

**HE HAS GAS LAID ON
"the equinoctial gales had set in" [FIVE]**

One of the advantages of having powers that are uncommon is one's peers might tend to think toward the fantastical. Sherlock Holmes's clients, and even Dr. Watson on occasion, thought the conclusions he drew were otherwise impossible to attain.

Holmes of course set them straight with his explanation of the details he observed. But to the mere common folk, it might appear as witchcraft or sorcery.

If we look throughout the Canon, there are a number of mentions of the cultish. There are but two concerning witchcraft, however.

For example, when Inspector MacDonald

sees the message Holmes deciphered in The Valley of Fear, he said,

"Birlstone! What's this, Mr. Holmes? Man, it's witchcraft! Where in the name of all that is wonderful did you get those names?"

In "Shoscombe Old Place," the reference was more to the appearance of a corpse:

He turned and tore open the coffin-lid behind him. In the glare of the lantern, I saw a body swathed in a sheet from head to foot, with dreadful, witch-like features, all nose and chin, projecting at one end, the dim, glazed eyes staring from a discoloured and crumbling face.

HE HAS GAS LAID ON "the equinoctial gales had set in" [FIVE] (continued)

However, turning away from the distaff side and instead searching for the term "wizard, we're rewarded with no fewer than four entries in the Sherlock Holmes stories:

Inspector Hopkins in "The Abbey Grange":

"I believe that you are a wizard, Mr. Holmes. I really do sometimes think that you have powers that are not human. Now, how on earth could you know that the stolen silver was at the bottom of that pond?"

The Right Honourable Trelawney Hope in "The Second Stain":

"Thank you! Thank you! What a weight from my heart. But this is inconceivable—impossible. Mr. Holmes, you are a wizard, a sorcerer! How did you know it was there?"

James M. Dodd in "The Blanched Soldier":

"From South Africa, sir, I perceive."

"Yes, sir," he answered, with some surprise.

"Imperial Yeomanry, I fancy."

"Exactly."

"Middlesex Corps, no doubt."

"That is so. Mr. Holmes, you are a wizard."

And in "The Retired Colourman" from Watson, no less:

"I am convinced that he was following me."

"No doubt! No doubt!" said Holmes. "A tall, dark, heavily moustached man, you say, with gray-tinted sun-glasses?"

"Holmes, you are a wizard. I did not say so, but he had gray-tinted sun-glasses."

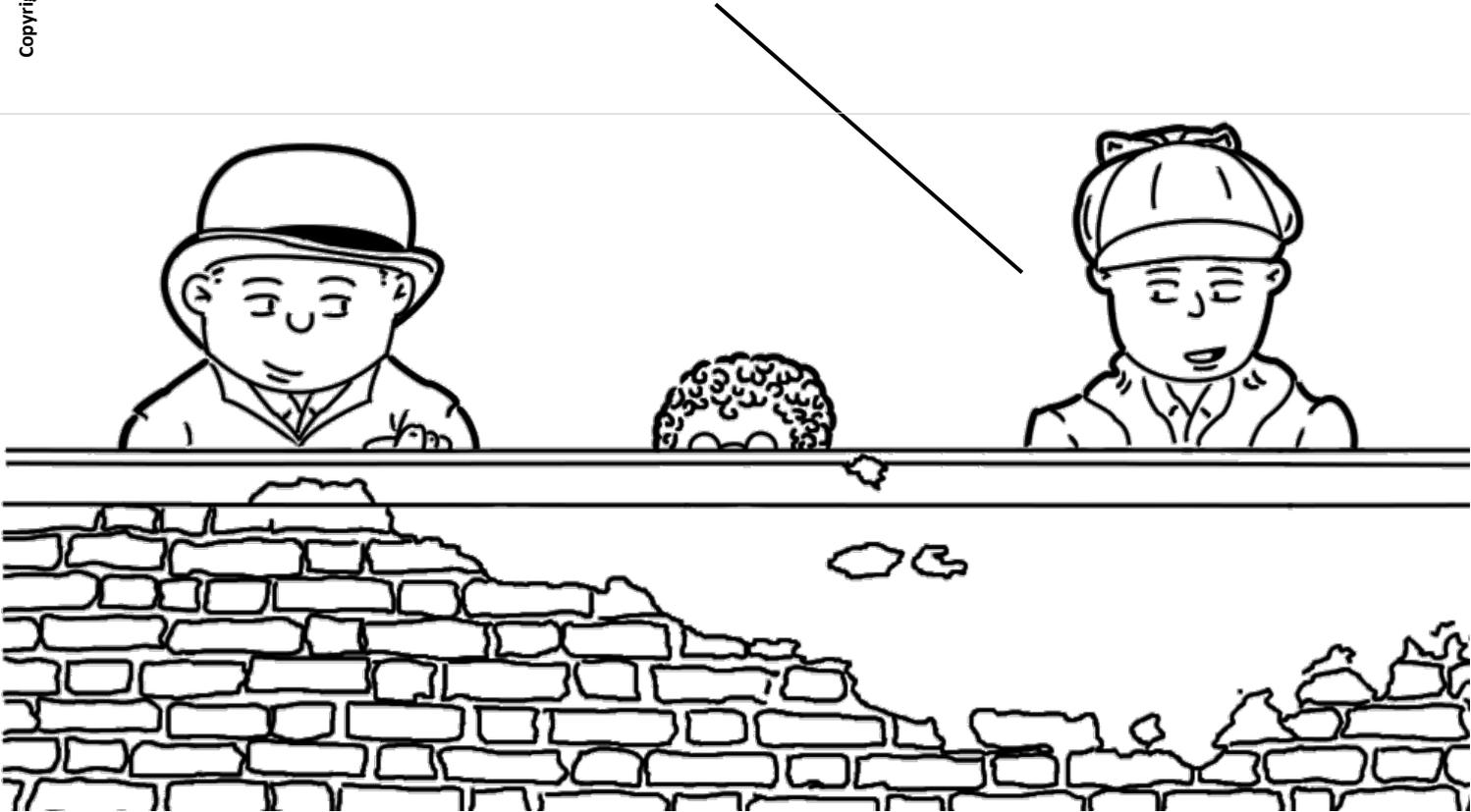
Over at Baker Street Elementary, we can see the humble beginnings of such a reputation.

HOLMES, LET ME
INTRODUCE THE
NEWEST TRANSFER
STUDENT AND
YOUNGIN, MASTER
HOLDER...

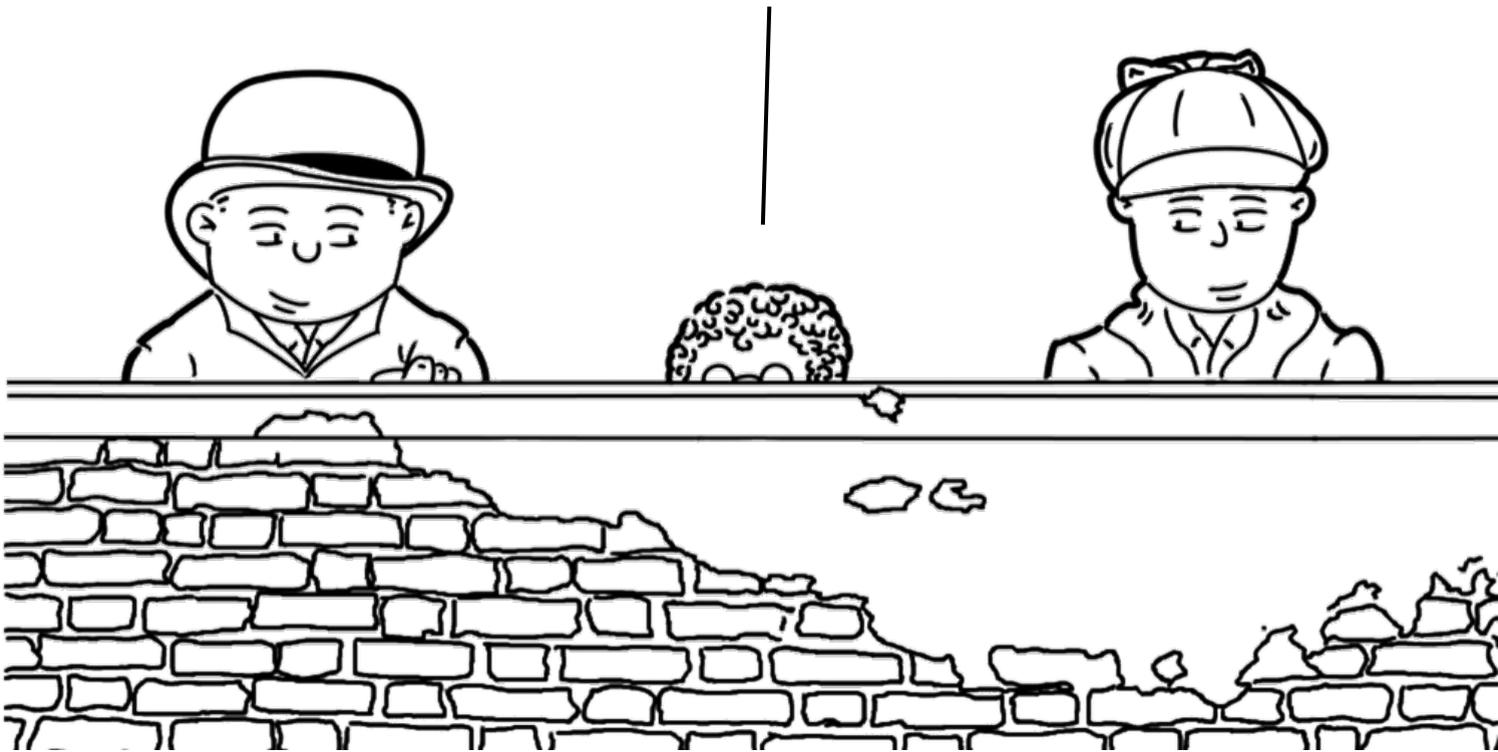
PLEASED TO ME YOU,
MISTER HOLMES... I
AM HERE FOR ONE
TERM...



**I HOPE YOU ADAPT WELL TO THE
BRITISH WAYS, SO FAR FROM
YOUR HOME IN NEW YORK...**



HOW DID YOU
KNOW I WAS FROM
THE STATES ?



THERE IS THE OBVIOUS
NON-RHOTIC ACCENT
FROM THE SOUTHEAST
PENNSYLVANIA AREA, AS
WELL AS THE BOOTLACE
KNOTS, WHICH ARE
DEFINITELY NOT
ENGLISH...



YOUR TIE CLASP IS AN
AMERICAN THREE CENT
PIECE, AND THE LOOP
STYLE OF THE TEMPLE
SLIDE OF YOUR
GLASSES IS UNIQUE TO
THE NEW ENGLAND
AREA... I HAVE
WRITTEN A SMALL
MONOGRAPH ON
SEVERAL VARIETIES OF
PINCE-NEZ'S.....



ARE YOU A WITCH ?

I PREFER THE
TERM 'WARLOCK'...

