

# Baker Street *Elementary*



## *THE HOUNDS*

*Yearbook Staff: Joe Fay, Rusty & Steve Mason*

*2019 - The Fifth Year - The First Adventures of Sherlock Holmes and John Watson*

# Baker Street *Elementary*

**Baker Street Elementary – 2019 -- The Fifth Year**

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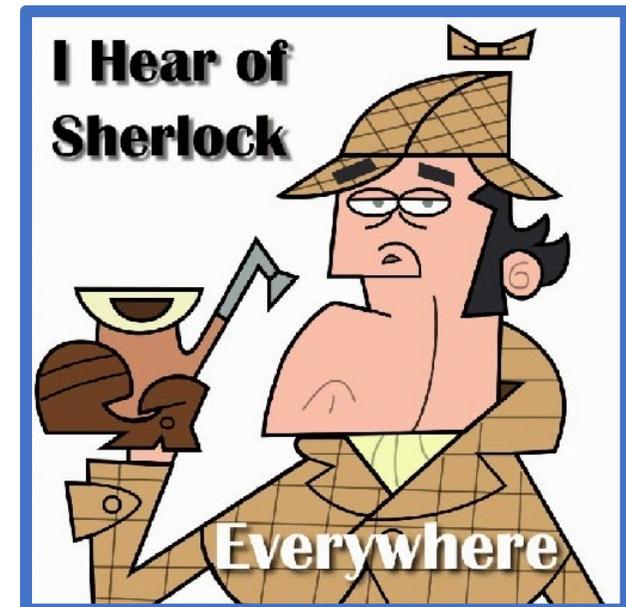
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**Bound in the surelox style, apropos of the subject matter.**

**As in past years, we were honored to continue "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" (IHOSE) carrying our strip on a bi-weekly basis. Thanks, Scott and Burt, for believing in us. We have included excerpts from Scott's introductions for the episodes. They are very imaginative, and add a wonderful flair to the strips.**

**Visit IHOSE at <http://www.ihearofsherlock.com>**



# Baker Street Elementary

## FOREWORD

*After a talk I gave recently on Sherlock Holmes, a woman came up to me to tell me what a tremendous fan she was of the Great Detective.*

*She was so pleased 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 there 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 Holes 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 Dirks'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."*

# *Baker Street Elementary*

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!

*Leslie S. Klinger, BSI ("The Abbey Grange")  
Malibu, CA*

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



**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.*

(continued)

I HAVE YET TO FIND THE PROPER  
INSPIRATION...

WHAT ESSAY ?



(continue)

*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...*

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 ?



<< Pssst, HOLMES >>  
WHAT IS  $22 \times 17$  ??



12 BILLION...

THANKS... I  
OWE YOU...



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THAT'S INTERESTING... YOU  
TOLD ME THAT WAS THE  
ANSWER TO  $19 \times 15$  ALSO...



IT'S ALSO THE ANSWER TO  $9 \times 24$ ... MATH  
GETS MORE CONFUSING TO ME EVERY DAY...

HOW MANY  
ZERO'S ARE  
THERE IN 12  
BILLION ??



## 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, articles 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.



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



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



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



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 ?



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...



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

SUBORDINATE CLAUSES



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

BECAUSE IT SOOTS HIM



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

SANTA PAUSE!



WHY DOES SANTA HAVE 3 GARDENS?

SO HE CAN HO-HO-HO.



WHY DID SANTA GO TO JAIL?

HE SLEIGHED AN ELF.



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

KRISP KRINGLE.



WHAT DO YOU CALL SOMEONE WHO IS AFRAID OF SANTA?

CLAUS-TROPHOBIC.



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

HE WAS FIRED FOR CLAUS!



MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY HOLIDAYS...



## 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 6th...

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



MY FATHER HAS A NEW WAY 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 HANGING OUT WITH PEOPLE WHO ASK ME ABOUT MY NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS.



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...

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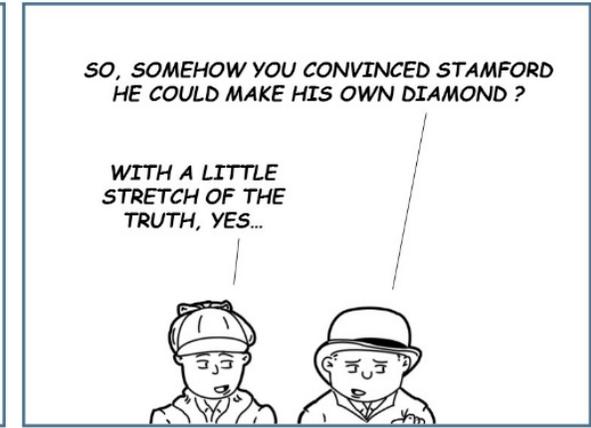
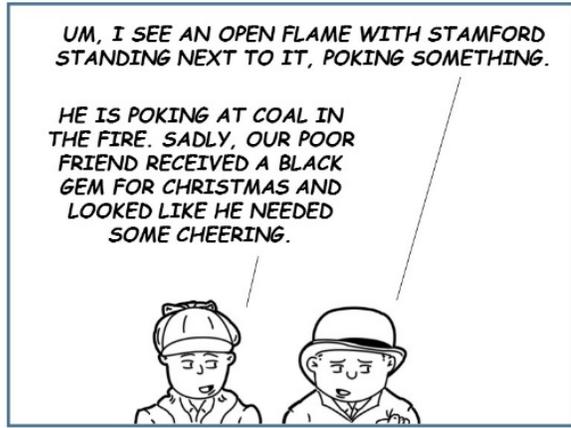


**PRESENTLY WITH AN EXCLAMATION OF SATISFACTION**  
"bursting into an explosion of laughter" [STUD]

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.

(continued)



PLEASE TELL ME YOU ARE NOT BURNING ANYTHING UP AGAIN...

I WILL NOT HAVE DIRECT CONTACT IN THE MATTER, 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 YOUNGINS'

WARMER

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



(continue)

*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...*

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 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.



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 THAT 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.'



## 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:

(continued)

Baker Street Elementary  
Number 200 – 01/27/2019

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



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



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



(continue)

"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:—

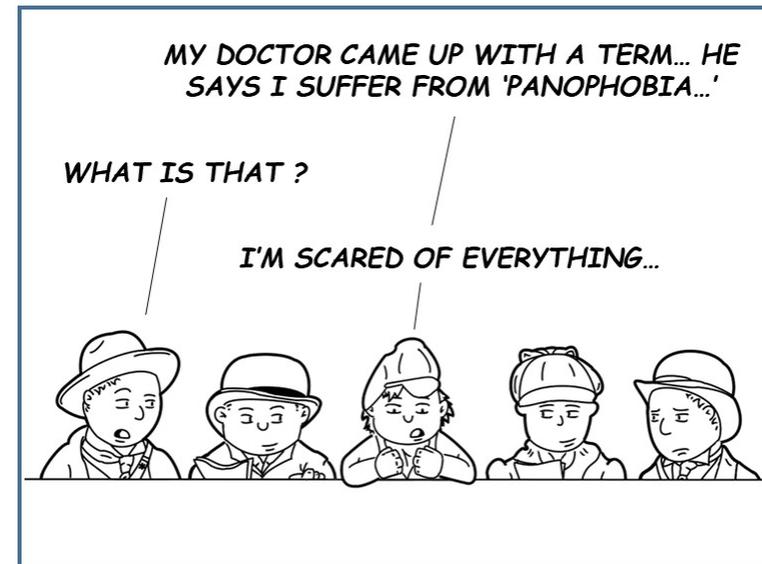
"Mr. Holmes, they were the footprints of a gigantic hound!"

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**...



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...



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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...



## I WAS ABLE TO FOLLOW THE TREND

"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 EVERY ONE IS DIFFERENT FROM THE OTHERS...



FINGERPRINTS ?

MY SCHOOL TEST SCORES...



SNOWFLAKES...

REASONS MY MOTHER PUNISHES ME...



EARLOBES...

EARLOBES ?

TRUST ME ON THAT ONE ...



ZEBRA STRIPES...

WAYS TO EARN DETENTION...



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



YOU KNOW GENETICS IS AN INTERESTING SUBJECT TO STUDY... MY THANKS TO MISTER IMRE FESTERIC'S...



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...

THE HAWK-SHAPED NOSE IS DEFINITELY A FAMILY CHARACTERISTIC...

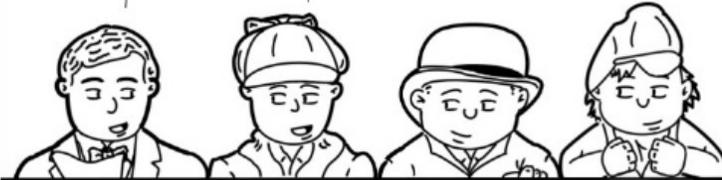


SADLY, IT WOULD BE MY LUCK TO HAVE MY OWN BRAIN...



GOOD DAY, MASTERS HOLMES 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 ME AS 'BERTIE'... I HAD A  
VERY INTERESTING DREAM  
LAST NIGHT THAT COULD  
LEAD TO A VERY GOOD YARN.



### 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*.

(continued)

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 THE FUTURE ?

I THINK I WOULD  
START WITH THE PAST...



(continue)

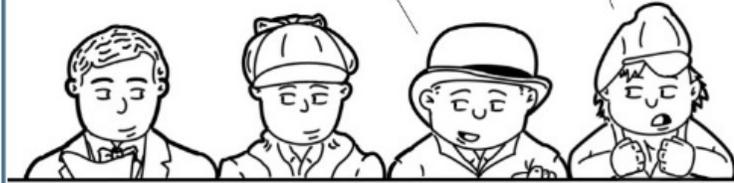
Here, Peter Blau, BSI ("Black Peter") remembers Wellman in Vol. 36, No. 3 of *The Baker Street Journal*:

Manly Wade Wellman, who died on 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's 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*...

WOULD YOU BE ABLE TO RIGHT WRONGS THAT YOU OR OTHERS HAD 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 ?



HELLO MASTER HOLMES...  
MASTER WATSON... STAMFORD...  
I HAVE A FAVOR TO ASK YOU...

WE WILL TRY TO ASSIST  
YOU, MASTER NEWNES...



I HAVE BEEN ASKED TO  
WRITE AN ESSAY FOR THE  
SCHOOL NEWSPAPER ON  
FRIENDSHIPS... 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.



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."



UNIQUE TO SAY  
THE LEAST...

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



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 ?



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 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...



## WHAT A GULLI-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's 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.

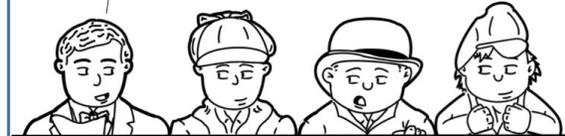
One other connection of interest: Orson Welles later went on to play Professor Moriarty in the John Gielgud / Ralph Richardson radio adaptations **The New Adventures of Sherlock Holmes** from 1955.

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

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



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 JACK 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...



ONCE AGAIN OUR  
TEACHER HAS  
BAFFLED ME...

THAT'S SETTING  
THE BAR LOW...



### 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:

(continued)

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!



(continue)

- "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**...

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...

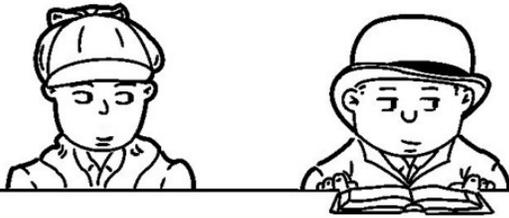


THANKS SHERLOCK...  
ONCE AGAIN, THERE IS  
NO PROBLEM SO BAD  
YOU CAN'T TOSS IN  
SOME GUILT AND MAKE  
ME FEEL WORSE.

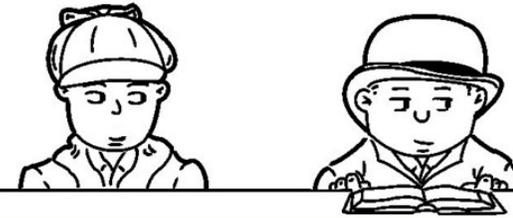
I WON'T EVEN  
CHARGE YOU FOR  
THE ADVICE, MY  
GOOD MAN...



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...



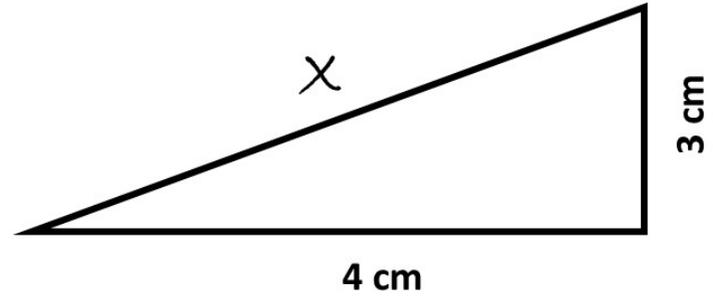
YES MA'AM... THIS IS THE  
EARLIEST YOU HAVE  
DISPATCHED ME TO THE  
HEADMASTER THIS MONTH...



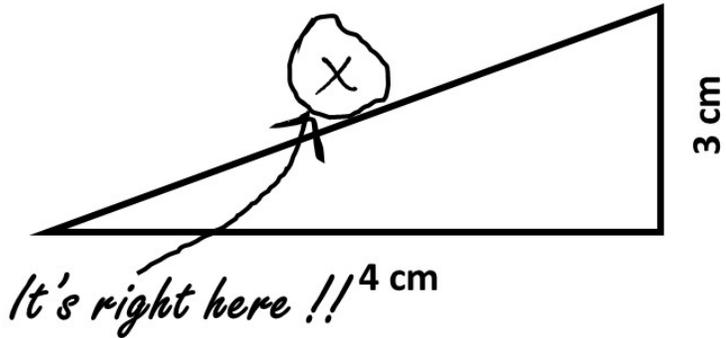
WELL, HERE WE GO...



1. Find X.



1. Find X.



SHE'S NOT EVEN TRYING TO  
MAKE THEM HARD ANYMORE...



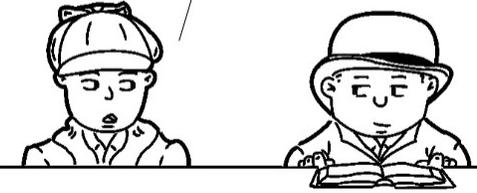
TODAY, I WOULD LIKE TO  
LEARN MORE ABOUT YOUR  
HOME LIFE...



SHERLOCK, WHAT DOES  
YOUR MOTHER DO ?



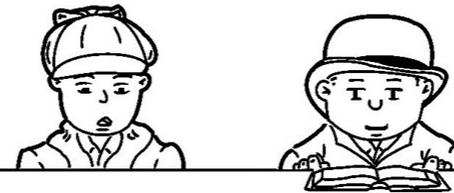
SHE IS MULTI-TALENTED... SHE RUNS  
OUR HOUSEHOLD, IS A WRITER,  
ARTIST, AND KEEPS MY BROTHER  
AND I IN LINE...



SO, WHAT DOES YOUR  
FATHER DO ?



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 Merripit House 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?

(continued)

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

THEY ALL CREEP ME OUT...



Copyright © 2019, Rev. Adam, M.D.  
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...



(continue)

"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"

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 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 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  
A DAY TO GET ALL THE  
RESEARCH DONE...



WHAT ???



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."

(continued)

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 HUMORED TO MEET ADAM, AND SEE IF IT IS TRUE...

TO SEE IF WHAT IS TRUE ?



(continú)

*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.*

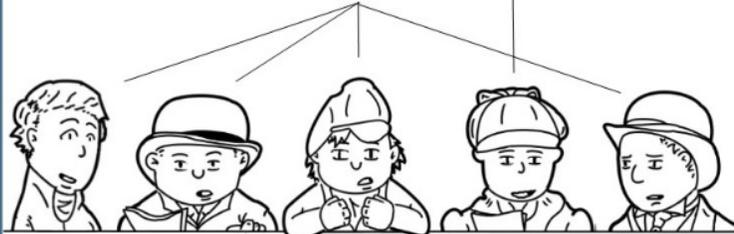
*Maybe **Baker Street Elementary** is having more luck...*

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



THINK ABOUT IT.....

OHHHH !!!!



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



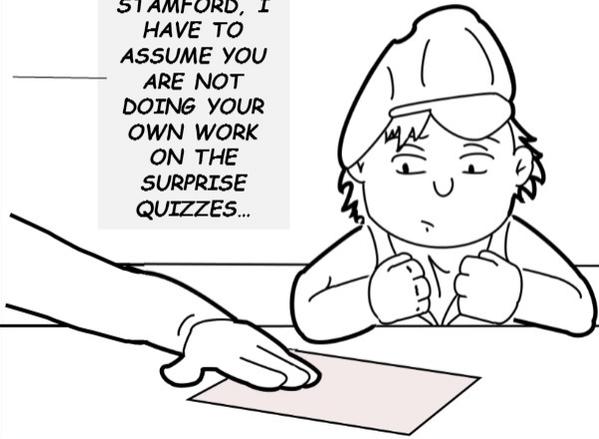
MA'AM, I DON'T  
UNDERSTAND  
THAT LOW  
GRADE...



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?"

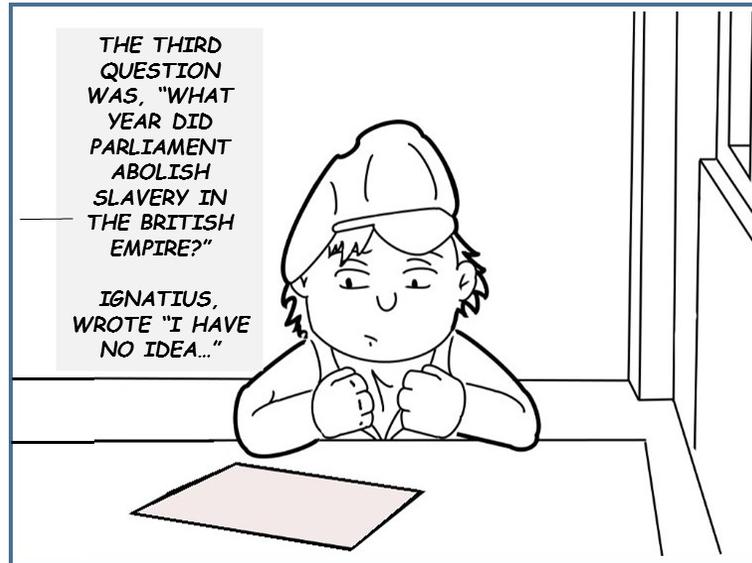
JOHN WROTE, "WATERLOO"

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 humor 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. Achool! (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.

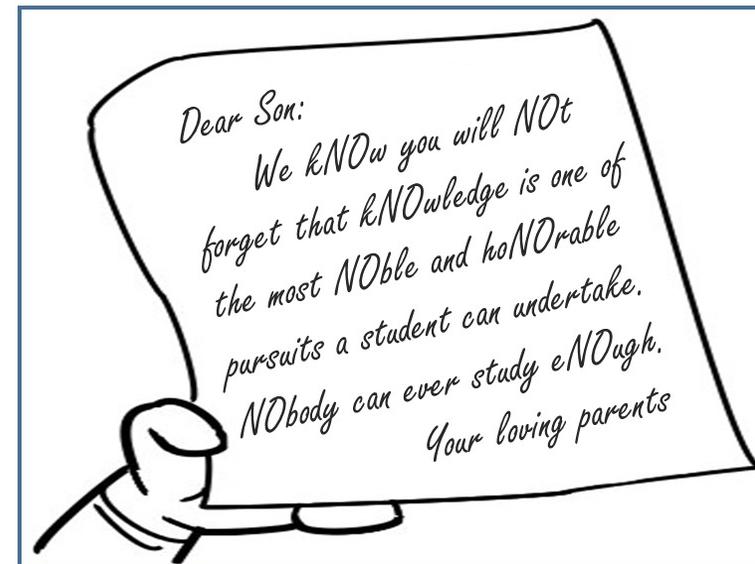
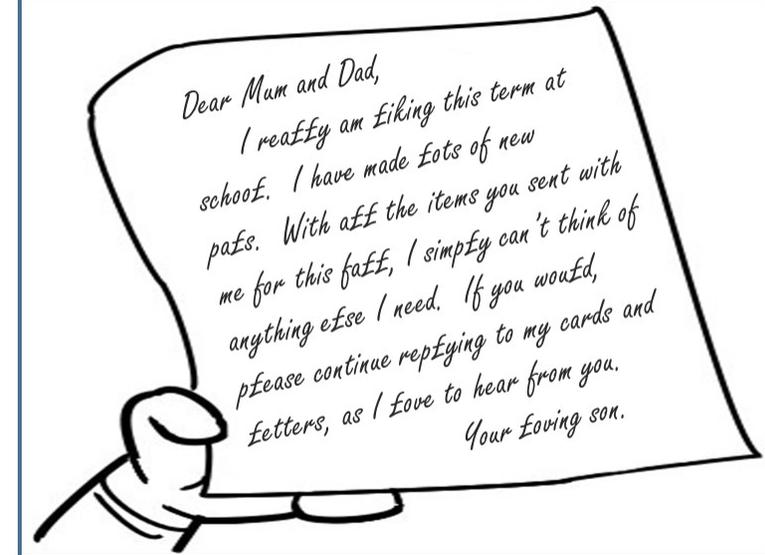
But in the case below, perhaps it's simply a matter of knowing one's audience.

One might even say it's Elementary...

Baker Street Elementary  
Number 218 - 05/26/2019

Fog, Moon, & Moon

MY MOTHER AND FATHER HAVE A  
VERY INTERESTING SENSE OF  
HUMOR... 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...

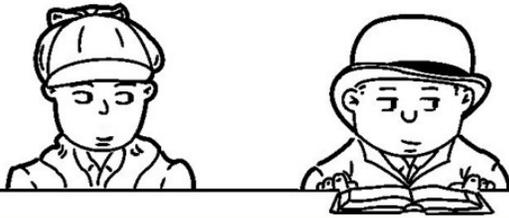


YOUR PAPER  
WAS BLANK...

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  
YOU 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 A 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...



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WHAT ABOUT YOUR TEACHER, IRENÉ ?

SHE BELIEVES I WILL BE A SINGER AND ADVENTRESS...



WHAT IS AN ADVENTRESS ?

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...



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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 ya 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's 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-  
COLORED 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 OFF 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...



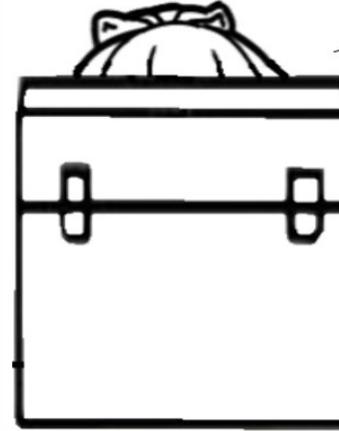
...OR SINK TO THE BOTTOM OF  
THE SEA AS DID MOST OF THE  
CHARACTERS IN THE STORY



HOLMES, I CAN'T HELP NOTICE YOU  
NOW HAVE YOUR OWN "TIN BOX"...  
ONLY SLIGHTLY LARGER THAN MINE...



WATSON,  
STAMFORD, A TIN  
BOX, SIMLIAR TO  
YOUR "BRAIN  
ATTIC", SHOULD BE  
SIZED  
APPROPRIATELY TO  
THE AMOUNT OF  
MATERIAL PLACED  
IN IT...

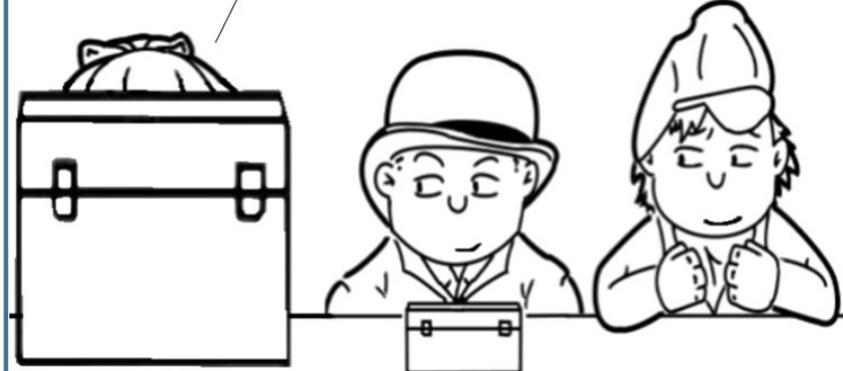


OR YOUR EGO...

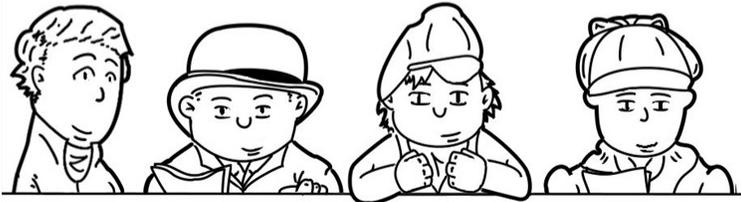
DO THEY MAKE  
BOXES THAT LARGE ?



I WONDER IF THEY SELL  
THESE BY THE DOZEN ?



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 DO FOR A LIVING ?

TO STAY ALIVE,  
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 proved 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 a certain consulting detective's work was considered.

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

Baker Street Elementary  
Number 229 - 07/28/2019

Fry, Mason, & Mason

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



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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 YOU ARE ALSO 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 HUMOR 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.



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...



### 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 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.

(continued)

(continue)

*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**...*

... 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 pokers 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 to it 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 Bakervilles**, 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 Mrs. Hudson arranged clean bed linens and towels, as any boarding-house operator would

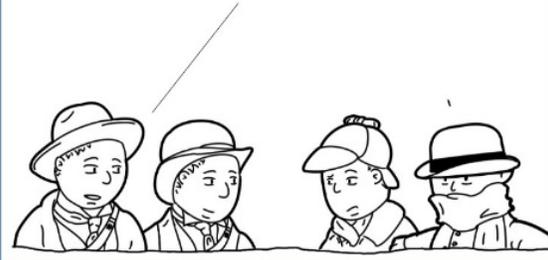
[Related: listen to our discussion about Boarding Houses on Trifles].

But what about the laundry?

Would she do that herself?

(continued)

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...



LAST WEEK, YOU MAY REMEMBER OUR DEAR MRS. HUDSON WAS STRUCK ILL FOR A FEW DAYS. THE KINDLY, BUT NOT QUITE AS SHARP, MRS. TURNER AGREED TO SERVE THE MEALS DURING HER ABSENCE.



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.



(continue)

Given Holmes's "princely" payments, our supposition is 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...**

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



EASY... THE REST OF THE TABLE PARTOOK IN THYME-FLAVORED 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.

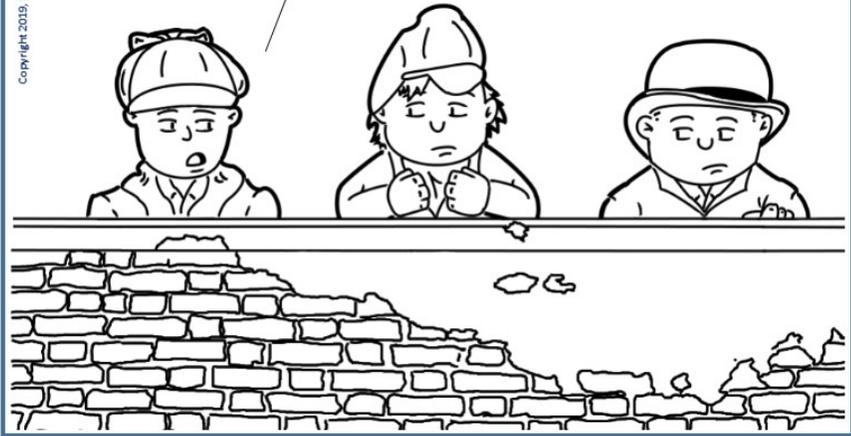


I FEEL SO MUCH  
BETTER SINCE I  
GAVE UP...



WHAT DID YOU GIVE UP... A  
BAD HABIT OR BEHAVIOR...

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NO, I JUST GAVE UP...



## BURIAL PLOT

*"The Professor was buried in his work" [CREE]*

Using the ground as a hiding place for one's crime is nothing new. According to the tradition in the Bible, the first child of Adam and Eve was Cain, who was a tiller of soil. He killed his brother Abel and buried him in the field. But you can't hide that kind of thing from God, who at that time only had four people to monitor on the Earth. God said:

*"What have you done? Listen! your brother's blood cries out to me from the soil."*

How many of the Sherlock Holmes stories involve burial as a method of keeping a crime from being discovered?

In *The Sign of Four*, the ultimate in buried treasure stories, we come across two instances of buried treasure.

Major Sholto's two sons assumed the Agra treasure would be buried on the grounds of Pondicherry Lodge, and over the course of six years dug for it.

*"It looks as though all the moles in England had been let loose in it. I have seen something of the sort on the side of a hill near Ballarat, where the prospectors had been at work."*

But the Four got their hands on the treasure by first murdering the merchant Achmet, who was carrying the iron box that contained the treasure.

They buried him and the treasure in the same area of the fort.

*"We carried the box, therefore, into the same hall where we had buried the body, and there, under certain bricks in the best-preserved wall, we made a hollow and put our treasure."*

In *"Silver Blaze,"* Holmes found the wax vesta that was "invisible, buried in the mud."

(continued)



(continue)

"The Musgrave Ritual" was another buried treasure story, originating in the 17th century when the royal party fled and "left many of their most precious possessions buried behind them, with the intention of returning for them in more peaceful times."

In "The Disappearance of Lady Frances Carfax," a specially constructed coffin concealed the unconscious lady, in an attempt to bury her with the corpse of a deceased elderly woman.

There are other instances of burying valuables, but not in the earth:

- The "small sliding shutter" that hid the photograph [SCAN]
- The "small black cavity" beneath the hinged square of wood in the floor [SECO]
- The "square piece of board" under the carpet that covered the T joint of the gas-pipe [NAVA]
- A square that "had opened in the planks" in the rooms of Nathan Garrideb [3GAR]

And now to bury ourselves in the latest conversations at **Baker Street Elementary**...

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 THAT 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 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...



PSST... 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 ?



## 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.

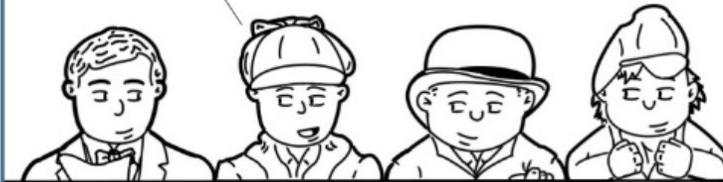
As Calamai observed, the absence of mentioning the filth in the Sherlock Holmes stories could have been because it was such a commonly-experienced occurrence that it didn't warrant additional ink.

(continued)

*Baker Street Elementary*  
Number 237 - 09/22/2019

*Fog, Mice, & Men*

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



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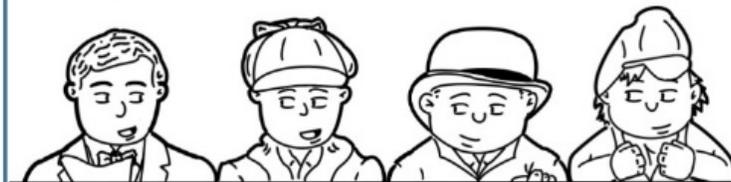
I APPRECIATE IT... PART 2 WILL COVER HOW WE CAN POSSIBLY STOP THEM FROM CONQUERING US.

FEED THEM OUR CAFETERIA FOOD ?



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

SIMPLE BIOLOGY...



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 "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."
- Watson noted the "subtle and aromatic aroma" of Thaddeus Sholto's hookah, and later the air in Bartholomew's chamber "was heavy with a peculiarly pungent, tar-like odor" in **The Sign of Four**. Fortunately, Toby was able to track "the pungent smell of the creasote [that] rose high above all other contending scents."
- 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**...

(continue)

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

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



GOOD SUGGESTIONS...

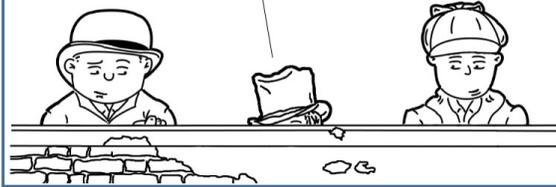
OR SIMPLY HAVE THEM TAKE IN A BREATH... THE SMELL OF MANURE, URINE, ROTTING FOOD, COLOGNES, AND DEAD ANIMALS MAY BE ENOUGH TO DO THEM IN...



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

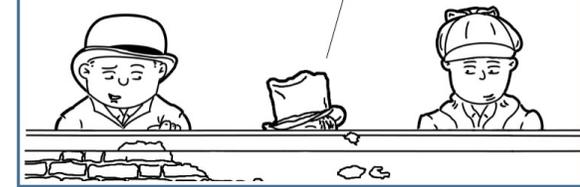


A FEW OF THE YOUNG'UNS WOULD  
LIKE TO PROPOSE A NEW PAYMENT  
SYSTEM FOR THEIR SERVICES.

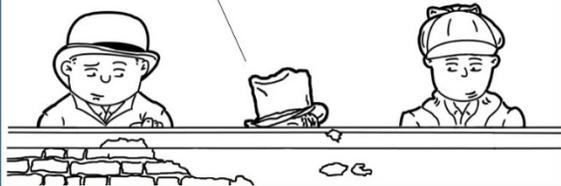


THEY ARE DISSATISFIED WITH THE BUTTONS  
HOLMES PAYS THEM WHENEVER THEY  
SUCCEED?

NO, THE AMOUNTS HAVE  
BEEN MORE THAN GENEROUS...



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



BUT THAT WOULD COMPLETELY DISSRUPT  
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 REGRETTABLE THE YOUNG'UNS DO NOT  
COMPREHEND THE LARGER PICTURE IN WHICH  
WE ARE INVOLVED...

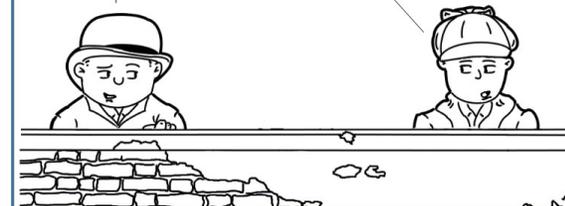


NOT SURE HOW I WILL  
SELL THAT, BUT I'LL TRY...



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 just editor's personal 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 THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A 'METEOR' AND A 'METEORITE'?

"-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 METEORITE MAKES A DEEPER IMPACT ON US...



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

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



'ECLIPSE' IT...



WE MAY NOT HAVE MUCH LUCK SEEING THE SHOWER WITH A FULL MOON OUT... JUST OUR LUCK.



DON'T KNOCK THE MOON... IT'S MORE USEFUL THAN THE SUN.

WHAT'S YOUR RATIONALE FOR THAT THOUGHT ?



WE NEED THE LIGHT MORE AT NIGHT.



YOU DO KNOW WHY THE COW JUMPED OVER THE MOON ?

NO, WHY ?

THE FARMER'S HANDS WERE ICE COLD.



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.

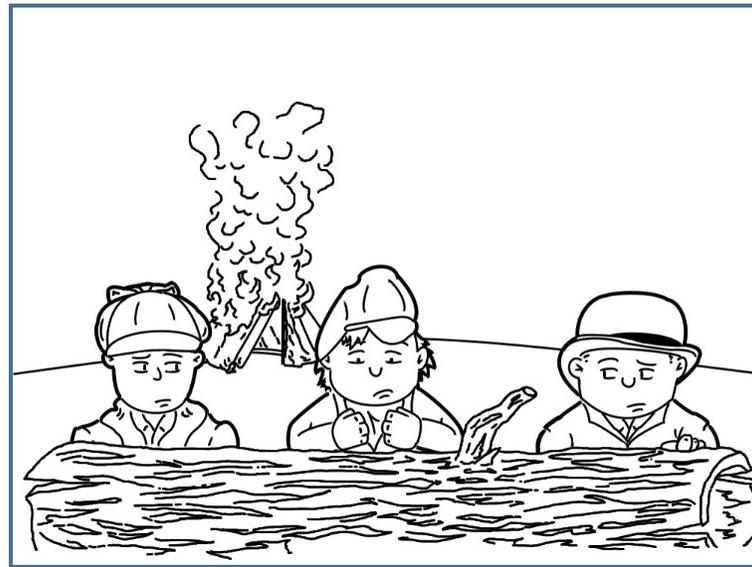
JUST STAND IN THE  
CORNER OF THE TENT...  
THEY'RE NORMALLY  
AROUND 90 DEGREES.



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.



... MEANWHILE,  
IN THE U.S.

**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.

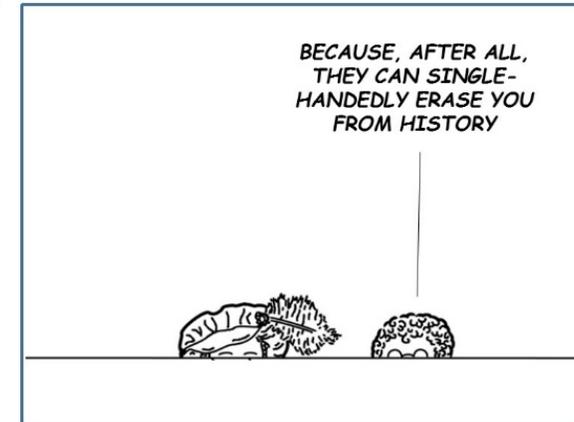
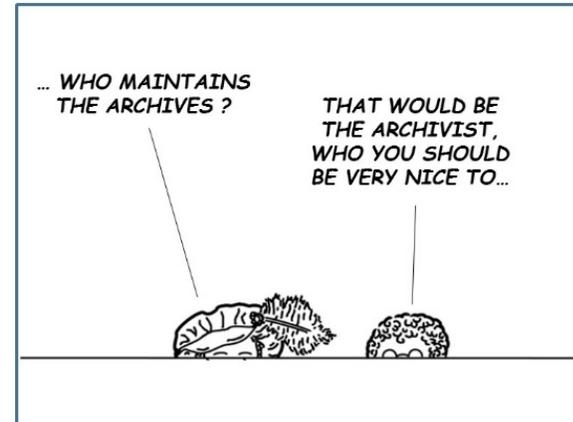
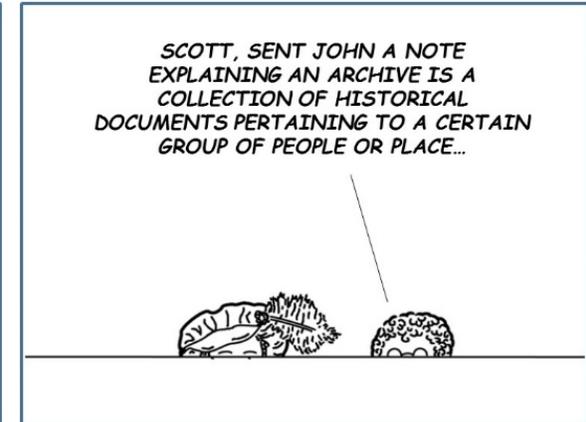
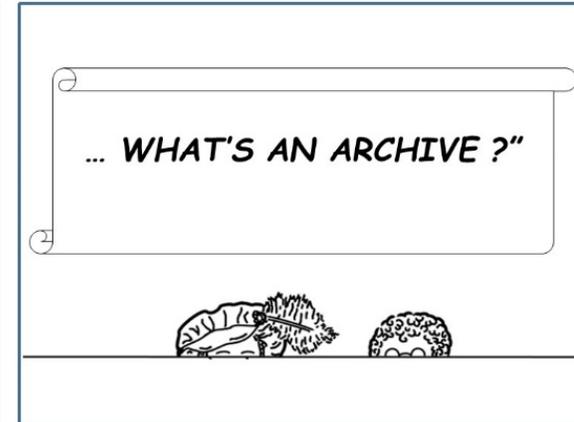
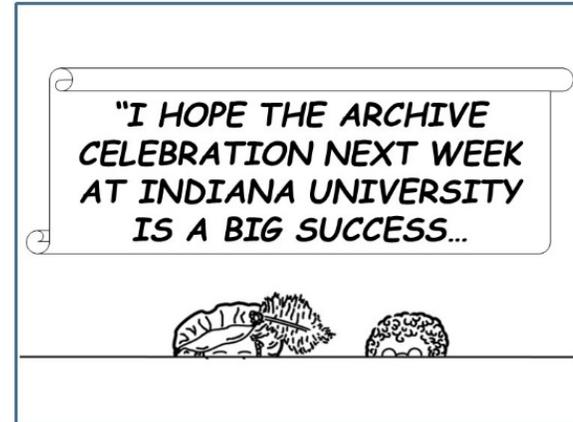
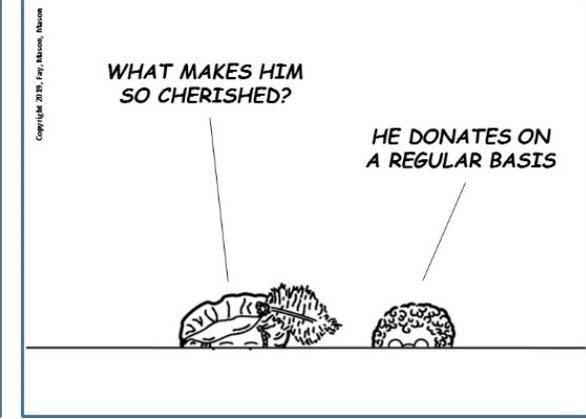
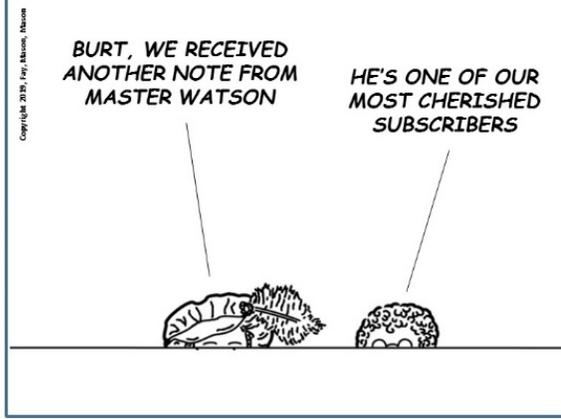
The BSI Archive itself is an important repository of items related to the history of the Baker Street Irregulars, the foremost literary society dedicated to Sherlock Holmes.

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. Or perhaps listen to next Saturday, if you're not.

Meanwhile, here's what the boys at Baker Street Elementary have to say about it...



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...



UHH...

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 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?" SAID THE MAN.

"YES, YOUNG MAN, IT IS" SAID THE LAWYER.

"NOW, WHAT'S YOUR THIRD QUESTION?"



JOHN, THERE'S A GIANT BUG  
CRAWLING UP YOUR SHOULDER... DON'T  
MOVE, MAYBE IT WILL JUMP OFF

A BUG !! ... QUICK, GET  
IT OFF ME... HELP !!



DON'T MOVE, MAYBE IT WILL LEAVE ON ITS  
OWN... TRY NOT TO IMAGINE IT GOING  
DOWN YOUR SHIRT, AND CRAWLING DOWN  
YOUR BACKSIDE ALL THE WAY TO YOUR ARSE...



Copyright 2019, Fry, Mason, Mason

I ADVISED YOU  
NOT TO MOVE.

EEEEKK !!!!

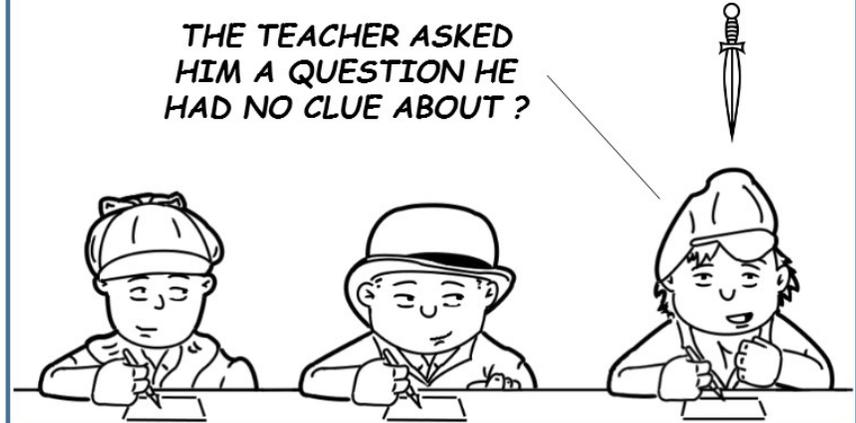


CAN ANYONE TELL ME WHY  
MACBETH SEES AN IMAGINARY  
DAGGER ABOVE HIM?



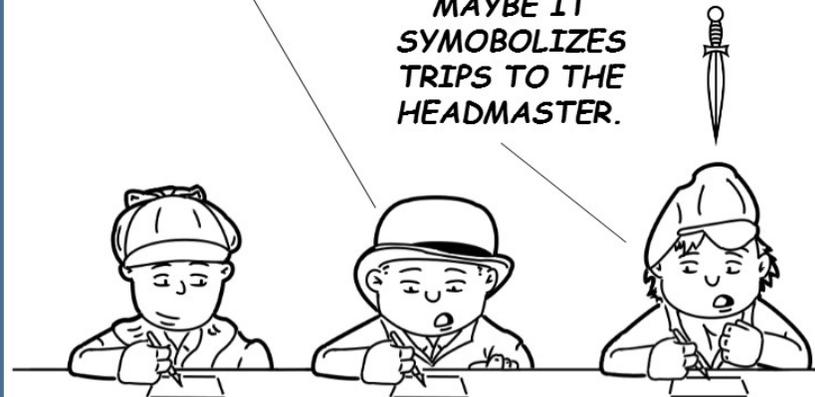
MASTER STAMFORD ?

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.

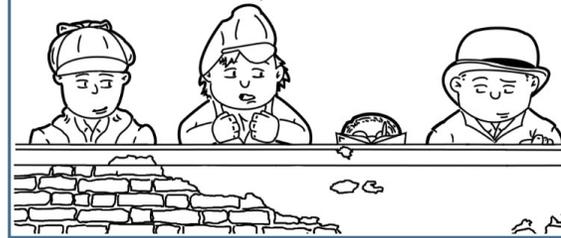
In Sherlock Holmes of Baker Street, William S. Baring-Gould dates it as October 1902. (He also claims it was Watson's third marriage.)

But when we get to "The Creeping Man," Watson - and the internal dates that help Holmes pinpoint the nighttime activity - indicate this case occurred in September 1903.

By that time, Holmes had gotten over his disappointment and was rather curt with Watson, perhaps indicating 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 ?

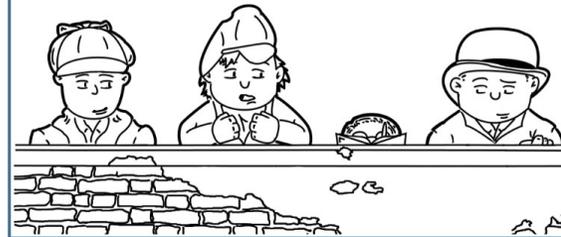


THERE ARE NEW INVENTIONS EVERYDAY, AND YOU HAVE THE MIND TO HELP CREATE GREAT THINGS...

NO PERSON SURVIVES COMPLETELY ON THEIR OWN IN THIS WORLD.



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



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



... AND WE HAVE THE POWER TO LEAVE THE NEXT GENERATION BETTER THAN THE OUR OWN...

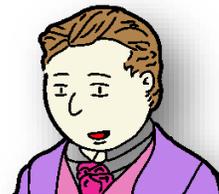
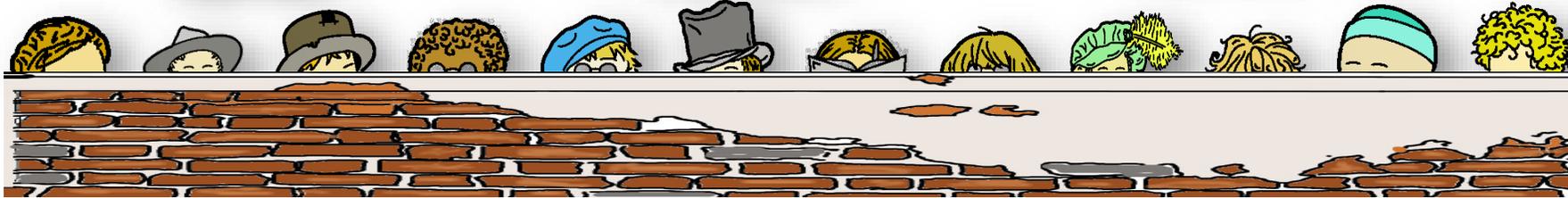
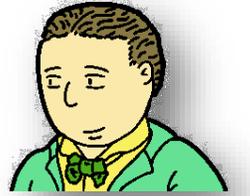
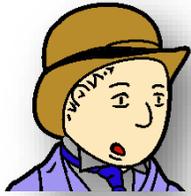
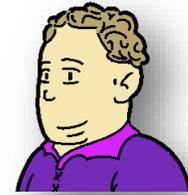
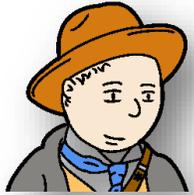
SO NO YOU ARE NOT ALONE !!



HOW DO I KEEP FROM FEELING LONELY TOO ?

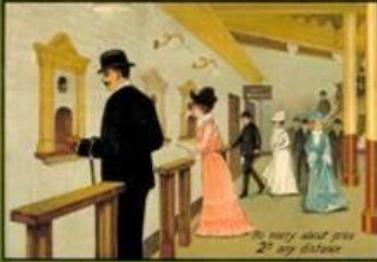
SIT IN A VERY DARK ROOM AND READ A VERY SCARY BOOK BY CANDLELIGHT... YOU SOON WON'T FEEL ALONE.





# CENTRAL LONDON (TUBE) RAILWAY.

TAKING THE TICKET AT BARK STATION



No worry about price  
2<sup>d</sup> any distance

DISPOSING OF THE TICKET



All tickets stamped with the date  
No worry about losing them

SAFE & COMMODIOUS LIFTS



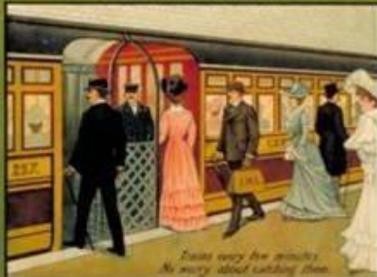
No Worry about accidents

TAKE  
THE  
TWO PENNY  
TUBE

AND  
VOID  
ALL  
ANXIETY

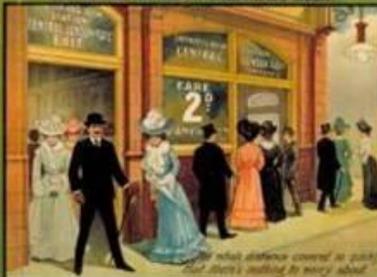


ENTERING THE TRAIN



Trains every few minutes  
No worry about catching them

LEAVING THE STATION AT SHEPHERD'S BUSH



what distance covered in quick  
and there's nothing to worry about

## Home of the Hounds

