THIS MAKES JACK'S STEP-DAUGHTER ALSO HIS STEP-MOTHER... JACK AND MARY HAD A BABY BOY, WALTER, WHO THEN BECAME BROTHER-IN-LAW TO MY DAD... SO, WALTER IS JACK'S SON AND UNCLE.



WE NEED A SCORE CARD AT FAMILY REUNIONS.

GREGSON, I DON'T THINK YOUR FAMILY HAS A FAMILY TREE, BUT MORE A SPIDER WEB.



## FREEBIES

*"my correspondence certainly has the charm of variety" [NOBL]*

*The world knows Sherlock Holmes as a master detective... a professional who assists Scotland Yard in tracking down criminals.*

*But in reality, in his role as a private consulting detective, there were instances when he was approached simply for advice, not because a crime was taking place.*

*In fact, there was an instance when Sherlock Holmes became so annoyed with being consulted for minor occurrences that he complained...*

*"As to my own little practice, it seems to be degenerating into an agency for recovering lost lead pencils and giving advice to young ladies from boarding schools."*

*Some of the most memorable cases in which clients sought advice included...*

- 'A Case of Identity' in which Mary Sutherland questioned what happened to her suitor (who turned out to be someone else entirely);*
- 'The Noble Bachelor', where Lord Robert St. Simon lost his betrothed following their wedding ceremony;*
- 'The Copper Beeches' (the story from which the quote above was taken), when Violet Hunter consults Sherlock Holmes about taking a governess job that paid twice as much as market rates;*
- 'The Yellow Face' turned out to be nothing more than a cry for marriage counseling;*
- 'The Missing Three Quarter' was a matter of the whereabouts of a wayward athlete;*
- 'The Sussex Vampire' concerned the verification of a mythical monster.*

*So, not all run-of-the-mill murder, blackmail, or robbery for Sherlock Holmes.*

*We even begin to discern some of the unusual consulting he gave at **Baker Street Elementary**...*



ONCE AGAIN, OUR TEACHER HAS BAFFLED ME.

THAT'S SETTING  
THE BAR LOW.



NOT ONLY DID THE TEACHER CATCH ME CHEATING ON LAST WEEK'S TEST, SHE ALSO FOUND OUT I COPIED MY HOMEWORK OFF BOTH OF YOU... I HAVE DETENTION FOR A MONTH.

OH, THE HORRORS!



I HAVE A SUGGESTION... FINISH YOUR OWN HOMEWORK, AND KEEP YOUR EYES TO YOURSELF DURING THE NEXT EXAM... I ANTICIPATE YOU WILL NOT GET PUNISHED AGAIN.



THANKS SHERLOCK... ONCE AGAIN, THERE IS NO PROBLEM SO BAD YOU CAN'T TOSS IN SOME GUILT AND MAKE ME FEEL WORSE.



I WON'T EVEN CHARGE FOR YOU THE ADVICE, MY GOOD MAN.

TODAY, WE'RE GOING TO LEARN \_\_\_\_\_  
MORE ABOUT TENSES...



AS A REVIEW... IF I SAY, "I  
AM BEAUTIFUL," WHICH \_\_\_\_\_  
TENSE IS THE VERB?

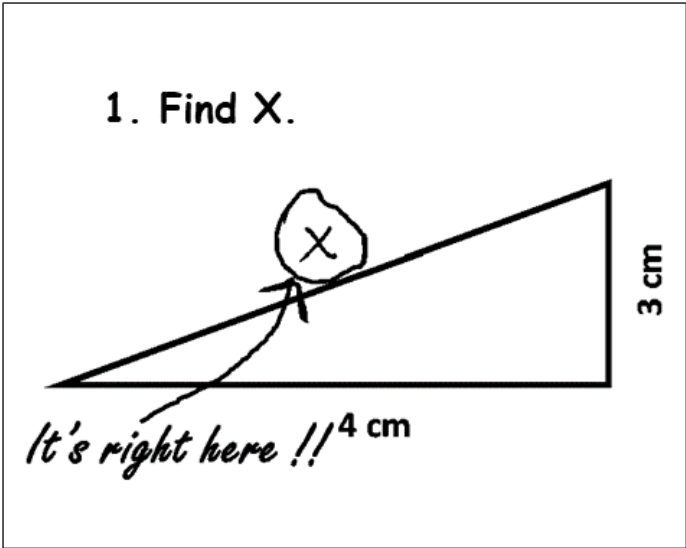
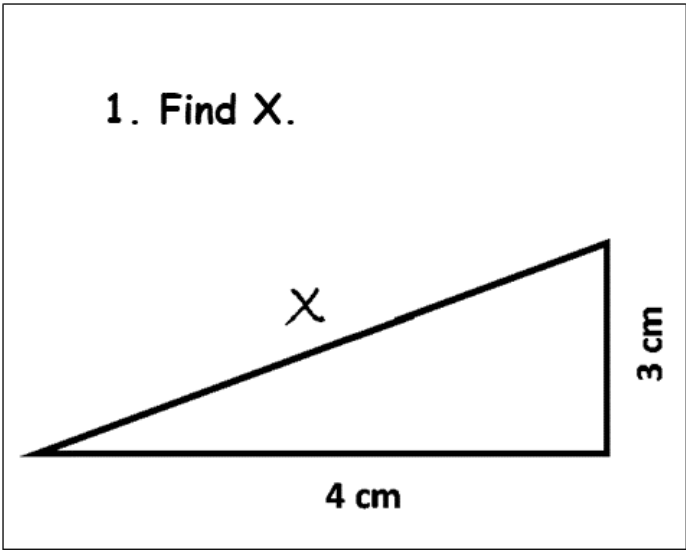
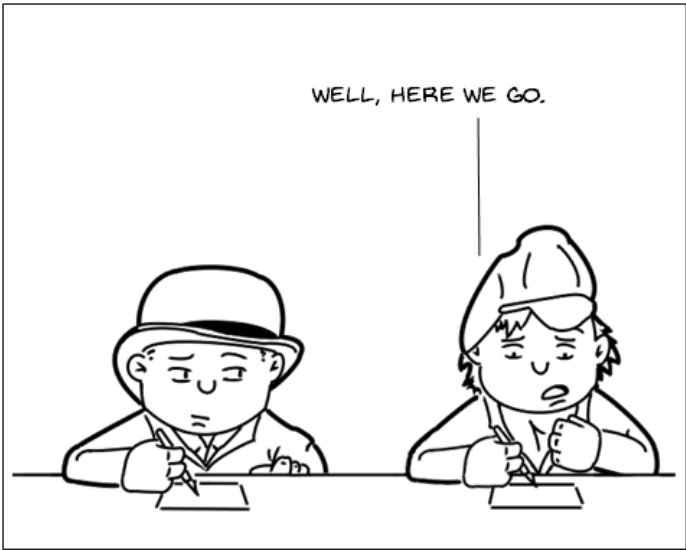


OBVIOUSLY, PAST TENSE, I WOULD DEDUCE.



YES MA'AM... THIS IS THE EARLIEST YOU HAVE  
DISPATCHED ME TO THE HEADMASTER THIS MONTH.





TODAY, I WOULD LIKE TO LEARN  
MORE ABOUT YOUR HOME LIFE...



SHERLOCK, WHAT DOES  
YOUR MOTHER DO? \_\_\_\_\_



SO, WHAT DOES  
YOUR FATHER DO? \_\_\_\_\_



SHE IS MULTI-TALENTED... SHE RUNS OUR  
HOUSEHOLD, IS A WRITER, ARTIST, AND  
KEEPS MY BROTHER AND I IN LINE.



WHATEVER MOTHER SAYS.



## RAID

"my correspondence certainly has the charm of variety" [NOBL]

Insects don't get a lot of attention in the Sherlock Holmes stories, although they crawl in from time to time. In The Hound of the Baskervilles, Watson first encountered Stapleton when the moor resident was chasing butterflies.

"A tin box for botanical specimens hung over his shoulder and he carried a green butterfly-net in one of his hands."

Stapleton's study in MerripithHouse contained his remarkable collection of Lepidoptera...

"The room had been fashioned into a small museum, and the walls were lined by a number of glass-topped cases full of that collection of butterflies and moths, the formation of which had been the relaxation of this complex and dangerous man"

And when Holmes and Watson visited the home of Nathan Garrideb in 'The Three Garridebs,' this consummate collector's surroundings were described by Watson...

"The room was as curious as its occupant. It looked like a small museum. It was both broad and deep, with cupboards and cabinets all round, crowded with specimens, geological and anatomical."

Even two individuals in the Canon had attributes that were positively insect-like. Can you identify each and the stories in which they appeared?

"The man drew out paper and tobacco and twirled the one up in the other with surprising dexterity. He had long, quivering fingers as agile and restless as the antennae of an insect."

"The Baron has little waxed tips of hair under his nose, like the short antennae of an insect. These quivered with amusement as he listened, and he finally broke into a gentle chuckle."

Finally, the most notorious individual connected with insects must be little Edward Rucastle, whose interactions with bugs were described by his proud father Jephro:

"One child -- one dear little romper just six years old. Oh, if you could see him killing cockroaches with a slipper! Smack! smack! smack! Three gone before you could wink!"

But more than a father's twisted sense of pride, the following description of little Edward should have been an early indicator of the cruelty that pervaded the Copper Beeches...

"His whole life appears to be spent in an alternation between savage fits of passion and gloomy intervals of sulking. Giving pain to any creature weaker than himself seems to be his one idea of amusement, and he shows quite remarkable talent in planning the capture of mice, little birds, and insects."

Meanwhile, there's a certain appreciation for insects at **Baker Street Elementary**...

The answers to the mini quiz above:

- Dr. Mortimer, The Hound of the Baskervilles
- Baron Gruner, 'The Illustrious Client'

I READ THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY 20,000  
KINDS OF INSECTS KNOWN IN THE WORLD.

THEY ALL  
CREEP ME OUT.



SNAKES ARE MY BANE... ESPECIALLY, IF THEY  
CAN GET TO PLACES YOU WOULD NEVER EXPECT.



MY PHOBIA IS BEES... NO IDEA WHY SOMEONE  
WOULD RAISE THOSE LITTLE BLIGHTERS.



**WHACK!**

19,999 KINDS NOW.



YOU KNOW STAMFORD, ONE BUG DOES NOT  
CONSTITUTE AN ENTIRE SPECIES.

YOU HAVE TO START THE  
BATTLE SOMEWHERE.



GOOD LUCK EXPLAINING THIS TO THE LIBRARIAN.



MORNING, MISS SUSAN... WHAT BRINGS YOU DOWN HERE?



I AM HERE TO LET YOU GENTLEMEN KNOW OF A NEW JOURNAL THAT A FEW OTHER LADIES AND I ARE BEGINNING... WE WILL BE FOCUSING ON ARTICLES FROM THE STUDENTS AT THIS SCHOOL RELATED TO THE WORKS OF SHAKESPEARE.

REALLY? THAT SOUNDS WONDERFUL... WHAT TYPE OF ARTICLES WILL YOU BE ACCEPTING?

SINCE WE ARE JUST KICKING IT OFF, WE WILL TAKE JUST ABOUT ANYTHING.



SPEAKING OF WHICH, I WOULD THANK YOU, STAMFORD, FOR SUBMITTING AN ARTICLE.

STAMFORD SUBMITTED ONE?



WHY YES, I WROTE AN ARTICLE FOR MISS DIAMOND, ON HOW KING JOHN, EDWARD III, RICHARD II, HENRY IV, RICHARD III, AND HENRY VIII ALL TAKE PLACE IN THE SAME WORLD... TOOK ME OVER DAY TO GET ALL THE RESEARCH DONE.



STAMFORD, YOU DO KNOW WHAT SHAKESPEARE'S ENGLISH HISTORIES MEAN?



AS I SAID, WE ARE TAKING JUST ABOUT ANYTHING.

SUSAN, WE WILL ALL MISS YOU... CAN'T WAIT TO SEE WHAT TYPE OF SOCIETY YOU SET UP NEXT!

## UP AND ADAMS

"It was Adams" [GREE]

If one does a cursory search of the Sherlock Holmes stories for the name Adam, one is likely to come up rather short. Any quick search will yield 'adam' as part of dozens of instances of 'madam'.

But if one is looking for the given name that matches that of the first human in the Bible, there is no one named Adam in the Canon.

However, we are treated to a quick mention of the surname Adams in 'The Greek Interpreter,' when Mycroft Holmes turns to Watson and Holmes and says:

"I am glad to meet you, sir," said he, putting out a broad, fat hand like the flipper of a seal. "I hear of Sherlock everywhere since you became his chronicler. By the way, Sherlock, I expected to see you round last week, to consult me over that Manor House case. I thought you might be a little out of your depth."

"No, I solved it," said my friend, smiling.

"It was Adams, of course."

"Yes, it was Adams."

"I was sure of it from the first."

This is the first and the last we hear of either Adams or the Manor House case. Who was Adams? What did he do? What happened at the Manor House that required a consultation with Mycroft Holmes?

These are questions that are left unanswered, and very few individuals have attempted to solve it.

In 1996, Edward D. Hoch wrote the pastiche *The Manor House Case* in the style of Ellery Queen.

And the radio production of *The New Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* with Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce brought us "The Manor House Case" on October 15, 1945.

But aside from that, we don't know the Manor House case from Adams.

Maybe **Baker Street Elementary** is having more luck...

ASSUMING YOU MAKE IT TO HEAVEN WHEN YOU PASS, WHO WOULD YOU WANT TO MEET?



THE INVENTOR OF THE MYSTERY GENRE, MISTER POE WOULD BE MY CHOICE.



I WOULD WANT TO SHAKE THE HAND OF ROBERT PEEL, THE FOUNDER OF THE METROPOLITAN POLICE SERVICE.



I WOULD BE HUMOURED TO MEET ADAM, AND SEE IF IT IS TRUE.

TO SEE IF WHAT IS TRUE?



ASSUMING EVERYONE THERE WILL NOT HAVE  
THE SHACKLES OF CLOTHING, I SHOULD BE  
ABLE TO EASILY PICK HIM OUT OF A CROWD.



THINK ABOUT IT...

**OH!!!**



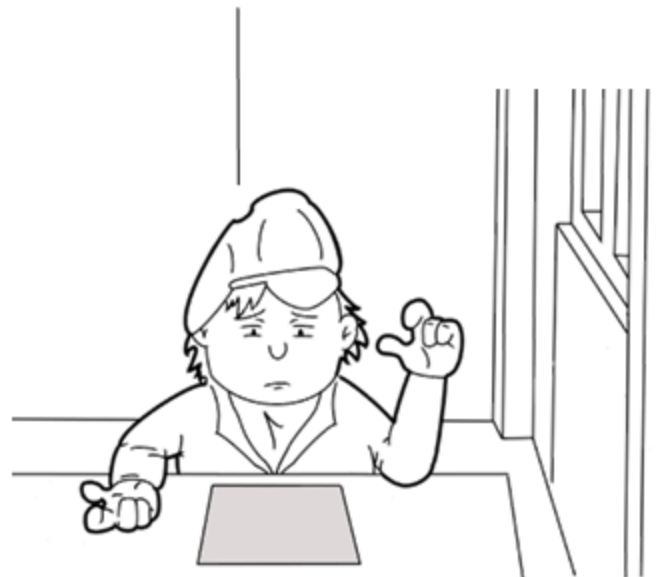
IF GOD IS THE HEADMASTER, I ASSUME I WILL  
BE SPENDING A LOT OF TIME IN HIS OFFICE.



MA'AM, I DON'T UNDERSTAND THAT LOW GRADE...



YOU TOLD ME FOR THIS ESSAY TO EXPAND MY VOCABULARY, BUT WHEN I MAKE UP OVER 50 NEW WORDS, YOU SAY THAT'S NOT WHAT YOU MEANT.



ONCE AGAIN STAMFORD, I HAVE TO ASSUME YOU ARE NOT DOING YOUR OWN WORK ON THE SURPRISE QUIZZES.



DO YOU HAVE EVIDENCE OF THIS POTENTIALLY SLANDEROUS STATEMENT?



THE FIRST QUESTION WAS, 'WHO WAS THE PREDECESSOR OF QUEEN VICTORIA?'

SHERLOCK WROTE 'WILLIAM IV'.

SO DID I.



THE SECOND QUESTION WAS, 'WHERE WAS NAPOLEON'S MOST FAMOUS DEFEAT?'

WROTE JOHN, 'WATERLOO'.

SAME FOR ME.



THE THIRD QUESTION WAS, 'WHAT YEAR DID PARLIAMENT ABOLISH SLAVERY IN THE BRITISH EMPIRE?'

IGNATIUS WROTE, 'I HAVE NO IDEA!'



YOU WROTE, 'ME NEITHER...'





## NOT QUITE THE SOLUTION HE EXPECTED

*"I could tell by numerous subtle signs" [WIST]*

*Young children are not purveyors of or dabblers in subtlety. When it comes to sarcasm specifically, research has shown children begin to detect sarcasm at age six but don't appreciate the humour until age 10.*

*In that age range -- which likely includes the ages of our students below -- it's important for adults to be direct rather than try to imply.*

*Only the most astute child would be able to infer just what it is a veiled response might signify.*

*We're reminded of a scene in the Firesign Theater's The Giant Rat of Sumatra, in which a young ingénue seeks the help of Hemlock Stones over a secret message. Stones looks at the note and determines...*

*"Hmm, this is a rebus written in a simple head code. Haha, any English schoolboy could catch it. Achoo! (holding nose) Flotsam, pull down the simple English schoolboys decoding manual."*

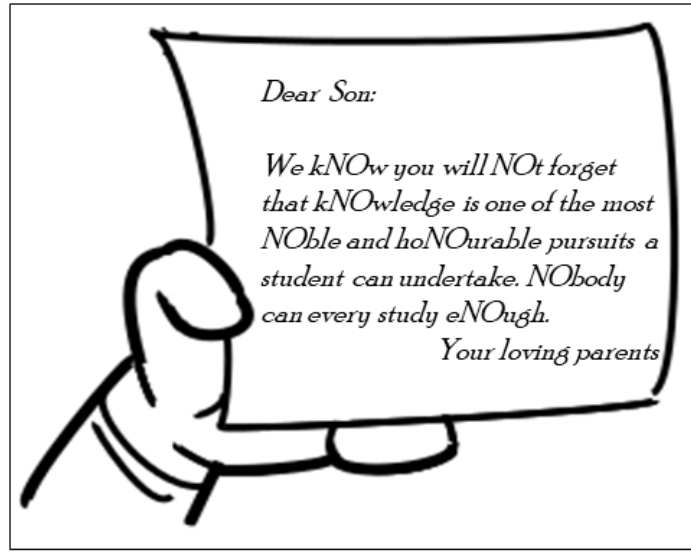
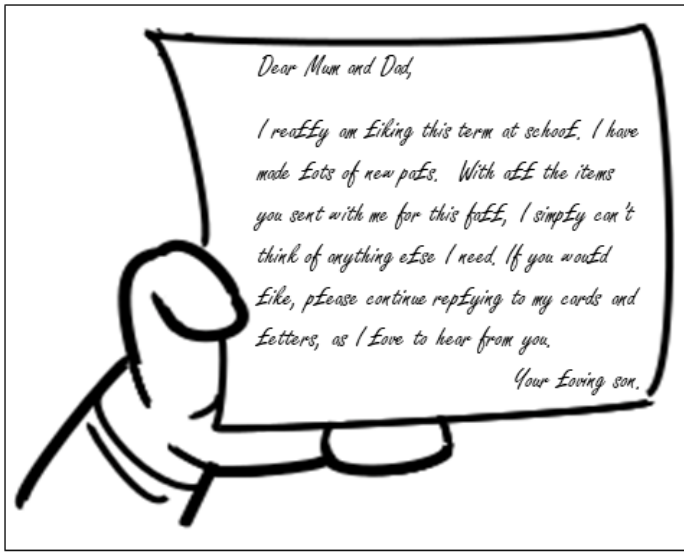
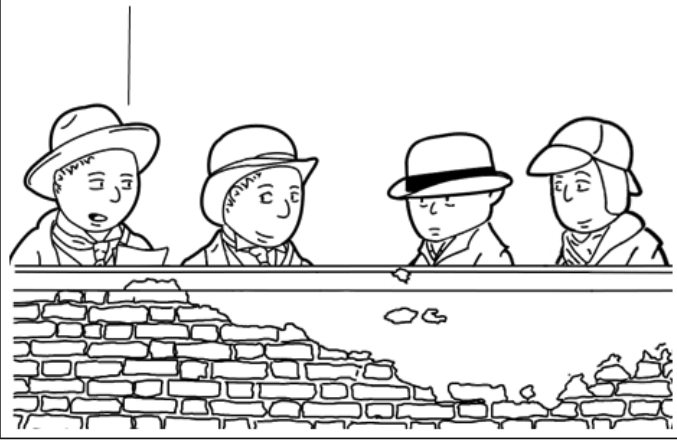
*But not every code comes with a manual. While Holmes was able to discern the messages in 'The Dancing Men' by understanding the frequency of English letters, there are other notes that required ingenuity.*

*We know Holmes managed to detect a certain cipher in 'The Gloria Scott,' when a cryptic note disguised its true message in every third word.*

*And in The Valley of Fear, it was a matter of having a copy of Whitaker's Almanac. But in the case below, perhaps it's simply a matter of knowing one's audience.*

*One might even say it's Elementary...*

MY MOTHER AND FATHER HAVE A VERY INTERESTING SENSE OF HUMOUR... LISTEN TO MY LAST LETTER TO THEM, AND THEIR REPLY.



SERIOUSLY, STAMFORD, CAN YOU NOT FOLLOW MY SIMPLE INSTRUCTIONS.



I ASKED YOU TO DRAW A BACTERIUM.

I DID AS YOU REQUESTED.



YOUR PAPER WAS BLANK.

YOU TOLD US BACTERIA CANNOT BE SEEN WITH THE NAKED EYE!



SHERLOCK, CAN YOU SHARE WITH THE CLASS ANY QUIRKS ON 'THE CONCEPT OF TIME' YOU CAN THINK OF?



EASY... TWO MINUTES AFTER I OPEN MY CHRISTMAS PRESENTS, I AM READY FOR NEXT CHRISTMAS TO ARRIVE.



BUT YOU CAN GIVE ME 39 YEARS, I STILL WON'T WRITE MY ESSAY UNTIL THE NIGHT BEFORE.



## NUMERICALLY SPEAKING

*"I could tell by numerous subtle signs" [WIST]*

*Sherlock Holmes once said, "Do you know, Watson, that it is one of the curses of a mind with a turn like mine that I must look at everything with reference to my own special subject." ("The Copper Beeches")*

*And so, it goes for each of us. We all have a particular way of looking at the world... an expertise in one area or another that forever colors our way of perceiving things.*

*It can indeed be a curse. Or it can be a superpower. When it comes to deciphering riddles or quizzes of a spatial or logical nature, a decided point of view may make solving them that much easier. Or it may make them seem as if they're insurmountable. It's all in how you look at it. The challenge, of course, is trying to 'unlook' at it once you've set your mind in one direction.*

*The answer may be Elementary, but the brain work needed to get there is something else...*

ENOUGH WITH THE BRAIN TWISTERS,  
MASTER HOLMES... SIMPLY TELL  
ME, WHAT IS HALF OF '8'?



IT DEPENDS, MA'AM...  
HORIZONTALLY OR VERTICALLY?



I HAVE NO IDEA  
WHAT YOUR MEAN.

HORIZONTALLY IT IS '0';  
VERTICALLY IT IS '3'.



THINK ABOUT IT.

SAY HI TO THE  
HEADMASTER FOR ME.





SO, THE CAREER COUNSELOR HAS DETERMINED I AM BEST SUITED TO BE AN ITINERANT VIOLINIST; WATSON... A SIDEKICK AND CHRONICLER; IGNATIUS... A LITERARY AGENT; LESTRADE AND GREGSON... POLICE OFFICERS; AND STAMFORD... A DRESSER.



WHAT'S A DRESSER?

IT'S SIMILAR TO A BUREAU, BUT LESS FORMAL.



WHAT ABOUT YOUR TEACHER, IRENE?

SHE BELIEVES I WILL BE A SINGER AND ADVENTURESSES.



WHAT IS AN ADVENTURESSES?

I'M NOT SURE, BUT IT SOUNDS FUN.

MORE FUN THAN BEING A PIECE OF FURNITURE.



IT ONLY TOOK 3 MONTHS, BUT I  
FINALLY FINISHED MOBY DICK.



WELL, WHAT DID YOU THINK?

YOU KNOW, EVEN FOR ONE OF THE  
ALL-TIME LITERATURE CLASSICS...



...IT WAS SURPRISINGLY NOT BAD... BUT IS  
IT WRONG I WAS ROOTING FOR THE WHALE?



## SINK OR SWIM

"Going for a swim, I see" [LION]

♪"Got a whale of a tale to tell you lad..."♪

If you mention whaling to any student of the Sherlock Holmes stories, they'll easily point out the story, 'The Adventure of Black Peter', which concerned a former whaling captain who was found dead in his shack with a steel harpoon driven right through his chest to the wall, where he was "pinned like a beetle on a card."

This of course follows Holmes' return to Baker Street, with a "huge barbed-headed spear tucked like an umbrella under his arm."

Whaling is an odd choice of profession for a victim in a Sherlock Holmes story. Where did the inspiration come from? In fact, Conan Doyle had some first-hand experience with whaling.

For those interested in the whaling adventures of Arthur Conan Doyle, you should check out [Dangerous Work: Diary of an Arctic Adventure](#), edited by Jon Lellenberg and Daniel Stashower.

It's an annotated and illustrated version of Doyle's diary from his work on the Hope as a young medical student, including his many inadvertent swimming sessions.

Meanwhile, at **Baker Street Elementary**, young Arthur's peers may know a thing or two about how the story turns out...

MASTER DOYLE, I BELIEVE  
YOUR REPORT ON 'MOBY DICK'  
TO BE A LITTLE EXAGGERATED.



YOUR BELIEF THAT A WHALING  
EXPEDITION WOULD BE GLAMEROUS  
AND ADVENTUROUS MAY BE  
LOOKING AT THE JOURNEY THROUGH  
'ROSE-COLOURED GLASSES'.



WHILE I ADMIT THE LIFE ON A WHALER WOULD  
BE EXTREMELY TRYING, I BELIEVE IF SOMEONE  
WAS TO TAKE THE POSITION OF SHIP'S DOCTOR,  
THE THREAT OF DANGER WOULD BE MINIMIZED.



UNLESS YOU FELL OF THE ICE ONCE OR TWICE.  
OR THE INJURED MAMMAL TOOK  
A SWIPE AT YOU WITH HIS FIN.

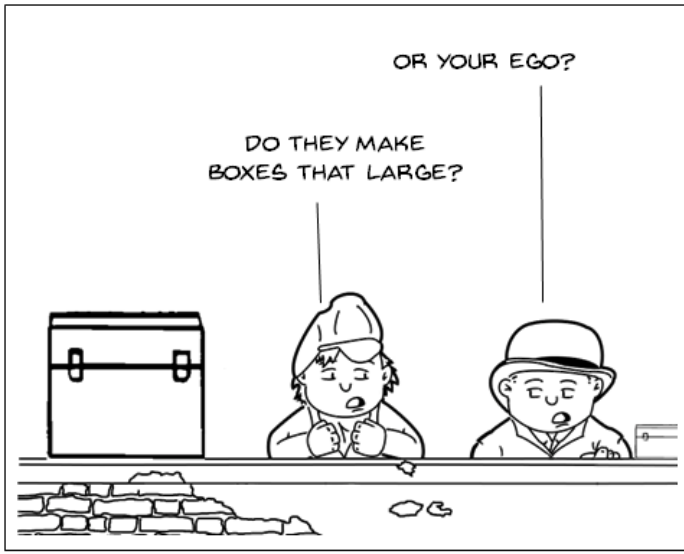
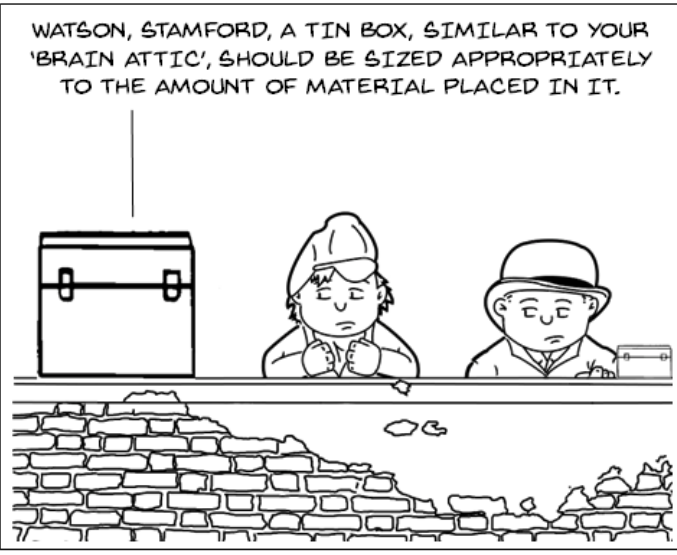


FOR THOSE ON THEIR FIRST VOYAGE, I WOULD  
SUGGEST THEY MAY BOARD THE WHALER AS A  
STRAGGLING YOUTH, BUT THEY WOULD EXIT  
AS A POWERFUL WELL-GROWN MAN.



OR SINK TO THE BOTTOM OF THE SEA AS DID  
MOST OF THE CHARACTERS IN THE STORY.





FOR CAREER DAY, PLEASE  
PROVIDE ME ONE DETAIL  
ABOUT YOUR DAD'S WORK...



MY FATHER USED TO WORK IN A SHOE-RECYCLING  
SHOP... HE SAID IT WAS 'SOLE' DESTROYING.



MY DAD WAS OFFERED A JOB THAT WOULD  
INVOLVE WORKING IN COMPLETE DARKNESS,  
BUT HE COULD NOT SEE HIMSELF DOING IT.

ENLIGHTNING...



MY DAD HAD A JOB AT A CALENDAR FACTORY, BUT  
HE WAS SACKED AFTER HE TOOK A FEW DAYS OFF.

THAT WAS 'WEEK'.



MY DAD ALSO TRIED TO INVENT SOMETHING  
THAT WOULD IMPROVE BAD BREATH... HE  
WOULD HAVE MADE A 'MINT', IF SUCCESSFUL.



ONE LAST CHANCE...  
STAMFORD, WHAT DOES YOUR  
DAD NOW DO FOR A LIVING?

TO STAY ALIVE, HE DOES WHATEVER MOM SAYS.





\_\_\_\_\_ JUST REMEMBER STAMFORD,  
IT'S A NEW DAY.



NEW DAYS CAN LIE TO ME JUST LIKE 'OL DAYS DO.



SERIOUSLY, MY ANSWER TO, 'HOW MANY  
LETTERS ARE IN THE ALPHABET?'  
11, T-H-E-A-L-P-H-A-B-E-T, WASN'T CORRECT?



WELL MASTER WELLS, AS A STUDENT OF THE FANTASTIC, DO YOU SEE US EVER ARRIVING ON THE MOON?



IT SHOULD NOT BE THAT HARD FOR HUMANS... AFTER ALL, A COW HAS ALREADY JUMPED OVER THE MOON.



I PICTURE US VISITING THE MOON BY BEING LAUNCHED FROM A GIANT GUN, SIMILAR TO A BULLET.



THAT'S A LONG WAY TO TRAVEL AS A PROJECTILE.



IT MAY BE AS EASY AS ESCAPING OUR OWN GRAVITY.

ACTUALLY, THE MOON IS CLOSER THAN AMERICA,  
SO IT SHOULD NOT BE THAT HARD TO REACH?



STAMFORD, HOW DO YOU POSSIBLY  
REACH THAT CONCLUSION?



EASY, I CAN SEE THE MOON FROM  
HERE... CAN'T SEE THE UNITED STATES.



*Congratulations to Collins, Aldrin, Armstrong, and  
all those involved in Apollo 11, who provided  
anything is within the reach of our dreams.*

## AND THEN IT HIT ME

*"Beecher... stands upon the top" [CARD]*

*Some of us come to new subjects through organized education, some through happenstance, and others through force of nature.*

*The same might be said of the background and style of Henry Ward Beecher. According to Wikipedia...*

*"Henry Ward Beecher was the son of Lyman Beecher, a Calvinist minister who became one of the best-known evangelists of his era. Several of his brothers and sisters became well-known educators and activists, most notably Harriet Beecher Stowe, who achieved worldwide fame with her abolitionist novel Uncle Tom's Cabin. Henry Ward Beecher graduated from Amherst College in 1834 and Lane Theological Seminary in 1837...*

*He soon acquired fame on the lecture circuit for his novel oratorical style in which he employed humor, dialect, and slang. Over the course of his ministry, he developed a theology emphasizing God's love above all else."*

*Given that many evangelical leaders of the time preached fire and brimstone, the Beecher approach must have seemed quite unorthodox. Unorthodox in the way that a certain consulting detective's work was considered.*

*And now on to the lessons ahead at **Baker Street Elementary**...*

THAT READING ASSIGNMENT WE HAD, 'UNCLE TOM'S CABIN', BY HARRIET BEECHER STOWE WAS VERY ENLIGHTNING.



ONE OF MY MOTHER'S FAVORITE QUOTES IS BY HER... 'MOST MOTHERS ARE INSTINCTIVE PHILOSOPHERS.'



I TEND TO FAVOR FROM HER RECENT WRITING... 'THE TRUTH IS THE KINDEST THING WE CAN GIVE FOLKS IN THE END.'

I BELIEVE WATSON, IS A SUPPORTER OF HER BROTHER, HENRY.



HE WISELY STATED, 'A LIBRARY IS NOT A LUXURY, BUT ONE OF THE NECESSARIES OF LIFE.'

HENRY BEECHER HAS SAID, 'A PERSON WITHOUT A SENSE OF HUMOUR IS LIKE A WAGON WITHOUT SPRINGS. IT'S JOLTED BY EVERY PEBBLE ON THE ROAD.'



A BOOK ONCE FELL AND HIT ME ON THE HEAD AT HOME... I BLAME MYSELF.

## CEREBRAL PUNISHMENT

*"he kept on worrying her until she got brain fever" [COPP]*

*We've always been fascinated with the use of brain fever as a malady in the Canon. Brain fever is a medical condition where a part of the brain becomes inflamed and causes symptoms that present as a fever.*

*As such, diagnoses might range from encephalitis to meningitis to scarlet fever. But if we look at the sufferers of brain fever in the Sherlock Holmes stories, this was something else entirely.*

*Think about the conditions under which each of these individuals came down with brain fever:*

- Sarah Cushing ('The Cardboard Box') received an unpleasant delivery related to her sister and brother-in-law.
- Alice Rucastle ('The Copper Beeches') was harassed and mentally abused by her father.
- Nancy Barclay ('The Crooked Man') was visited by a past love she thought long dead.
- Rachel Howells ('The Musgrave Ritual') knew that the butler did it but had other plans.
- Percy Phelps ('The Naval Treaty') had the responsibility of the Empire on his shoulders when he lost his homework.

*Each of them had a severe mental shock before contracting brain fever. These were all what we would today call a nervous breakdown or something more specific of a mental illness: anxiety, depression, bipolar disorder, etc.*

*Interestingly, four of these occurred in The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes (CARD, CROO, NAVA, MUSG), with the other (COPP) being the final installment in The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes. What was happening in Arthur Conan Doyle's life at the time he wrote these (c. mid-1892-mid-1893)?*

*Was someone in his life under particular duress that caused them to exhibit such symptoms, and that in turn influenced his writing? We're not aware of anyone previously exploring this hypothesis (although we'd be glad to hear if we're wrong).*

*And of course, there's mental stress happening at **Baker Street Elementary**...*

ONCE AGAIN, OUR TEACHER JUST DOES NOT UNDERSTAND ME.

JUST OUR TEACHER?



THE STRESS OF CONTINUALLY FAILING ME ON OUR PAPERS AND QUIZZES IS FINALLY TAKING A TOLL.

I CAN'T IMAGINE.



I SUGGESTED SHE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR MY CONTRACTING 'BRAIN FEVER', A VERY SERIOUS CONDITION.



AND WHAT ARE YOUR SYMPTOMS?

BEFORE THE QUIZ, SWEATY PALMS... AFTERWARDS, I FEEL FLUSHED AND MY BRAIN IS ON FIRE.



AND HOW DID SHE REACT TO YOUR SELF-DIAGNOSIS AND ACCUSATION SHE IS TO BLAME FOR YOUR MALADY?



LET'S JUST SAY THE ELEVATED TEMPERATURE AND REDNESS IS NOT ISOLATED TO THE TOP END OF MY BODY NOW.





STAMFORD, IF YOU APPLIED  
YOURSELF JUST A LITTLE HARDER...



YOU COULD BE THE PRIME  
MINISTER SOMEDAY!



SO, THE PRIME MINISTER CAN ADD  $3 + 3$ ??



## BOGUS LAUNDRY AFFAIR

"who helped us in the bogus laundry affair" [CARD]

There are certain aspects of Baker Street life that aren't mentioned in the Sherlock Holmes stories, but Watson doesn't tell us about them. Perhaps he does so out of a sense of discretion. Or simply because such minutiae would interfere with a good story.

For example, dental hygiene is important, as Holmes suggests Watson's overnight accouterments for a trip to Stoke Moran:

"An Eley's No. 2 is an excellent argument with gentlemen who can twist steel poker into knots. That and a tooth-brush are, I think, all that we need." ['The Speckled Band']

Although it immediately raises the question as to why Holmes and Watson might share a toothbrush...

Similarly, we wonder about the laundry situation in Baker Street. Like any other normal humans living in similar conditions at the time, Holmes and Watson would have required fresh linens and clean shirts and undergarments. But other than Lestrade mentioning "Aldrige, who helped us in the bogus laundry affair," there's no mention of washing clothes in the Canon.

We come close from hearing about Holmes's "cat-like love of personal cleanliness," and that even in his rudimentary dwelling on the moors in The Hound of the Baskervilles, he arranged things such that "his chin should be as smooth and his linen as perfect as if he were in Baker Street."

Back at Baker Street, it's likely that Mrs. Hudson arranged clean bed linens and towels, as any boarding-house operator would [Related: listen to our discussion about Boarding Houses on Trifles]. But what about the laundry? Would she do that herself?

Given Holmes's 'princely' payments, our supposition is that she likely had a washerwoman to take care of it.

Which brings us to Mrs. Turner. She's only mentioned once (in 'A Scandal in Bohemia'), and she's called the 'landlady.' But perhaps she was a close associate of Mrs. Hudson's who was familiar enough with the establishment and its occupants, as a launderer of Holmes's and Watson's underwear might be. Was Mrs. Turner really the Baker Street washerwoman?

She may have gotten her start at **Baker Street Elementary**...

HOLMES, I AM VERY IMPRESSED WITH YOUR SOLVING OF THE MYSTERY SURROUNDING THE ABERNETTY FAMILY.



BUT I STILL DO NOT UNDERSTAND HOW THE DEPTH THE PARSLEY SANK INTO THE BUTTER COULD LEAD YOU TO THE SOLUTION OF THE TWIN'S ILLNESS IN THE DINING ROOM.



THAT IS BECAUSE YOU SEE, BUT DO NOT OBSERVE.

SO CLICHÉ.



IT REALLY WAS QUITE SIMPLE. TRY TO FOLLOW MY LOGIC.



BUTTER IS CHURNED AT THE FARM OUTSIDE OF TOWN AND DELIVERED TO US EACH WEEK TO BE KEPT IN THE KITCHEN'S REFRIGERATORS.



THE KINDLY, BUT NOT QUITE AS SHARP, MRS. TURNER AGREED TO SERVE THE MEALS DURING HER ABSENCE.



LAST WEEK, YOU MAY REMEMBER OUR DEAR MRS. HUDSON WAS STRUCK ILL FOR A FEW DAYS...



FOR BREAKFAST ON MONDAY, SHE SERVED BREAD, BUTTER AND JAMS...



SADLY, SHE DID NOT REALIZE ONE DISH OF BUTTER HAD TURNED BAD AS IT SAT OUTSIDE ON THE COUNTER NEXT TO THE STOVE FOR SEVERAL DAYS.



THE SPRIG OF PARSLEY SANK INTO THE SOFTENED DAIRY PRODUCT AS IT WENT BAD... THIS WOULD NOT HAVE HAPPENED IF THE BUTTER HAD BEEN KEPT CHILLED ON ICE.



WHY DID NOT OTHER STUDENTS AT THE TABLE GET SICK, JUST THE ABERNETTY TWINS?



EASY... THE REST OF THE TABLE PARTOOK IN THYME-FLAVOURED BUTTER WHICH WAS STILL FIRM AND FRESH... ONLY THE TWINS DINED ON THE PARSLEY-LADEN BUTTER.



THE SCHOOL NURSE BELIEVES THE TWINS WILL BE FINE, BUT, WILL NEED LOTS OF FRESH LAUNDRY EACH DAY.



THE HEADMASTER HAS NOT TAKEN KINDLY TO MRS. TURNER'S ERROR, BUT MRS. HUDSON, BEING THE MOST TOLERANT PERSON ON EARTH, WILL CONTINUE TO USE HER WHENEVER NECESSARY.





## GET A WHIFF OF THIS

"At the very first whiff of it, my brain and imagination were beyond control" [DEVI]

One of the pleasures of collecting Sherlockian books is walking into old bookstores and—sniff—smelling that wonderful odor of old books. It brings with it a sense of contentment and anticipation, that soon you'll be enjoying something between the covers of an old book.

One of the things we don't pause to reflect on though, is the odor of the streets in Victorian London. Stepping out for a walk as Holmes and Watson did in 'The Resident Patient,' they must have been overwhelmed with the vapors emanating from the thoroughfare.

In the Winter 2016 Baker Street Journal (Vol. 66, No. 4) the late Peter Calamai, BSI ('The Leeds Mercury') referenced the 'pervasive daily filth' that had 'been largely scrubbed clean in the Canon.'

And Steve Mason, one of the trio that provides us with **Baker Street Elementary** every fortnight... and an administrator at the EPA... gave a talk at the Norwegian Explorers conference three years ago on sanitation and smells in Victorian London.

As Calamai observed, the absence of mentioning the filth in the Sherlock Holmes stories could have been because it was such a commonly-experienced occurrence that it didn't warrant additional ink.

Certainly, Watson's (and Holmes's) olfactory senses were attuned to other scents:

- In 'The Dancing Men,' Hilton Cubitt "seemed to bring a whiff of his strong, fresh, bracing, east-coast air with him as he entered."
- In 'The Devil's Foot,' Watson inhaled the substance and found that "the very first whiff of it my brain and my imagination were beyond all control."
- Holmes detected "the distinct odour of lime-cream" in Henry Baker's hat in 'The Blue Carbuncle.'
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- Holmes mentioned a "faint but incisive scent" from gloves "that the curious tarry odour was oozing" in 'The Blanched Soldier.'
- There was "a pleasant almondy odour" that arose from the jar of Prussic acid in 'The Veiled Lodger.'
- Josiah Amberley chose to fill "his house with strong odors" to cover up some other smell in 'The Retired Colourman.'

There are certainly other instances; these are but trifles. Meanwhile, let's sniff out what's going on over at **Baker Street Elementary**...



HOLMES, ONCE AGAIN CONGRATULATIONS ON SOLVING THE MISSING MARBLES... WANT TO SHARE YOUR PROCESS?



EASY... FIRST, I HAD TO DETERMINE WHY SOMEONE WOULD STEAL ALL THE MARBLES JUST BEFORE THE SCHOOL'S SHOOTING CHAMPIONSHIP?



SECOND, HOW DO YOU SNEAK OUT OVER 100 MARBLES FROM THE SCHOOL WITHOUT ANYONE NOTICING?



I WOULD GUESS SOMEONE WHO WANTED TO HAVE MARBLES TO HIMSELF MIGHT STEAL THEM ALL.



OR SOMEONE WHO SIMPLY CANNOT STAND THE SIGHT OF THEM... SUCH AS PROFESSOR MARBURY.



YOU MAY RECALL HE TRIPPED A FEW WEEKS AGO AND SEVERELY SPRAINED HIS ANKLE, NECESSITATING THE USE OF A CRUTCH.



WHAT YOU MAY NOT BE AWARE OF IS HE SLIPPED ON SOME MARBLES LEFT ON THE DINING HALL FLOOR BY A COUPLE OF ABSENT-MINDED STUDENTS.





I WAS COMING BACK FOR THEM IN JUST A FEW MINUTES... I WAS CHECKING OUT A DISTURBANCE IN THE AUDITORIUM.



THUS, THE MOTIVE... I WAS ALSO ABLE TO DISCERN AS HE WAS WALKING THROUGH THE COURTYARD TODAY HIS CRUTCH WAS LEAVING A DEEPER IMPRINT THAN IN PREVIOUS DAYS.



THIS COULD ONLY BE DUE TO HIS HOLLOW ALUMINUM CRUTCH BEING HEAVIER THAN USUAL... HE INTENDED ON DUMPING THE STASH IN THE ON-CAMPUS POND.



WELL, THE MARBLES HAVE BEEN RETURNED, AND THE PROFESSOR HAS BEEN GIVEN A FEW MONTHS OFF.



I GUESS YOU COULD SAY HE 'LOST HIS MARBLES' IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE.



MA'AM... MAY I PLEASE BE ALLOWED  
TO GO TO SEE THE SCHOOL NURSE.



TAKING THIS TEST, I FEEL AN  
IMPENDING ATTACK OF 'BRAIN FEVER'.



YOU SHOULD HURRY, STAMFORD... WITH HER  
EXPRESSION, I THINK SHE MAY BEAT YOU THERE.

HEY, THEN I WOULD NOT HAVE  
TO GO... I FEEL BETTER.



P&ST... WATSON, WHAT IS THE ANSWER TO # 2?

I JUST GAVE YOU THE ANSWER TO # 1.



STAMFORD, PLEASE QUIT TALKING DURING THE QUIZ.



SERIOUSLY, WHAT IS  $3 \times 6$ , WATSON?

SERIOUSLY, IT'S 5,298.



STAMFORD, WHAT DID I JUST TELL YOU?



HOW SHOULD I KNOW? WEREN'T YOU LISTENING EITHER?



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MASTER WELLS, YOUR NEW FANTASY STORY CONCERNING A MARTIAN ATTACK IN THE SCHOOL NEWSPAPER WAS WONDERFUL.



I APPRECIATE IT... PART 2 WILL COVER HOW WE CAN POSSIBLY STOP THEM FROM CONQUERING US.



FEED THEM OUR DINING HALL FOOD?

I LEAN TOWARD THE ALIENS SUCCUBMING TO THE MICROBES IN OUR ENVIRONMENT.

SIMPLE BIOLOGY.



MAYBE THEY ARE TAKEN DOWN BY OUR MOST SIMPLE OF DISEASES THEY HAVE NO IMUNITY TO.



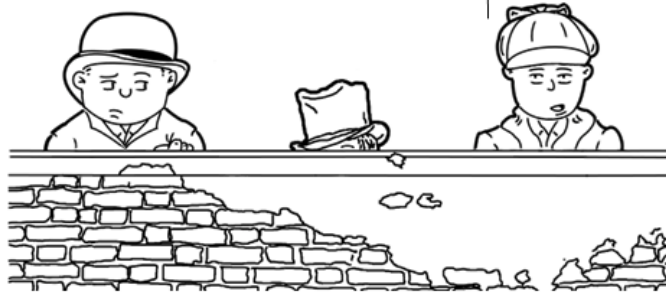
I BET THE MUMPS COULD DO IT... ALMOST TOOK ME OUT.

GOOD SUGGESTIONS.

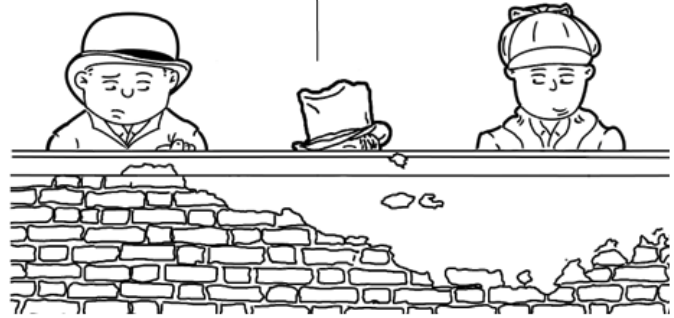
OR SIMPLY HAVE THEM TAKE IN A BREATH... THE SMELL OF MANURE, URINE, ROTTING FOOD, COLOGNES, AND DEAD ANIMALS MAY BE ENOUGH TO DO THEM IN.



HALLOA, MASTER WHELAN-WIGGINS... TO WHAT DO WE OWE THIS HONOUR? WE CURRENTLY DO NOT HAVE ANY INVESTIGATIONS UNDERWAY.



A FEW OF THE YOUNG'UNS WOULD LIKE TO PROPOSE A NEW PAYMENT SYSTEM FOR THEIR SERVICES.



THEY ARE DISSATISFIED WITH THE BUTTONS HOLMES PAYS THEM WHENEVER THEY SUCCEED?



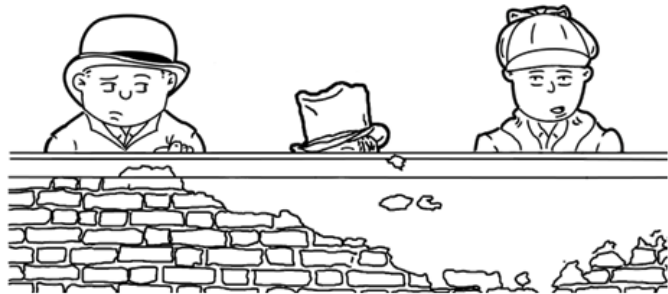
NO, THE AMOUNTS HAVE BEEN MORE THAN GENEROUS.

IT JUST THAT PENNIES, OR DARE I SAY SHILLINGS, COULD BE USED OFF THE SCHOOL PLAYGROUND TO ACTUALLY BUY THINGS.





BUT THAT WOULD COMPLETELY DISRUPT  
THE ECONOMICAL BALANCE WE HAVE  
ESTABLISHED WITHIN THE CONFINES OF  
OUR OWN LIVING SYSTEM HERE.



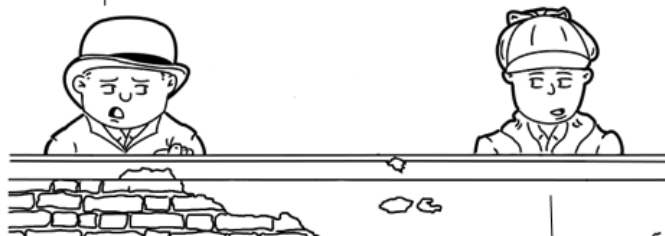
I CAN INFORM YOU MUCH GREATER EMPHASIS  
SHOULD BE GIVEN TO MODELLING OUR ROLE IN  
THE PLAYGROUND POLICY DECISIONS... IT IS  
REGRETABLE THE YOUNG'UNS DO NOT COMPREHEND  
THE LARGER PICTURE IN WHICH WE ARE INVOLVED.



NOT SURE HOW I WILL SELL THAT, BUT I'LL TRY.



NICE GOBBLEDYGOOK... IN OTHER WORDS, YOU  
DON'T HAVE ANY PENNIES OR SHILLINGS.



NOT A ONE... BUT I HAVE AN AUNT WHO IS A  
SEAMSTRESS... ALL THE BUTTONS I NEED.



## DON'T MESS WITH SHERLOCK

"Texas, I think" [FIVE]

*While it's the largest of the 48 contiguous states on the USA, Texas warrants only one mention in the Sherlock Holmes stories. The ship that carried the perpetrators of the Openshaw murders was named Lone Star, and Holmes recognized its significance:*

*"...the name is that which is given to one of the states of the Union."  
Watson replied, "Texas, I think."*

*Holmes clearly didn't care... "I was not and am not sure which; but I knew that the ship must have an American origin."*

*Well! Texas is having none of that. The Crew of the Barque Lone Star was founded in 1970 as a Sherlockian society in the Dallas-Fort Worth area, and after having revived itself in 1996, is a thriving group.*

*Their members are the very crew that bring us **Baker Street Elementary** every two weeks.*

*But, Dallas is also the site of Bouchercon 2019, the annual mystery conference named for Anthony Boucher, BSI ('The Valley of Fear'). Boucher was an eminent Sherlockian of his time, based in San Francisco. Most famously he wrote scripts for the Basil Rathbone / Nigel Bruce radio series The New Adventures of Sherlock Holmes. He received his investiture in the Baker Street Irregulars in 1949.*

THE LATEST DISPATCH FROM SCOTT AND BURT INDICATE THERE WILL BE A MYSTERY WRITERS CONVENTION NEXT MONTH IN DALLAS.



WHERE'S DALLAS?



IT'S A SMALL TOWN IN TEXAS, BUT THE SMART MONEY SAYS IT WILL BUILD INTO A THRIVING METROPOLIS.\*

\* Probably editorial bias

WHAT'S THE NAME OF THE CONFERENCE, 'MURDER ON THE CATTLE TRAIL'?



NO, IT'S NAMED FOR A FAMOUS MYSTERY WRITER.

'POE-CON'?



IN TEXAS, I BELIEVE THEY CALL A MURDER MYSTERY, 'MOO-DONE-IT'.

WELL, WATSON, YOU JUST 'BUTCHERED' OUR TALK.



HOLMES, THANKS FOR AGREEING TO CAMP  
OUT WITH US FOR THE METEOR SHOWER.

I JUST HOPE NO ONE  
STEALS OUR TENT AGAIN.



SO, WHAT IS DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A  
'METEOR' AND A 'METERORITE'?

'-ITE'.



A METEOR IS AN ASTEROID THAT VAPORIZES  
UPON ENTRY INTO THE EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE... IF  
A METEOR SURVIVES THE PLUNGE THROUGH THE  
ATMOSPHERE AND LANDS ON THE EARTH SURFACE,  
IT'S KNOWN AS A METEORITE.



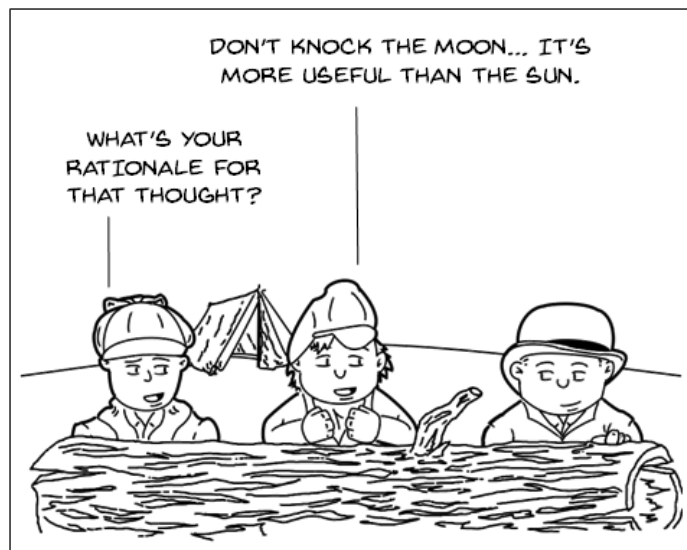
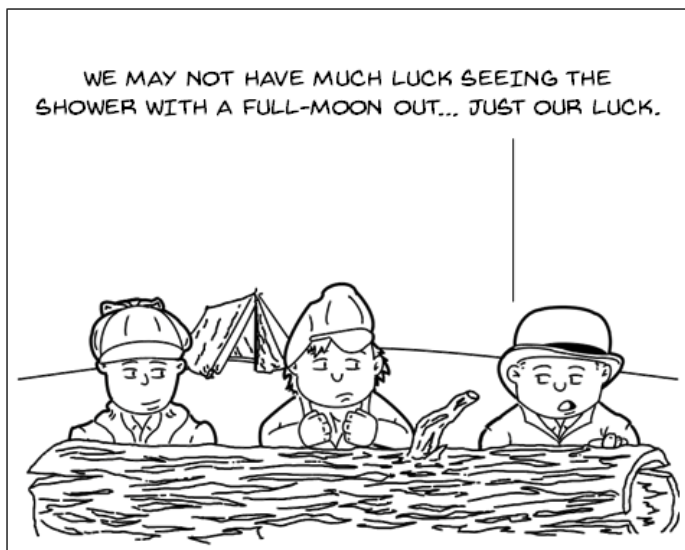
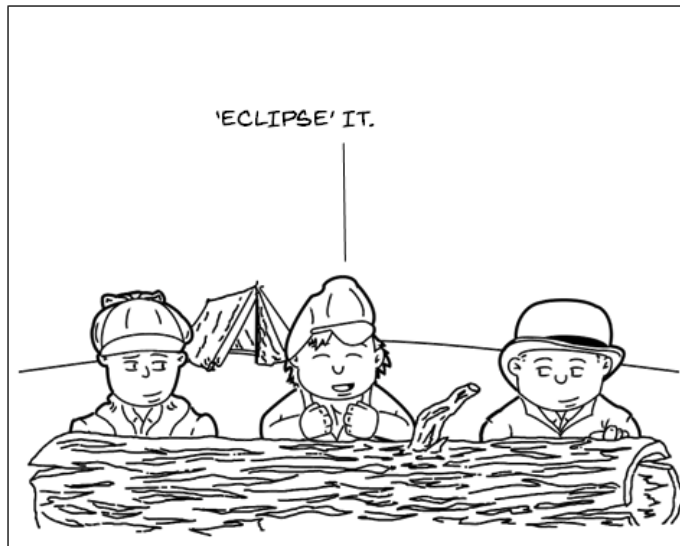
SO, A METERORITE MAKES A  
DEEPER IMPACT ON US.



DO YOU KNOW HOW THE MAN IN  
THE MOON CUTS HIS HAIR?

I AM GONG TO  
HATE MYSELF FOR  
THIS... HOW?







THAT WAS AN IMPRESSIVE METEOR SHOWER.

YES IT WAS... NOW, TO COOK OUR DINNER, AND OFF TO VISIT MORPHEUS.



IT IS STARTING TO GET A LITTLE CHILLY.

JUST STAND IN THE CORNER OF THE TENT... THEY'RE NORMALLY AROUND 90 DEGREES.



STAMFORD, I BELIEVE YOU WERE TO BUILD A CAMPFIRE FOR US.

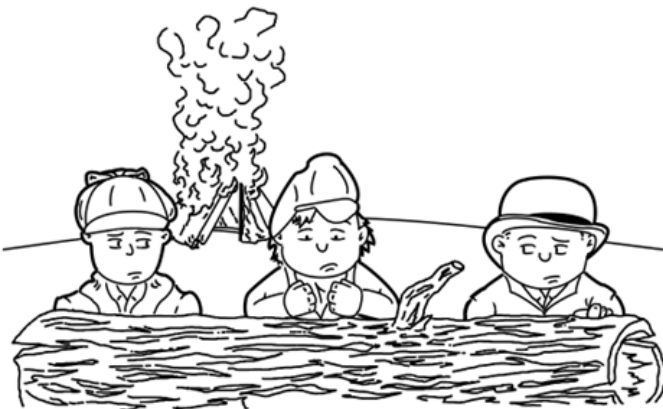


I DID, BUT I TOOK PRECAUTIONS TO ENSURE THE LIGHT DID NOT DISTURB OUR VIEWING TONIGHT.



WELL, AT LEAST THE TENT IS SAFE FROM THEFT TONIGHT.

I BET THE ASHES ARE STILL WARM ENOUGH TO TOAST OUR BREAD.



## ARCHIVAL QUALITY

*"You can file it in our archives" [RETI]*

*For those following these pages, next weekend marks the BSI Archive event at the Lilly Library at Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana.*

*The BSI Archive itself is an important repository of items related to the history of the Baker Street Irregulars, the foremost literary society dedicated to Sherlock Holmes.*


*And celebrating its new location will include a special exhibit of 221 items of significance from the collection. What will be among those 221 pieces? Glen Miranker, BSI ('The Origin of Tree Worship') shared some of those secrets, as well as the significance of the Lilly Library in Episode 175: Building an Archive.*

*Perhaps it's something you can take with you on the road if you're attending the event. Meanwhile, here's what the boys at **Baker Street Elementary** have to say about it...*

...MEANWHILE,  
IN THE U.S.


BURT, WE RECEIVED ANOTHER  
NOTE FROM MASTER WATSON.

HE'S ONE OF OUR MOST  
CHERISHED SUBSCRIBERS.




WHAT MAKES HIM SO CHERISHED?

HE DONATES ON A  
REGULAR BASIS.



"I HOPE THE ARCHIVE CELEBRATION  
NEXT WEEK AT INDIANA  
UNIVERSITY IS A BIG SUCCESS..."





"...WHAT'S AN ARCHIVE?"



SCOTT, SEND JOHN A NOTE EXPLAINING  
AN ARCHIVE IS A COLLECTION OF  
HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS PERTAINING TO  
A CERTAIN GROUP OF PEOPLE OR PLACE.



WHO MAINTAINS THE ARCHIVES?

THAT WOULD BE THE ARCHIVIST,  
WHO YOU SHOULD BE VERY NICE TO.



BECAUSE, AFTER ALL, THEY CAN SINGLE-  
HANDEDLY ERASE YOU FROM HISTORY.



IT'S BEEN OVER FOUR YEARS SINCE THE 'GREAT LAB FIRE' YOU CAUSED SHERLOCK, WHICH SINGED OFF ALL YOUR HAIR, INCLUDING THE EYEBROWS...



I THINK YOU AND JOHN COULD STOP WEARING THOSE HATS EVERYDAY NOW.



ACTUALLY, I HAVE BECOME QUITE FOND OF MY CHAPEAU.



THEY DO TEND TO COMPLIMENT YOUR LOOK.

I STILL CANNOT TELL IF YOU ARE WEARING YOUR HAT FORWARDS OR BACKWARDS?



THAT IS A MYSTERY.

SIMPLE... IT DEPENDS ON WHETHER I AM FACING NORTH OR SOUTH.



UHHH...

STAMFORD, NOD AND ACT LIKE YOU COMPLETELY UNDERSTAND.



## KNOWLEDGE OF BRITISH LAW

"our legal work begins" [WIST]

*Sherlock Holmes and the legal profession are no strangers. Indeed, Holmes himself understood the law; recall Watson's list 'Sherlock Holmes—his limits' in which Watson wrote that Holmes had "a good practical knowledge of British law."*

*The Sherlockian world is no stranger to legal wranglings, going back to the Conan Doyle sons Denis and his hothead brother Adrian (to whom the head of the BSI at the time referred as 'Adrenaline'), who contested the positioning of their father as the Literary Agent by the tongue-in-cheek Irregulars.*

*And Sherlockians are fortunate to have a number of legal minds within the ranks of the Irregulars who can lend themselves to judicial-Sherlockian matters, including the likes of Leslie S. Klinger, Albert Rosenblatt, Andrew Peck, Betsy Rosenblatt, and many more. In fact, you can see the application of some of their work in Canon Law by the BSI Press.*

*We've had a number of discussions related to the law on [I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere](#) over the years:*

*Special Episode: Free Sherlock  
Episode 78: Legal and Leisure Ramblings  
Episode 161: Canon Law*

*All of these episodes can be found in a handy playlist:*

*Meanwhile, there are some legal rumblings at **Baker Street Elementary**...*

THE TEACHER HAS ASKED US TO MENTOR THE YOUNGER STUDENTS ON LIFE CHOICES.



SOOOO... MASTER LES... WHAT DO YOU PLAN ON BEING WHEN YOU GROW UP?

A SOLICITOR.



WHY THAT CAREER?

I SEE MANY POTENTIAL CLIENTS IN THIS SCHOOL.



I MAY ALSO WRITE AS A SUPPLEMENTARY CHOICE.



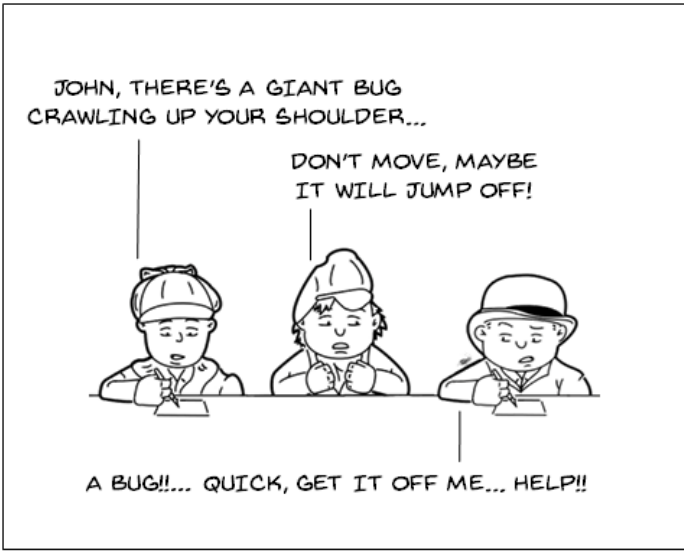
AMAZING HOW MANY IN OUR GROUP PLAN TO DO THAT.

PLUS, I LOVE LAWYER JOKES... MY FAVORITE IS... A MAN WENT TO AN ATTORNEY AND ASKED WHAT HIS FEE WAS... "€ 50 FOR THREE QUESTIONS," REPLIED THE LAWYER.



"ISN'T THAT A LITTLE STEEP?", ASKED THE CLIENT... "YES, YOUNG MAN, IT IS," RESPONDED THE LAWYER... "NOW WHAT'S YOUR THIRD QUESTION?"

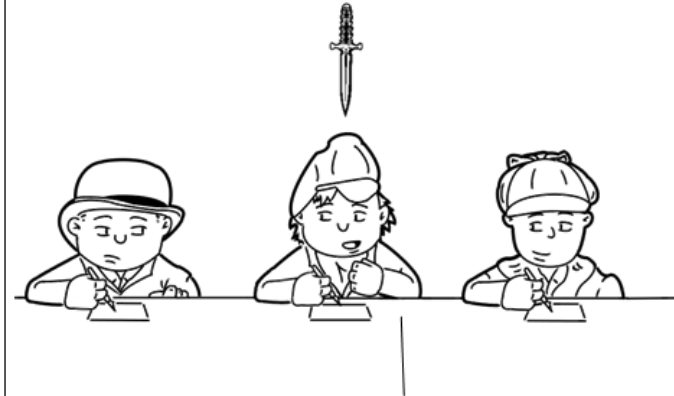




CAN ANYONE TELL ME WHY  
MACBETH SEES AN IMAGINARY  
DAGGER ABOVE HIM? \_\_\_\_\_

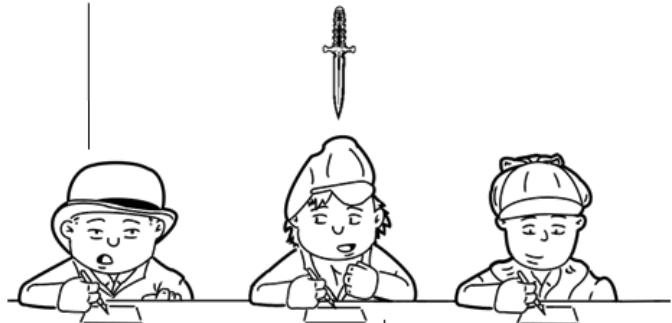


MASTER STAMFORD? \_\_\_\_\_



THE TEACHER ASKED HIM A QUESTION  
HE HAD NO CLUE ABOUT?

BET THAT WOULD NOT BE AN IMAGINARY ONE.



MAYBE IT SYMBOLIZES  
TRIPS TO THE HEADMASTER.

## ONE IS THE LONELIEST NUMBER

"a creeping shrinking sensation" [CHAS]

When we think of Sherlock Holmes, there are two visions that come to mind... one is with the trusty and stalwart Dr. Watson by his side; the other is sitting alone in his Baker Street flat, smoking and thinking through a knotty problem.

Throughout much of his career, Holmes had Watson along as a trusted companion and biographer. Only occasionally did Watson leave for married life and his medical practice... but even then, Holmes would summon him to join a case ("Come at once if convenient... if inconvenient, come all the same." [CREE]).

It's unusual... even unsettling... that in 'The Blanched Soldier' do we find Holmes, who narrates that tale himself, sharing his feelings about Watson's absence...

"The good Watson had at that time deserted me for a wife, the only selfish action which I can recall in our association. I was alone."

The last three words in particular note how deeply it affected him. The dates in those two stories mentioned above (BLAN, CREE) are of particular interest.

Holmes's disappointment in Watson's absence in 'The Blanched Soldier' is self-reported as January 1903. It must have been a fairly fresh wound, with Watson getting married (a second time?) in late 1902.

In *Sherlock Holmes of Baker Street*, William S. Baring-Gould dates it as October 1902. (He also claims it was Watson's third marriage.)

But when we get to 'The Creeping Man,' Watson... and the internal dates that help Holmes pinpoint the nighttime activity... indicate that this case occurred in September 1903. By that time, Holmes had gotten over his disappointment and was rather curt with Watson, perhaps indicating that he was done with the self-pity and simply and unemotionally requested his comrade along for the adventure.

Whatever happened in those ensuing months, we can only hazard a guess. Meanwhile, the boys of **Baker Street Elementary** are grappling with the pangs of loneliness...



DO YOU EVER FEEL ALONE, THAT YOU JUST DON'T HAVE ANY TRUE FRIENDS?



THAT RIDICULOUS TALK, STAMFORD... OUR BORDERS ARE EVER-EXPANDING, AND YOU HAVE THE WHOLE WORLD TO EXPLORE.



THERE ARE NEW INVENTIONS EVERYDAY, AND YOU HAVE THE MIND TO HELP CREATE GREAT THINGS... NO PERSON SURVIVES COMPLETELY ON THEIR OWN IN THIS WORLD.



AND WE HAVE THE POWER TO LEAVE THE NEXT GENERATION BETTER THAN OUR OWN... SO NO YOU ARE NOT ALONE!!



THAT'S GREAT ADVICE, LES... I GUESS I AM NOT SO ALONE.



HOW DO I KEEP FROM FEELING LONELY TOO?



SIT IN A VERY DARK ROOM AND READ A VERY SCARY BOOK BY CANDLELIGHT... YOU SOON WON'T FEEL ALONE.



# *Home of the Hounds*

