

Baker Street *Elementary*

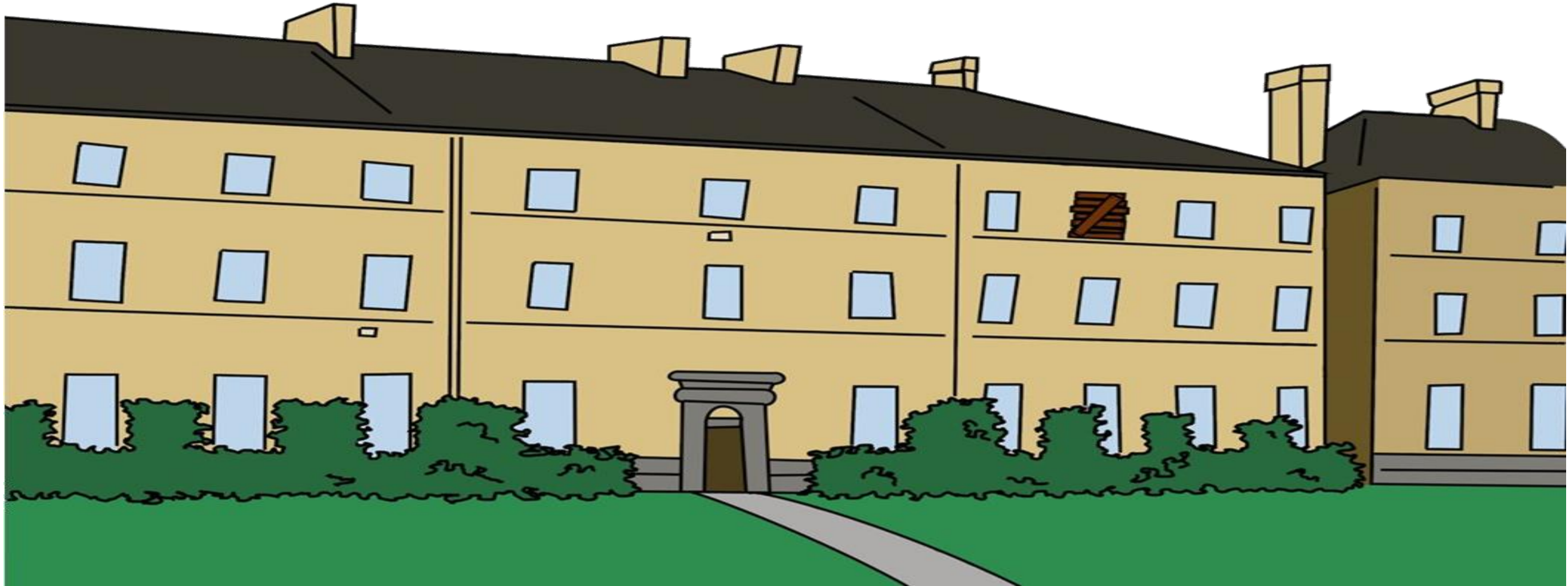
PRESENTS
"THE LIFE AND TIMES IN VICTORIAN LONDON"



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THE LIFE AND TIMES IN VICTORIAN LONDON

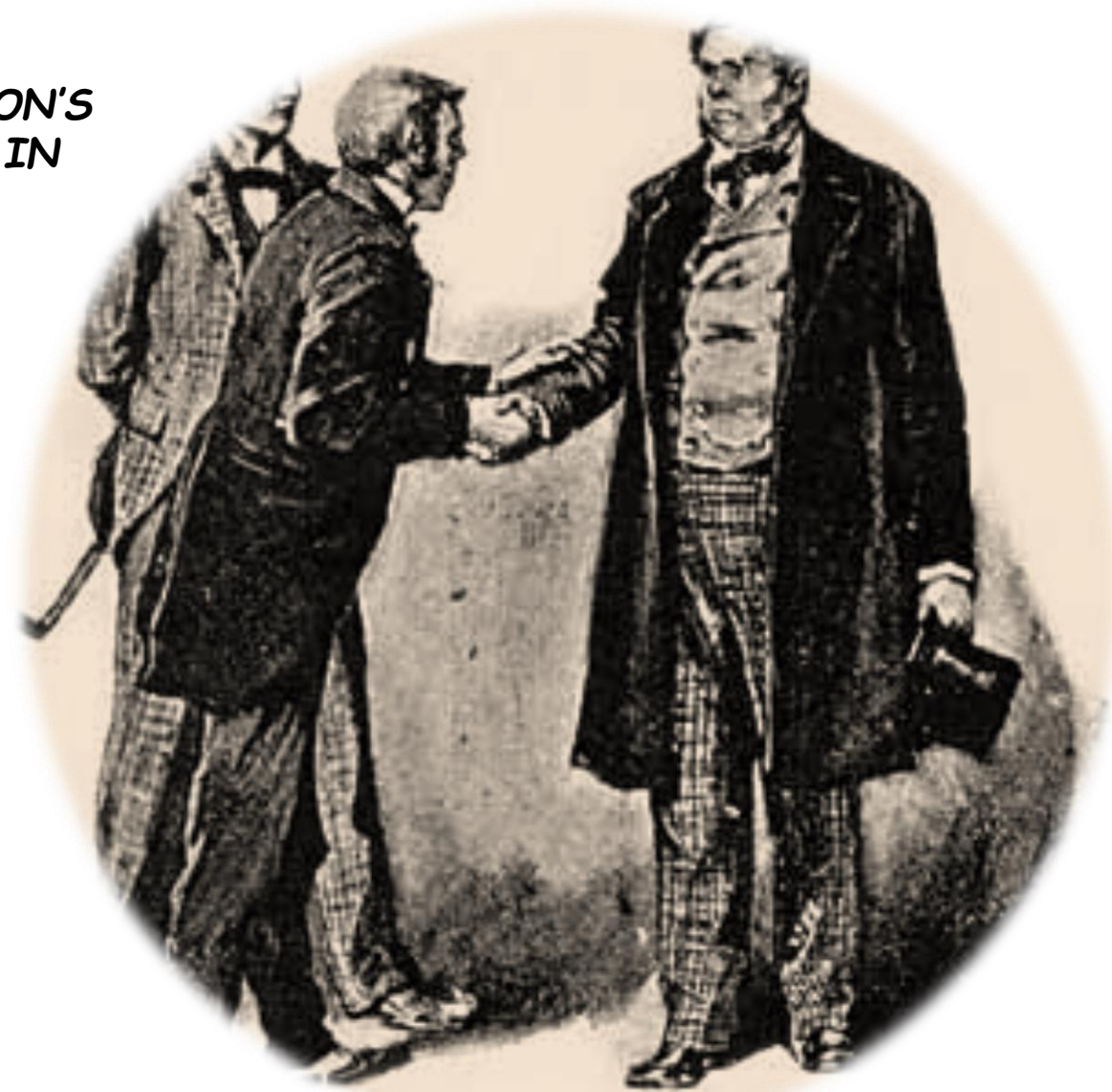
A015 -- THE ABDUCTIVE REASONING OF SHERLOCK HOLMES -- FEBRUARY, 2022



WELCOME TO TOPIC # 015... TODAY WE WILL BE
LOOKING AT 'ABDUCTIVE REASONING', A FORM OF
LOGICAL INFERENCE.



HOLMES, IN 'THE ADVENTURE OF THE RED-HEADED LEAGUE,' YOU CORRECTLY IDENTIFIED MR. JABEZ WILSON'S CURRENT AND PAST TRADE, HIS HAVING TIME SPENT IN CHINA, AND HIS MEMBERSHIP IN FREEMASONRY.



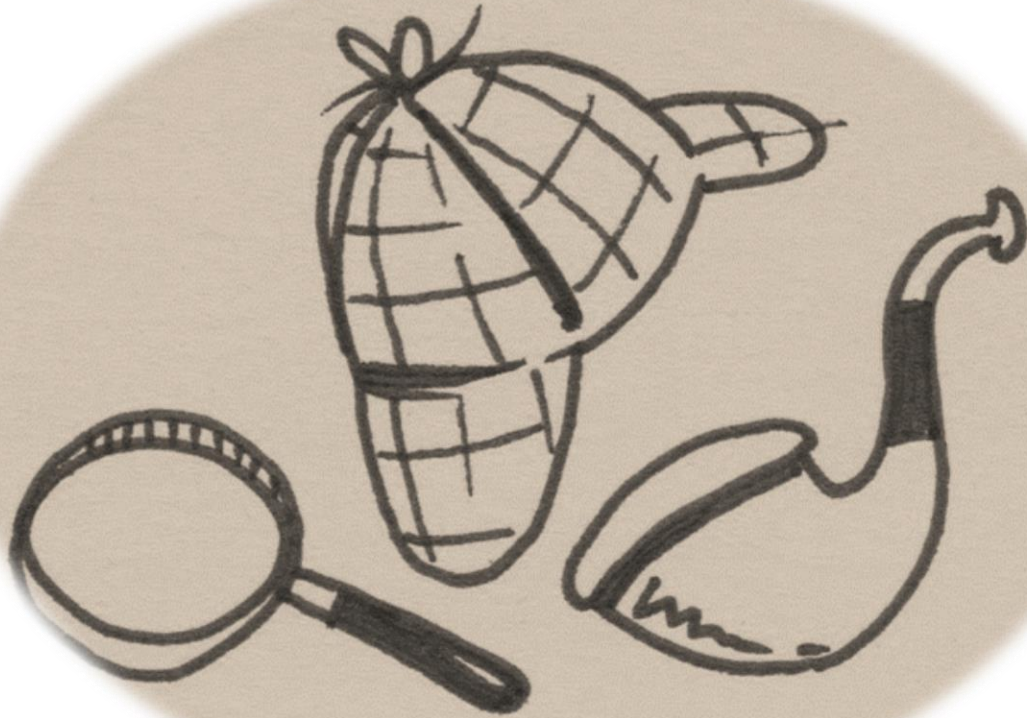
**THIS DEMONSTRATION OF YOUR POWERS OF
OBSERVATION RESULTED FROM YOUR OVERALL
PURSUIT OF DETECTIVE SKILLS I FIRST DESCRIBED
IN A STUDY IN SCARLET.**



BASIC TO SUCH EFFORTS, YOU NOTED IN 'THE FIVE PIPS,' WAS THE OBSERVER'S STOCKPILE OF KNOWLEDGE AND FACTS THAT CAN BE APPLIED TO ONE'S OBSERVATIONS IN ORDER TO FORM A CONCLUSION.



WHILE I REFERRED TO THIS AS DEDUCTION, THE PROCESS IS ACTUALLY ABDUCTIVE REASONING... IN DEDUCTIVE REASONING, IF THE PREMISES ARE TRUE, THE CONCLUSION MUST BE TRUE.



ACCORDING TO LUKE MUEHLHAUSER, THE DEDUCTIVE APPROACH TO MR. WILSON'S MEMBERSHIP IN FREEMASONRY WOULD FOLLOW THIS PATTERN:





- 1) **EVERYONE WEARING AN ARC-AND-COMPASS BREASTPIN IS A FREEMASON.**
- 2) **MR. WILSON IS WEARING AN ARC-AND-COMPASS BREASTPIN.**
- 3) **THEREFORE, MR. WILSON IS A FREEMASON.**



THE PROBLEM WITH SUCH AN APPROACH, HOWEVER, IS THAT SOMEONE MIGHT WEAR THE BREASTPIN WITHOUT BEING A FREEMASON... AS A RESULT, THE CONCLUSION IS NOT NECESSARILY TRUE, BECAUSE THE BASIS FOR THE ARGUMENT IS FLAWED... IN THE ABDUCTIVE APPROACH, THE CONCLUSION IS BASED ON THE BEST EXPLANATION KNOWN... MUEHLHAUSER ILLUSTRATES MY ACTUAL TRAIN OF THOUGHT IN THE ABOVE CASE AS:



- 1) THE SURPRISING FACT, AN ARC-AND-COMPASS BREASTPIN ON MR. WILSON, IS OBSERVED.
- 2) BUT IF MR. WILSON IS A FREEMASON, AN ARC-AND-COMPASS BREASTPIN ON THE MAN WOULD BE A MATTER OF COURSE.
- 3) HENCE, THERE IS REASON TO SUSPECT THAT MR. WILSON IS A FREEMASON.



THE BASIS FOR SUCH LOGIC IS THE HYPOTHESIS,
OR THE FIRST PART OF THE SECOND STATEMENT,
MR. WILSON IS A FREEMASON... THIS DECLARATION
IS THE ONE THAT BEST ACCOUNTS FOR WHAT IS
OBSERVED IN THE FIRST STATEMENT...

DETERMINING WHAT TRULY PROVIDES THE BEST
EXPLANATION INVOLVES COLLECTING KNOWLEDGE
TO BE USED IN FORMING THE HYPOTHESIS.



SUCH DATA GATHERING IS MOST CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH THE PHYSICAL SCIENCES AND ITS ADHERENCE TO THE SCIENTIFIC METHOD TO INCREASE THE ACCURACY AND RELIABILITY OF BOTH THE OBSERVATIONS AND THE CONCLUSIONS DRAWN FROM THEM.





THUS, I WAS DRIVEN TO GATHER AND STORE AS MUCH KNOWLEDGE AS POSSIBLE TO MAKE THE BEST EXPLANATION POSSIBLE TO SEEK A TEST TO DETERMINE IF BLOOD CAUSED A STAIN;





**...TO CATALOG THE ASHES OF ONE HUNDRED-FORTY
DIFFERENT TOBACCOS; TO CLASSIFY TATTOO
MARKS; TO INVENTORY DIFFERENCES IN
FOOTPRINTS, EARS, AND HANDS; AND OTHER
TIDBITS.**





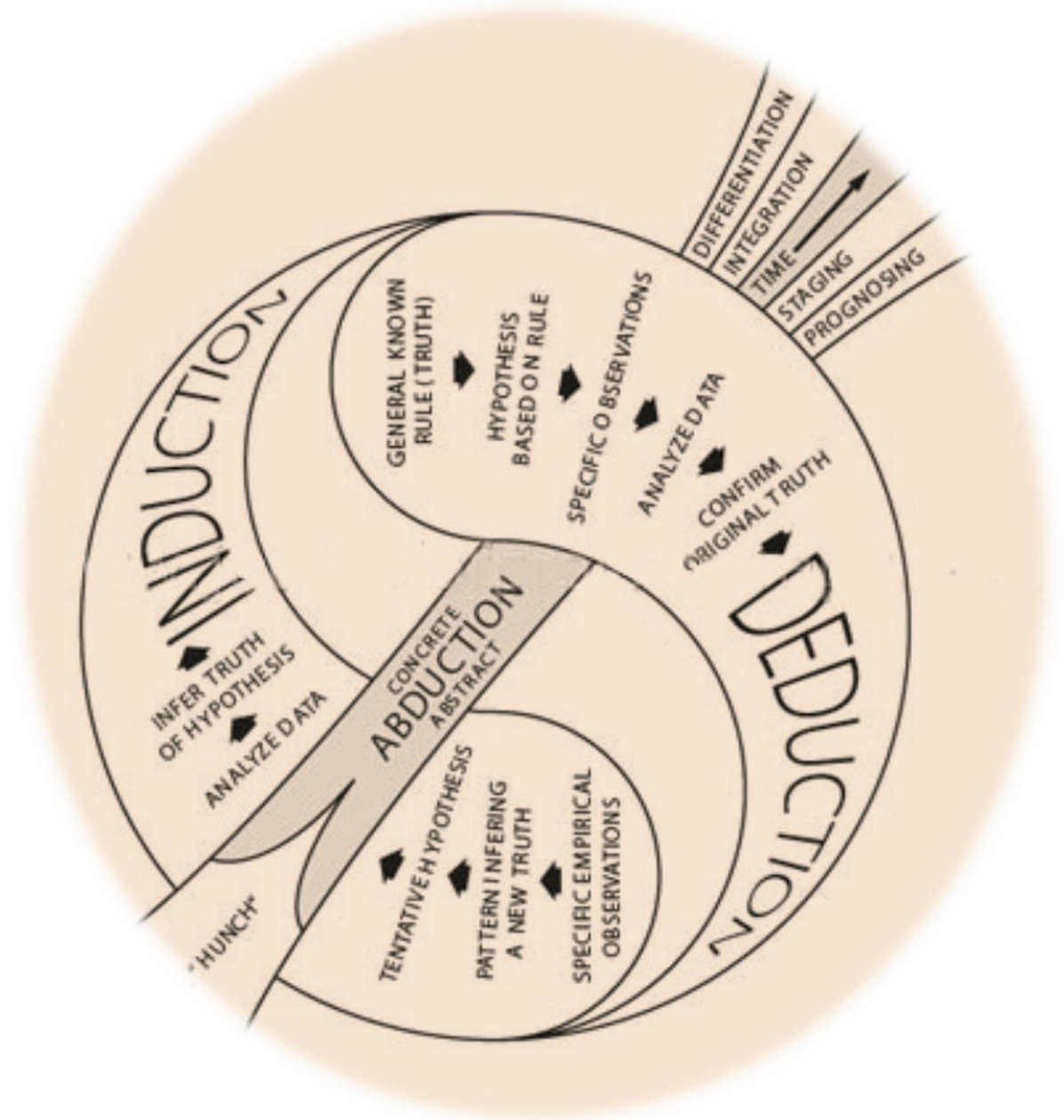
IN AN EFFORT TO FURTHER DEVELOP MY CHOSEN FIELD, WHAT I GLEANED, I SHARED WITH OTHERS THROUGH MONOGRAPHS AND TREATISES.



AS YOU TOLD ME IN 'THE FIVE ORANGE PIPS,'
"TO CARRY THE ART, HOWEVER, TO ITS HIGHEST
PITCH, IT IS NECESSARY THAT THE REASONER
SHOULD BE ABLE TO UTILISE ALL THE FACTS
WHICH HAVE COME TO HIS KNOWLEDGE ...IT IS NOT
SO IMPOSSIBLE, HOWEVER, THAT A MAN SHOULD
POSSESS ALL KNOWLEDGE WHICH IS LIKELY TO BE
USEFUL TO HIM IN HIS WORK, AND THIS I HAVE
ENDEAVOURED IN MY CASE TO DO."



SO, IT APPEARED YOU FAILED TO RECOGNIZE YOUR THINKING AS ABDUCTIVE REASONING RATHER THAN DEDUCTIVE...



**EVEN 21ST CENTURY DETECTIVE TRAINING RARELY,
IF EVER, CORRECTLY IDENTIFIED THIS BASIC
INVESTIGATIVE PRACTICE.**



Detective Training



ALL THE SAME, I APPLIED MY KNOWLEDGE, USING A SYSTEMATIC APPROACH, AS WILL MY MODERN EQUIVALENTS BUT WITH AN EVEN GREATER ARSENAL, E.G. DNA, FACE-RECOGNITION, AND ION SPECTROMETRY, THAN AT MY FINGERTIPS, IF NOT IN MY BRAIN ATTIC.



SO, WE HAVE COMPLETED TOPIC # 015 IN OUR SERIES...

IN TOPIC # 016, WE WILL LOOK AT CANINES IN OUR ADVENTURES.



REFERENCES FOR THIS TOPIC:

- DOYLE, ARTHUR CONAN; RYAN, ROBERT (2012-12-13). THE COMPLETE SHERLOCK HOLMES
- [HTTP://COMMONSENSEATHEISM.COM/?P=3703](http://commonsenseatheism.com/?p=3703)
- DAVID CARSON, "THE ABDUCTION OF SHERLOCK HOLMES," INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF POLICE SCIENCE AND MANAGEMENT JUNE 2009.



Baker Street Elementary

"THE LIFE AND TIMES IN VICTORIAN LONDON"

IS CREATED THROUGH THE INGENUITY & HARD WORK OF:

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