

## Description of Project

Virtual learning can make social interactions with one's fellow students challenging. This book club was created with the intention that students would be able to connect with each other throughout the year while also fostering a culture of literacy. The secondary goal was to have the students challenge themselves to read classic literature by introducing some more accessible books to foster an enthusiasm for the Holmes legacy.

The funds from this grant were used to purchase the books to send out to book club members. Students across the state of Virginia received a package containing the year's books, a reading plan, and some fun pencils.



The book club met for introductions and a general overview of the program in October. The first book assigned was *Enola Holmes Mystery: The Case of the Left-handed Lady* by Nancy Springer. Given the recent popularity of the recent streaming series about Enola Holmes, it was a great springboard to get students interested in the Holmes characters. The next book was *Death Cloud* by Andrew Lane, since it presents Holmes as a teenager. Our first engagement with the traditional Holmes canon was the graphic novel version of *The Hound of the Baskervilles*. In the January meeting, topics that would be confusing in *A Study in Scarlet* were previewed and clarified. Students were also provided with a reference list of vocabulary words organized by chapter, in hopes of making the sometimes challenging writing more accessible. *A Study in Scarlet* was the focus of February's meeting.

The initial goal for the book club was for students to practice writing their own Holmes-inspired stories for the final meetings. They were enjoying reading and were not quite comfortable writing their own stories. Instead, we read "Murders in the Rue Morgue". This was a good fit since Edgar Allan Poe grew up in Richmond, Virginia and is considered to be an influence of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle by some scholars. For the group's final meeting, I created a digital escape room where students used their powers of deduction to work out puzzles until they ultimately "broke out".

## **Project Goals and Impact**

The materials for this project were purchased for twenty students to participate. Initially, twenty signed up, but one of those students withdrew from the school shortly after joining. The remaining nineteen students received copies of the books and attended monthly meetings consistently. The extra books were distributed at a school outing to students who were interested. All told, twenty-four students received books thanks to The Beacon Society's generosity.

The group cultivated a great interest in mysteries and books in general. After reading *Death Cloud*, several students proceeded to read the rest of the books in the series. Overall, members developed friendships with their peers and were able to revel in their mutual love of books and mystery. All participants acknowledged an appreciation for the character of Sherlock Holmes and the world Sir Arthur Conan Doyle created.

## **Materials**

[Budget and Plan](#)

[Book Club Promotion](#)

[Book Club Plan](#) (sent out with books)

[Enola Holmes Slides](#) - November

[Death Cloud Slides](#) - December

[The Hound of the Baskervilles Slides](#) - January

[A Study in Scarlet vocabulary reference list](#)

[A Study in Scarlet Slides](#) - February

["Murders in the Rue Morgue" Slides](#) - March

[Sherlock Holmes Digital Escape Room](#) - April

## **Conclusion**

I cannot express the depths of my gratitude to The Beacon Society for the funds to purchase books for this program. It was such a joy to see the students each month and hear their insights into each book. There was also a pride in them as they tackled some challenging works and were able to speak about them knowledgeably. Thank you for providing the tools for the students to engage with quality literature while also connecting with their peers.

# Budget

Since Sherlock Holmes is an incredibly challenging text for middle school students, I want to introduce them to him using titles geared toward a YA audience. My intention is for students to read books inspired by Sherlock Holmes first. The *Enola Holmes* series is written about the sister of Sherlock Holmes, though Holmes features prominently. *Death Cloud* is the first in a series written about Holmes as a teenager. As students continue to build confidence, we will move to a graphic novel where the visuals support the challenging text. Then, we'll move into the final text, *A Study in Scarlet* by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. For our final meeting, students will create their own Sherlock Holmes stories to share with the group.

Item	Cost	Quantity	Total
<a href="#"><u><i>Enola Holmes Mystery: The Case of the Left-handed Lady</i>, Nancy Springer</u></a> Paperback	\$7.99	20	\$159.80
<a href="#"><u><i>Death Cloud</i>, Andrew Lane</u></a> Paperback	\$10.99	20	\$219.80
<a href="#"><u><i>A Sherlock Holmes Graphic Novel: The Hound of the Baskervilles</i>, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, ill. I.N.J Culbard, ed. Ian Edginton</u></a> Paperback, Sterling; Reprint edition (August 6, 2009)	\$10.99	20	\$219.80
<a href="#"><u><i>A Study in Scarlet</i>, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle</u></a> Paperback, CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform; 1st edition (July 1, 2016)	\$7.88	20	\$157.60
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$757.00</b>

# Monthly Plan

Month	Goal	Text	Discussion Questions
October 6	Introductions	none	<p>Guiding Questions through all book clubs:</p> <p>What elements are required for a mystery to succeed?</p> <p>What are the key character traits that define Sherlock Holmes?</p> <p>What are the distinctive elements of a Sherlock Holmes mystery?</p> <p>What are your observations about Dr. Watson?</p> <p>Questions will also focus on comprehension of the texts.</p>
November 3	Learning about Sherlock Holmes from others	<i>Enola Holmes Mystery: The Case of the Left-handed Lady</i> , Nancy Springer	
December 1	Learning about Sherlock Holmes from youthful interpretations	<i>Death Cloud</i> , Andrew Lane	
January 5	Learning about Sherlock Holmes using visuals	<i>A Sherlock Holmes Graphic Novel: The Hound of the Baskervilles</i> , Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, ill. I.N.J Culbard, ed. Ian Edginton	
February 9	Learning about Sherlock Holmes from Sir Arthur Conan Doyle	<i>A Study in Scarlet</i> , Sir Arthur Conan Doyle	
March 8	Creating our own interpretations of Sherlock Holmes	Student creations	
April 19			

A banner for the Sherlock Holmes Book Club. The background is a dark, moody image of bare tree branches against a dark sky. The text 'Sherlock Holmes' is written in a large, bold, red sans-serif font. Below it, 'Book Club' is written in a smaller, white, cursive script font.

# Sherlock Holmes

*Book Club*

## *Welcome to the Sherlock Holmes Book Club!*

We're looking forward to exploring the character of Sherlock Holmes across a variety of texts. In this box, you will find your copies of the books to participate in the club. Below, you'll find the schedule of our meetings and the books we will read for each one.

If you have any questions, reach out to Ms. Lyszyk at [jlyszyk@vavirtual.org](mailto:jlyszyk@vavirtual.org)

Meeting Day	Goal	Text
First Friday of the month at 10:00 in Newrow	This is the topic we'll discuss in the meeting	This is the book we'll read before the meeting
<b>October 6</b>	Introductions	none
<b>November 3</b>	Learning about Sherlock Holmes from others	<i>Enola Holmes Mystery: The Case of the Left-handed Lady</i> , Nancy Springer
<b>December 1</b>	Learning about Sherlock Holmes from youthful interpretations	<i>Death Cloud</i> , Andrew Lane
<b>January 5</b>	Learning about Sherlock Holmes using visuals	<i>A Sherlock Holmes Graphic Novel: The Hound of the Baskervilles</i> , Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, ill. I.N.J Culbard, ed. Ian Edginton
<b>February 9</b>	Learning about Sherlock Holmes from Sir Arthur Conan Doyle	<i>A Study in Scarlet</i> , Sir Arthur Conan Doyle
<b>March 8</b>	Creating our own interpretations of Sherlock Holmes	Student creations
<b>April 19</b>	Sharing our own interpretations of Sherlock Holmes	Student creations

# SHERLOCK HOLMES BOOK CLUB

Do you enjoy crime-solving?

Do you want to gather  
with your peers?

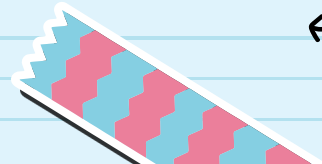
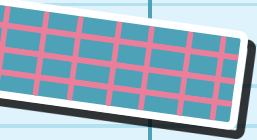
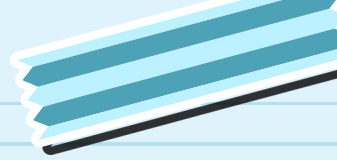
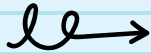
A dark silhouette of a person walking, positioned on the left side of the image, partially overlapping the text.

If so, this club is for you! We will  
meet on a monthly basis in Newrow.  
Email [jlyszyk@vavirtual.org](mailto:jlyszyk@vavirtual.org) for  
more information.

# Welcome to Sherlock Holmes Book Club!



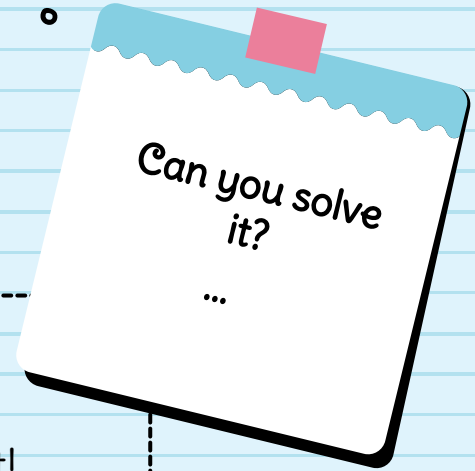
We'll get started soon. How is everyone doing today? Anything fun/exciting in your lives?







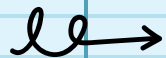
# Let's try...



We have a few Sherlock Holmes mini-mysteries that we can try our hand at!

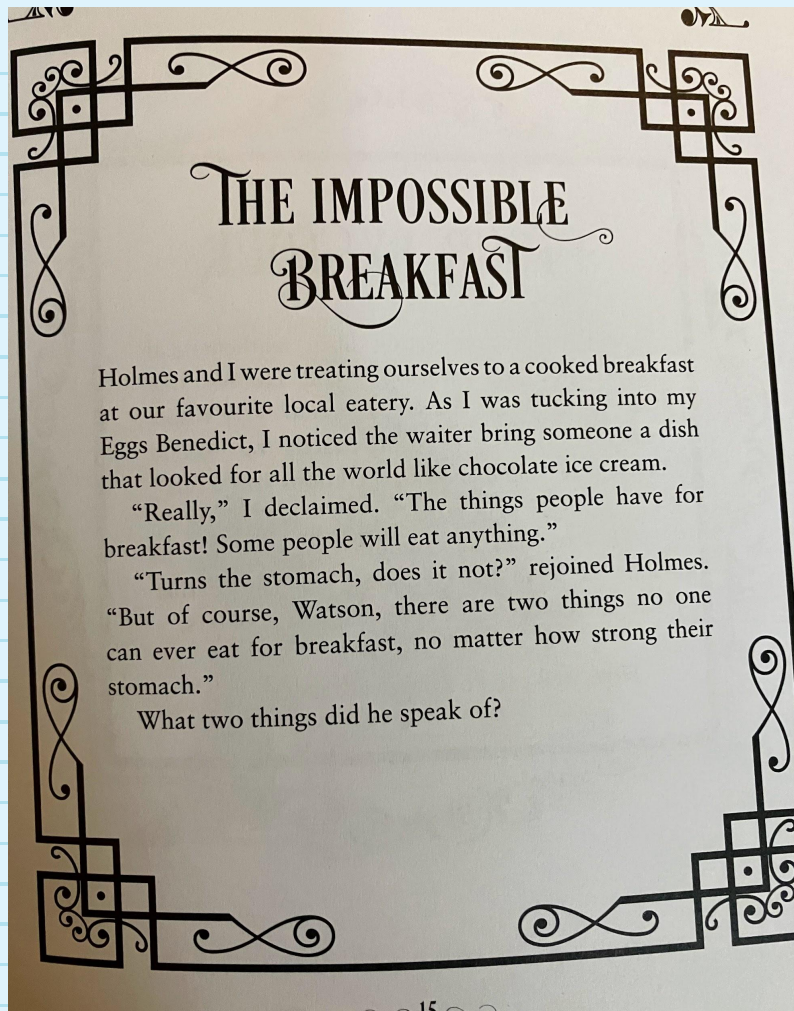
If you have already heard/read the answer, please let other students try to figure it out.

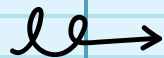




# The Impossible Breakfast

Raise your hand or respond in the chat if you think you know the answer!

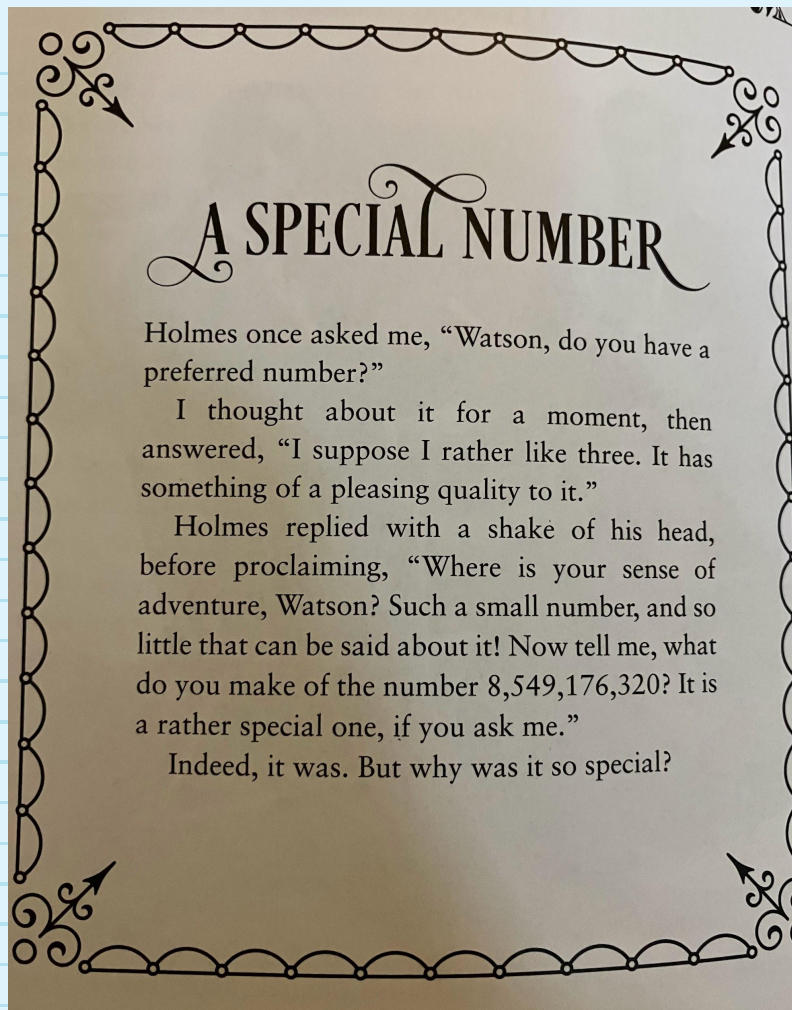




# A Special Number



Raise your hand or respond in the chat if you think you know the answer!



# The Present ☆ Packing Poser

Raise your hand or respond in  
the chat if you think you know  
the answer!



## THE PRESENT-PACKING POSER

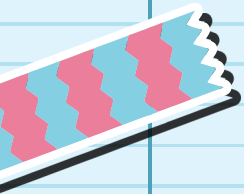
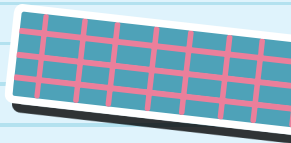
One year I had intended to ship some Yuletide presents to relatives of mine who were then living in the south of France. At the Baker Street Post Office, they informed me that the delivery would be charged by the number of shipping crates, but that each crate could carry 25 pounds. Now I happened to have precisely 75 pounds of goods, so naturally I wanted to use only three crates. My parcels were of the following weights: 1 pound, 2 pounds, 2 pounds (again), 4 pounds, 8 pounds, 9 pounds, 10 pounds, 11 pounds, 13 pounds and 15 pounds.

Did I manage to pack all of these parcels into three crates, without exceeding the weight limit of any one crate?



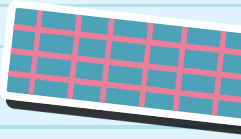


# Enola Holmes and the Case of the Left-Handed Lady





→ What are your initial thoughts about the book?

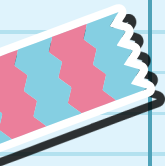
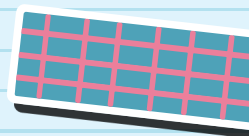


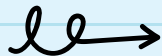
Did you like it? Explain.



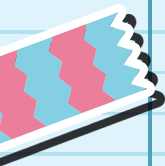
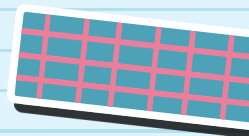


What do you think about the relationship between Enola and Sherlock? How would you describe it?

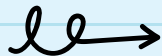




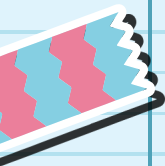
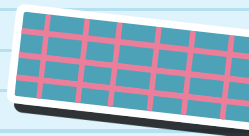
What are some things about Enola that really stand out to you? Do you like her character?

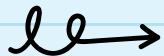




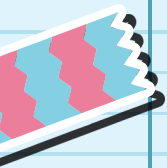
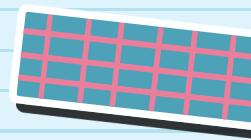


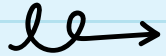
What are some things about Enola that really stand out to you? Do you like her character?



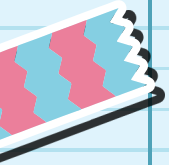
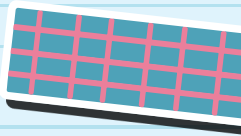


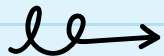
What did you make of Lady Cecily's situation?





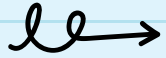
How would you describe Sherlock  
Holmes as he's presented in this book?  
Dr. Watson?





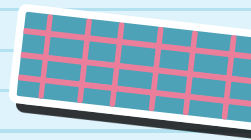
What elements of this book make it a successful mystery? If you don't think it was successful, why?



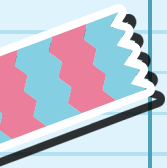


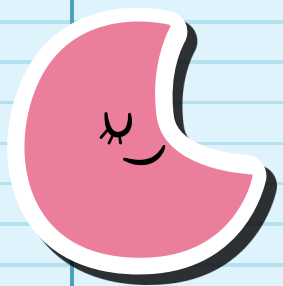
The Enola Holmes series emulates the Sherlock Holmes books. If that's the case, what do you think are some defining traits of a Sherlock Holmes mystery?



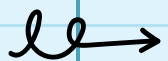
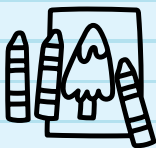


Other thoughts, questions, or ideas you  
want to share?



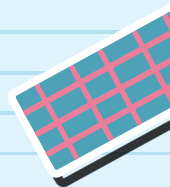
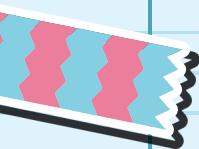


# Next Meeting



December 1

Death Cloud  
By Andrew Lane

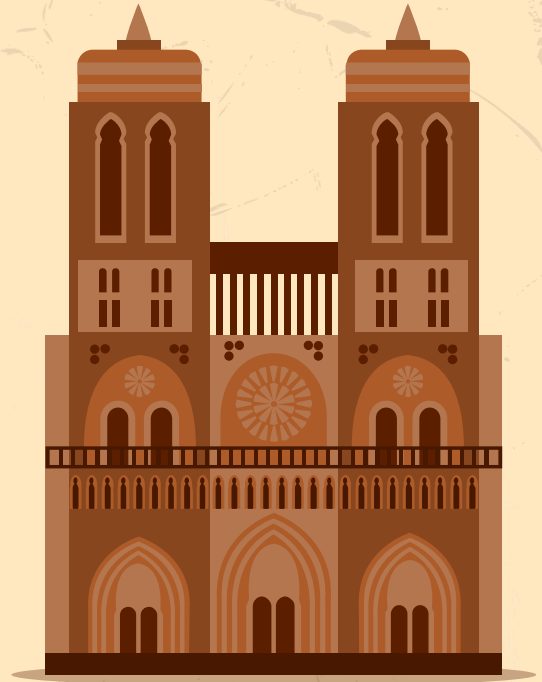


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# Welcome to Sherlock Club!

We'll get started in just a few minutes. How are you doing today?





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# Solve it!

We're going to try a few  
Sherlock-style mysteries.  
Can you figure it out?



# Brothers and Sisters

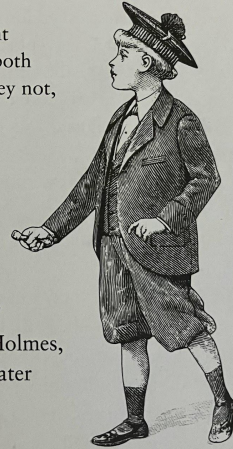
## BROTHERS AND SISTERS

One day I asked our resident housekeeper, "Your nieces both have several children, do they not, Mrs. Hudson?"

"Oh, yes," she replied.

"Beatrice has four daughters and no sons, but Agatha has only three daughters, although each of Agatha's daughters has one brother."

"So, Watson," quizzed Holmes, "which of them has the greater number of children?"



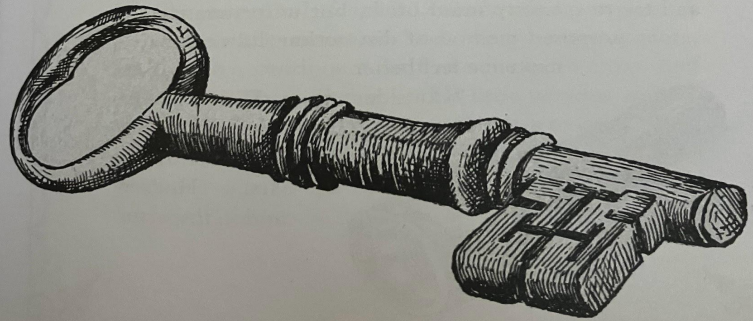
# Lost and Found

## LOST AND FOUND

I recently lost my keys to the front door of 221B Baker Street, and spent several hours turning our chambers upside down looking for them. Finally, when they were fully upside down, it occurred to me that perhaps I might have left them in the kitchen when I went to greet Mrs. Hudson upon arriving home the previous day. And, of course, there they were indeed, plain for all to see.

“Why is it,” I said to Holmes irritably, “that whenever you lose something, it’s always in the very last place you look?”

“Well I should think there’s a perfectly good reason for that, Watson.”  
What reason did Holmes have in mind?



# The Two Dentists

## THE TWO DENTISTS

After an unfortunate incident with a rock cake at a village fête, I found myself in need of an emergency trip to the local dentist while deep in rural England. The small town I was staying in happened to have exactly two such practitioners, and what a remarkable difference between them: one man had a clean and orderly office that it was a pleasure to visit, and greeted me with a broad smile full of dazzling white teeth; while the other lived in a state of total disarray, and though his scowl rarely revealed much of his mouth I was able to discern that it was full of a number of ill-administered fillings.

“So naturally,” I later explained to Holmes, “I intend to book an appointment with the former dentist.”

“Good heavens, Watson!” Holmes exclaimed. “How could you make such a terrible blunder!”

Why did Holmes think I was making the wrong choice?

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# Death Cloud


Sherlock Holmes: The Legend Begins




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“  
What are your initial thoughts  
about the book? Did you enjoy  
it? Why or why not?”




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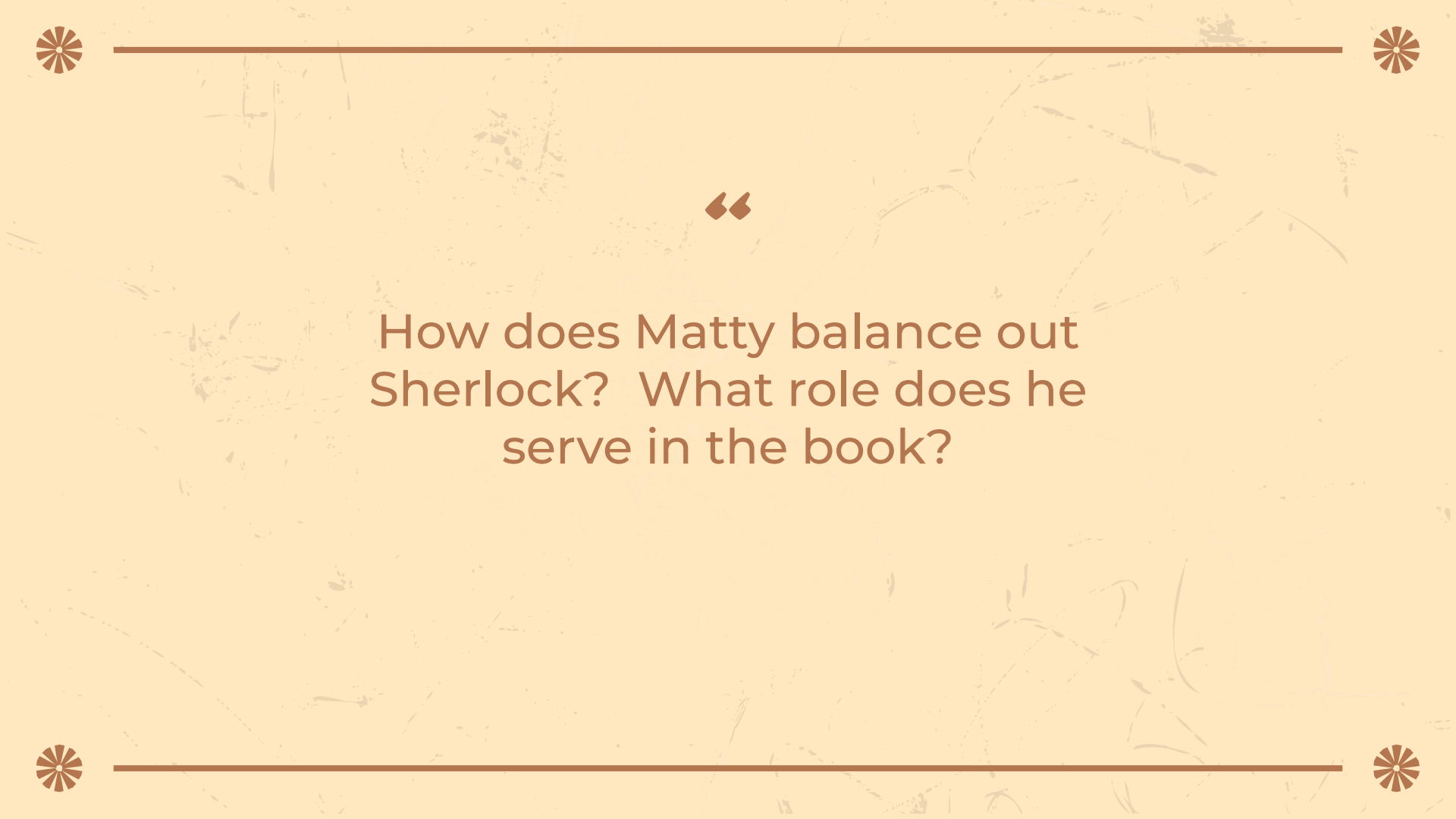
“

What are some things about young Sherlock that stand out? Do you like his character? Why or why not?




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“  
How does Matty balance out  
Sherlock? What role does he  
serve in the book?”







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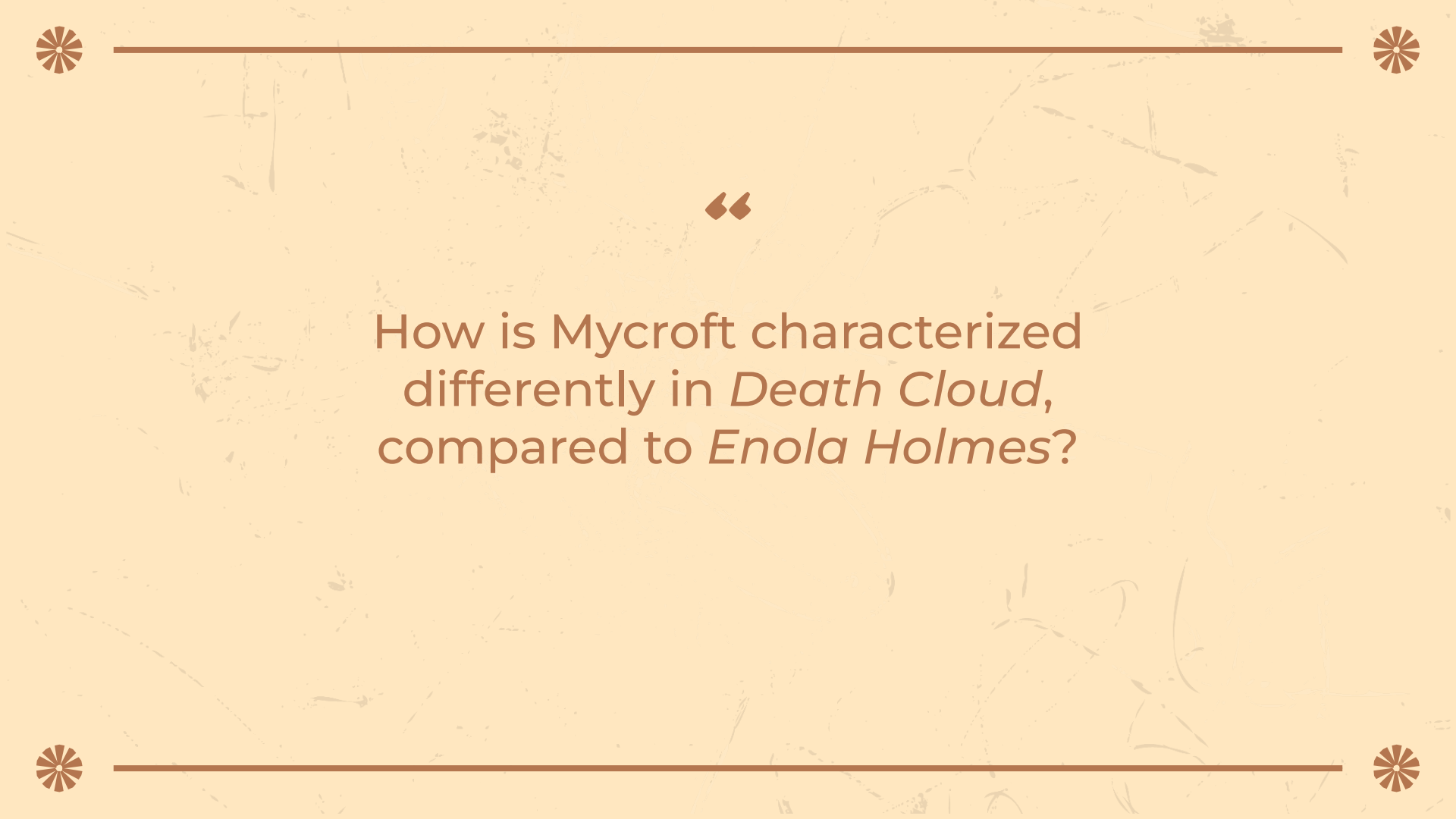


“  
Misperceptions feature heavily  
in this book. What are some  
misperceptions that characters  
have?”




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“  
How is Mycroft characterized  
differently in *Death Cloud*,  
compared to *Enola Holmes*?”




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“

What did you think of Amyus Crowe? What role does he serve in the book?




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“

What elements of this book  
make it a successful mystery?  
If you don't think it was  
successful, why?




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“  
Since this is inspired by the Sherlock  
Holmes books (it was even endorsed by  
the ancestors of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle),  
what characteristics can we assume a  
Sherlock Holmes story has?



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Any other thoughts, ideas, or questions  
you would like to share?







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**Next Meeting:  
January 5th**

**Book: *The Hound of  
the Baskervilles*  
(graphic novel)**



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## Section 1, Chapter 1

- Verandah: large, open porch
- Emaciated: unhealthily thin
- Neither kith nor kin: no family or friends
- Gravitated: drawn to, as if by gravity
- Cesspool: a pit for sewage, a filthy place
- Metropolis: the central city of a region, large and densely populated
- Rusticate: live or spend time in the country
- Domicile: a dwelling place, home
- Desultory: without purpose or enthusiasm
- Eccentric: odd, unusual
- Mealy-mouthed: afraid to speak frankly or straightforwardly
- Vegetable alkaloid: chemical found in plants that contain nitrogen and affect the human body
- Cross-examination: detailed questioning of someone, often with the law
- Rows: fights, spats
- Piquant: enjoyable but sharp or dangerous

## Section 1, Chapter 2

- Portmanteaus: a large trunk or suitcase
- Fragile philosophical instruments: lab tools
- Busybody: someone who is nosy and in everyone else's business
- Endeavored: tried
- Reticence: a state of being reluctant or restrained in speaking
- Objectless: no purpose
- Genial (regarding weather): pleasant and sunny
- Zeal: enthusiasm or passion
- Eccentric: odd, unusual
- Ample: plenty
- Minute (regarding knowledge): thoroughly detailed
- Astounded: stunned, surprised, awed
- Desultory: without purpose or enthusiasm
- Copernican Theory: the Scientific theory that the sun is the center of the solar system
- Distend: swell or cause to swell by pressure from the inside
- Alluding: referencing
- Dispelled: made a doubt, feeling, or belief disappear
- Petulance: the state of being childishly sad or sulky, bad-tempered
- Curt: brief, short
- Intimation: an indirect statement of truth, a hint
- Infallible: never failing, perfect
- Uninitiated: without special knowledge, experience, or membership
- Necromancer: a wizard or magician, one who communicates with the dead to predict the future
- Logician: an expert in reasoning and relating ideas
- Puerile: childishly silly and trivial



- Callosities: a callous - skin that is thick and hardened from frequent use
- Competent: capable
- Enquirer: someone asking questions or seeking information
- Inconceivable: impossible to imagine or believe
- Ineffable: indescribable, unable to be expressed in words
- Twaddle: trivial or foolish speech, nonsense
- Paradoxes: a statement that seems impossible to be true, but sometimes is
- Seclusion: isolation
- Underground: the English rail system
- Chimerical: hopeful, but impossible to achieve
- Forgery: a fake
- Poe's Dupin and Gaborian's Lecoq: two detectives from other authors of the time
- Apropos: suitable or appropriate
- Sardonicly: mockingly, ironic
- Bungler: someone who does things clumsily or incompetently
- Indignant: angry, outraged
- Cavalier: offhand, unconcerned
- Querulously: complainingly
- Bumptious: cocky, annoyingly arrogant
- Stalwart: loyal, reliable, hardworking
- Malicious: evil, villainous

### Section 1, Chapter 3

- Lack-lustre: drab, lacking spirit or sparkle
- Petulantly: childishly sad or sulky, bad-tempered
- Brusquely: quickly, rudely, sometimes a bit rough
- In statu quo: in the former or same state
- Conventional: traditional
- Personage: a person of status or a character
- Apathetic: uncaring, unconcerned
- Prattled: chatter foolishly
- Cremona fiddle, Stradivarius, and Amati: unique string instruments
- Melancholy: state of sadness or depression
- Disquisition: a long, elaborate essay or discussion on a particular subject
- Alighting: descend from a bus, carriage, or other transportation
- Ill-omened: doomed
- Minatory: expressing a threat
- Like a cataract on the bleared panes: comparing the windows to a film that can develop over the eye
- Traversed: traveled, crossed
- Stalwart: loyal, reliable, hardworking
- Constable: a police officer
- Loafers (regarding people): lazy individuals
- Nonchalance: lack of concern
- Affectation: behavior or speech that is designed to impress

- Scrutiny: critical observation or examination
- Flanked: to be on each side of something
- Flaxen-haired: blonde
- Effusion: unrestrained expression of feeling
- Evasively: indirectly, avoiding a topic or commitment
- Sardonicly: mockingly, ironic
- Inconsequent: not connected or following logically, irrelevant
- Malignant: bad, evil
- Prognathous: when the jaw/chin sticks out beyond the face
- Simious: like a monkey
- Writhing: twisting in agony
- Gouts of blood: a forceful outpouring of blood
- Minuteness: with an eye to detail
- Exultation: triumphant joy, rejoicing
- Depreciatory: critical, meant to make someone/thing seem unimportant
- Florid: a red or flushed complexion
- Incredulous: unbelievable
- Parthian shot: a parting shot, last word

#### Section 1, Chapter 4

- In the sere and yellow: close to dying
- Precepts: a general rule or tenet
- Monograph: a detailed written study of a specialized subject
- Ruse: a trick, deception
- Surmise/Conjecture: a guess based on little evidence
- Bar that: except that
- Uncommon handy: how good it would be
- One of the hounds and not the wolf: Holmes and Watson are the hunter, not the hunted
- Cove: drunk person
- Digression: temporary departure from the topic at hand
- Found himself in the station: would have been arrested
- Head of yours should be for use as well as ornament: His head should be for thinking
- Blundering: stumbling, messing up
- Study in scarlet (art jargon): some artists will focus on just one color as a "study" - the scarlet references blood
- Jargon: technical or subject-specific language
- Skein: a roll of thread

#### Section 1, Chapter 5

- Endeavored: tried
- Fancies and surmises: ideas and hypotheses
- Vice: a bad habit
- Malignant: bad, evil
- Depravity: a state of evil or corruption
- Condonment: a state of accepting or approving something wrong
- Conjecture: a guess based on little evidence

- Dunderheads: fools
- Facsimile: an exact copy
- Allay: diminish or put to rest
- Disconsolate: without comfort, unhappy
- Countenance: face, composure
- Dogged: followed, tracked
- Chagrin: distress or embarrassment
- Chaffed: chafed - in this case, he's given them a hard time too often
- Injunction: an official warning or order

#### Section 1, Chapter 6

- Despotism: absolute power, often cruel and oppressive
- Stringent: strict, firm
- Infringement: violation, breaking a law or agreement
- Ascertain: to find or learn with certainty
- Un sot trouve toujours un plus sot qui l'admire: A fool always finds a greater fool to admire him.
- Disreputable: shady, disrespected
- Hain't: haven't
- Beatitude: supreme blessedness
- Complacently: without fear of danger
- Paroxysm: a sudden attack or dramatic expression of emotion
- Antecedents (regarding people): a person's ancestors, family, or social background
- Sententiously: arrogant moralizing
- Pertinent: relevant
- Cudgel: a short, thick stick
- Jauntiness: a state of being happy, carefree, confident

#### Section 1, Chapter 7:

- Dumbfounded: dumbfounded, stunned
- Council of war: an official meeting
- Presentiment: an intuitive feeling, foreboding
- Exultation: triumphant joy, rejoicing
- Chagrin: distress or embarrassment
- Conjecture: a guess based on little evidence
- Outre: unusual and startling
- Irresolution: hesitancy, uncertainty
- Depreciating: losing value
- Forelock: a lock of hair just above the forehead
- Portmanteau: a trunk or suitcase

#### Section 2, Chapter 1:

- Decrepit: elderly or infirm
- Precipitous: dangerously high or steep
- Dexterity: nimbleness, skilled with hands
- Placid: peaceful
- Raucous: loud, spirited

- Desolate: deserted and bleak
- Waifs: homeless, neglected, or abandoned people (usually children)

#### Section 2, Chapter 2:

- Privations: lacking things that are required for human life and well-being
- Apportioned and Allotted: divided into pieces for each individual
- Artisan: an artist or someone who creates with their hands
- Indefatigable: tireless
- Susceptibilities: tendencies
- Lithe: thin and graceful
- Motley assemblage: diverse and poorly organized group
- Stoicism: seriousness, lacking emotion
- Cavalcade: a formal procession of people
- Taciturn: unlikely to speak, quiet
- Lodes: a vein of metal ore in the earth
- Imperious: assuming power or authority without justification, arrogant and domineering
- Halcyon: a period of time that was perfectly happy and peaceful

#### Section 2, Chapter 3:

- Unorthodox: not traditional
- Retribution: revenge
- Omniscient: all-knowing
- Omnipotent: all-powerful
- Recalcitrants: people who are obstinate or uncooperative with authority
- Trepidation: fear
- Expostulation: expressing disagreement or complaint
- Gentile: outside the faith (traditionally used with Judaism, but being applied to Mormonism here)

#### Section 2, Chapter 4

- Sardonicly: mockingly, ironic
- Rue: regret
- Smite: strike down
- Canting: talking hypocritically or with fake righteousness
- Remonstrance: a forceful protest
- Keep watch and ward: stay vigilant, guard
- Haggard: looking exhausted and unwell
- Insidious: harming gradually and slowly
- Voraciously: Devouring hungrily
- Washoe hunter: a hunter from Nevada (the "Wild West" at this time)
- Melancholy: sadness
- Plaintive: sounding sad and mournful
- Precipitous: dangerously high or steep
- Despotism: absolute power, often cruel and oppressive

#### Section 2, Chapter 5

- Fain: with pleasure, gladly
- Inexorable: impossible to stop or prevent

- Enmity: a state of being opposed or hostile to someone or something
- Scanty: small or insufficient amount
- Lethargy: listless, lacking energy
- Indomitable: impossible to subdue or defeat
- Vindictiveness: state of seeking revenge
- Assuage: soothe, calm
- Retribution: revenge
- Smouldering: burning slowly with smoke, but no flame
- Consternation: feelings of anxiety or dismay
- Sottish: stupid
- Augmented: made greater in size or value
- Incessant: unstopping
- Privation: lacking things that are required for human life and well-being
- Schism: a division, separation
- Malcontents: troublemakers

#### Section 2, Chapter 6

- Affable: friendly, charming
- Formidable: inspiring fear or respect based upon size, power, or intensity
- Aortic aneurysm: a bulge in the artery that carries blood from the heart
- Subjoined: adds extra information at the end of a speech or text
- Contrived: deliberately created, as opposed to arising naturally
- Thrashed: beat with a stick or whip
- Cudgel: a short, thick stick
- Cur: an aggressive or mistreated dog
- Billets: a place of lodging
- Blase: unimpressed, uninterested

#### Section 2, Chapter 7

- Meted out: dispensed or distributed, often referring to consequences
- Intrinsic: inherent, natural
- Hindrance: hurdle, challenge
- Supposition: an uncertain belief
- Jarveys: coach drivers
- Populus me sibilat, at mihi plaudo; Ipse domi simul ac nummos contemplor in arca: The public hiss at me, but I cheer myself when in my own house I contemplate the coins in my strong-box

# WELCOME TO THE SHERLOCK HOLMES BOOK CLUB

Today's book: *The Hound of the  
Baskervilles* (graphic novel)



Let's do some puzzling....



# A PUDDLE PUZZLE



## A PUDDLE PUZZLE

Standing too close to the carriageway on my way home, I got badly splashed by a passing hackney. Arriving through the door, sopping wet and desperate for a change of clothes, I was met by Holmes. He was typically unsympathetic to my plight, and instead took the opportunity to spring a riddle on me.

“You’ve reminded me of one of the first riddles I ever heard, Watson. Pray, tell me: what is it that gets wetter as it dries?”



# THE SAME TEA



## THE SAME TEA

While we were on a case in a distant part of the city, we partook of a late breakfast at a somewhat run-down café, where Holmes was rather annoyed to notice a fly in his tea. He summoned over the waiter and asked to be brought a new cup, at which the waiter took his tea and hurried off in the direction of the kitchens.

“Call me cynical, Watson, but I feel certain that fellow will simply remove the fly and then bring me back the same cup.”

Shortly, the waiter returned with a fly-free cup of tea.

“I do apologise for the mishap, sir,” he said, handing it to Holmes.

Holmes nodded in thanks, but moments after the waiter had left us he turned to me and shook his head. “I knew it. The very same tea. The waiter is as lazy as the café is unhygienic.”

How did Holmes know it was the same cup of tea?



# THE SHIFTING BOX

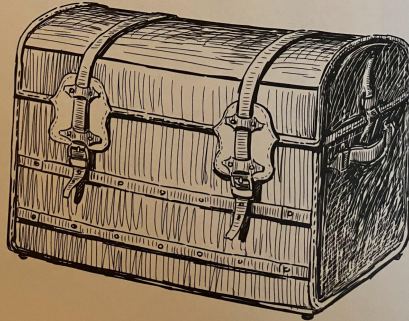


## THE SHIFTING BOX

Holmes and I were called to Scotland Yard to investigate the appearance of a mysterious box. The box was made of wood, and sealed. It had appeared on the floor of an interrogation room and one of the officers had, with only a small amount of exertion, lifted it onto the table. But since being placed on the table it seemed to have become several times heavier, and now no single officer was capable of lifting it up.

Holmes and I went into the room, where several police officers were guarding the box with suspicion. Holmes walked over to the box and gave the top a sharp knock, making everyone jump. He then tapped the metal table.

“Gentlemen, may I make a guess as to what is inside this box?”  
What did he guess?



# SLEEPING IT OFF



## SLEEPING IT OFF

“My friend told me the strangest story the other day,” said Mrs. Hudson, as we joined her for tea. “A cousin of hers was married to a man who was plagued with nightmares about being beheaded. One night, the man was having this same dream again, and just as the axe was being swung his wife tapped him on the back of the neck to wake him up and stop him snoring. Well, the shock of it gave the poor man a heart attack, and he died on the spot!”

“I’m afraid your friend was pulling your leg,” said Holmes solemnly.

“Yes,” I agreed. “It does sound a bit unlikely.”

“Unlikely? I should say it was impossible for it to have happened as Mrs. Hudson reported it.”

Why did Holmes think the story could not be true?

# GRAPHIC NOVEL?

This is the first graphic novel we've read as a club. What are your thoughts on the format? Do you think it worked well? Why or why not?



# LET'S CLARIFY:

This is a pretty complex storyline, so let's figure out all of the details.



# WHAT HAPPENED?



**01**

## **SHERLOCK HOLMES**

Watson discovers him hiding in a cave. Why?

**02**

## **SELDON AND THE BARRYMORES**

How is the escaped convict, Seldon, involved with the Barrymores?

**03**

## **SELDON**

Why is Seldon attacked by the Hound of the Baskervilles?

**04**

## **BERYL STAPLETON**

Flesh out Beryl's storyline.

**05**

## **THE HOUND**

Who was in charge of the hound? Why did it glow? How did it know who to go after?

**06**

## **JOHN STAPLETON**

What is his motive?

**DID YOU  
LIKE THIS  
STORY?  
WHY/WHY  
NOT?**



# HOW DOES THIS BOOK MEASURE UP?

At this point, we've read two modern interpretations featuring characters from Sherlock Holmes. This is our first time reading an actual Holmes story. What do you think?

How would you rank the three books we've read so far (*Enola Holmes*, *Death Cloud*, and *The Hound of the Baskervilles*)?





# NEXT MONTH'S BOOK: A STUDY IN SCARLET

## DOG

Just a warning, there is a sick dog that is poisoned. It's portrayed as compassionate, since the dog was not well.

## CULTURAL REFERENCES

Characters tend to use phrasing we wouldn't in these days. References to Jewish individuals, Arabs, and Native Americans are inappropriate.

## SPELLING

Some words are written in the English spelling, since Doyle was English. (ex: "manoeuvre" instead of "maneuver")

## MORMONISM

In the early days, Mormons were persecuted in the US. Brigham Young helped them find a place in Utah to thrive. At this point, they practiced polygamy - having multiple wives.

## NUMBERS

In this edition, some random numbers are sprinkled in the second section, just ignore them.

## EXTREMISM

There is a group who perpetuates violence on behalf of the faith. Consider these individuals extremists, not indicative of all Mormons.



**I STILL THINK THE BOOK IS WORTH  
DISCUSSING. JUST WANTED TO WARN  
YOU.**

I created a vocabulary “cheat sheet” to help with some of the elevated language. Print it or save it for your reference.





# THANKS

See you February 9th when we will discuss  
*A Study in Scarlet!*

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# Welcome to Sherlock Holmes Book Club!

I'm so happy to see you!



**What is something  
great that you've  
read recently?**





# 01

## Let's puzzle it out!

Please put your answers in  
the Q&A chat, so everyone  
can try!



# A Table Tennis Trick

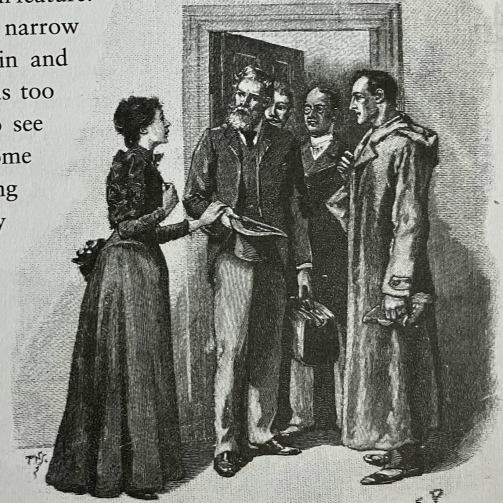


## A TABLE TENNIS TRICK

After the successful closure of a case, Holmes and I had been compelled to attend a celebratory dinner at the house of the wealthy client (much to Holmes' annoyance, it might be added). After dinner, it was suggested that we try out their new table tennis set. Unfortunately, however, there was only one ball to be found, and a particularly vigorous shot from a certain detective's assistant sent it flying out of the window, where it fell into a hole in a large stone garden feature.

This hole was far too narrow for any of us to reach in and pick up the ball, and was too deep and dark for us to see exactly where it had come to rest. And yet, using only resources readily available to us, Holmes was able to retrieve the ball undamaged. How did he do it?

I should also note that he did not damage the stone feature in any way.



# A Textile Teaser

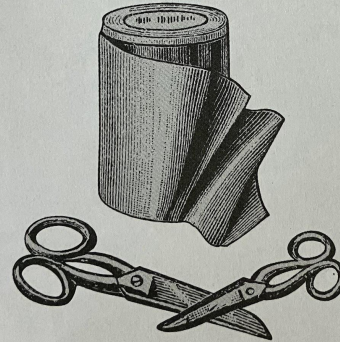


## A TEXTILE TEASER

“I was visiting the old bazaar with Mrs. H the other day,” remarked Holmes, “and as I passed by a clothing stand I was struck with the inspiration for a riddle – and I do know how you enjoy being perplexed by such trivial things.”

“How kind,” I replied, tersely.

“Tell me, Watson: what is it that is bought by the yard and yet worn by the foot?”





# The Island in the Lake

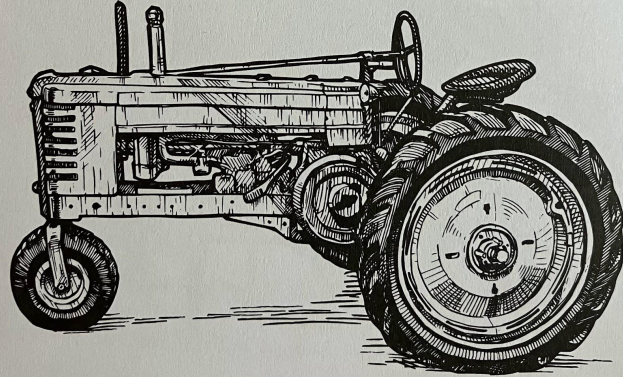


## THE ISLAND IN THE LAKE

A mysterious disappearance once took Holmes to a house situated on a tiny island in the middle of a lake in the far north of England. When he got back, he told me of a curiosity he had encountered that he thought I might enjoy.

“On this island, Watson, there was a tractor. The strange thing was, there was not, and never had been, a bridge connecting the island to the mainland, and some enquiries revealed to me that the tractor wasn’t taken over by boat or air either, and neither was it assembled on the island. So it was quite the puzzle to me to establish how the tractor had arrived at its current location. Eventually, of course, I did hit upon the answer.”

How did the tractor get onto the island?



# The Tricky Testimony



## THE TRICKY TESTIMONY

Scotland Yard were investigating a mugging that had taken place in Regent's Park. The victim – a Mr. White – had reported being attacked by a man wearing blue dungarees with paint on the front and a brown cap pulled low over his eyes. The attacker had taken some very valuable items from Mr. White, so a full-scale investigation was launched. A number of people who were known or seen to have been in the park were questioned. One witness reported seeing a man who matched this exact description – cap, dungarees, paint stain – running out of the park towards Baker Street. Unfortunately, as the witness was behind the man, he obtained not even a glimpse of the man's face.

When Holmes heard about this report he frowned.

"I presume you held this witness for further questioning?"

"No, we let him go," said Inspector Lestrade. "He had nothing further to tell us."

"Nothing further?" Holmes exclaimed. "I should say your witness had a lot more to say, considering he lied in his testimony and was quite possibly involved in the crime!"

Why did Holmes think this?

# “Murders in the Rue Morgue”



# Some Info on Poe

Check out the Poe  
Museum in downtown  
Richmond!

His mother was a famous actress.	His mother died in Richmond and a wealthy local woman adopted Poe.	Poe's adoptive father couldn't stand him.
He attended UVA and was kicked out due to gambling issues.	He also attended VMI and was kicked out for defiance and dereliction of duty.	He was quite the womanizer and gambler.
Married his cousin, Virginia Clemm, when she was 13 and he was 27.	She died just a few years later and her death informs a lot of his writing.	He died mysteriously in Baltimore, Maryland.

**Did you like the  
story? Why or why  
not?**



**Are there any questions about what happened in the story? Any components you found confusing?**





Doyle found inspiration in Poe. Are there any similarities between the two stories?

# The culprit?

Do you think the  
final solution  
made sense?  
Why or why not?





**Where does this  
story fall in your  
rankings from  
our readings  
this year?**



# Our final meeting: April 19th (spring break/outing push us back a few weeks).

A) Read an older mystery story



B) Grimm Fairy Tales escape room



C) Sherlock Holmes escape room



D) Spring Break escape room