

**IT ALL ADDS UP**  
**"such rarefied heights of pure mathematics" [VALL]**

*Some students have a natural turn for certain subjects; history may be filled with exciting events and people for one student, but may seem a boring litany of dates and unimportant facts for others.*

*Mathematics elicits such dichotomous reactions from students as well.*

*We can see some beating their heads on their desks in frustration, while others seem to have a knack for it.*

*Sherlock Holmes certainly seemed to be*

*inclined toward mathematics, as he declared*

*"The calculation is a simple one," and determined the speed of the train based on the distance of the quarter-posts in "Silver Blaze."*

*Another indication of Sherlock Holmes's proficiency with mathematics is his ability with the violin.*

*People who are adept at math often have a turn for music as well.*

## IT ALL ADDS UP

### "such rarefied heights of pure mathematics" [VALL] (continued)

*The topic has been explored and recognized, even as early as Pythagoras, who wrote:*

*"There is geometry in the humming of the strings, there is music in the spacing of the spheres."*

*Last year, Scientific American documented:*

*"Learning to play a musical instrument relies on understanding concepts, such as fractions and ratios, that are important for mathematical achievement."*

*However, the article noted it is still unclear whether musical training encourages mathematical ability, or whether math proficiency makes musical training more natural.*

*It's a chicken-and-egg phenomenon.*

*One certain thing worth noting is there was a professor in the Sherlock Holmes stories who was "endowed by nature with a phenomenal mathematical faculty."*

*That was of course Professor Moriarty.*

*Over the years, as Sherlockian scholarship and pastiches have bloomed, at least one source has postulated Moriarty could have been Sherlock Holmes's math tutor during his formative years.*

*Did that tutelage take place in Baker Street Elementary?*

*If so, Wiggins was certainly not part of that study group...*

## MATH POP QUIZ

QUESTION 1: FIND THE SQUARE ROOT OF 25.

*IF IT IS MISSING,  
SHERLOCK CAN FIND IT...*



**MATH POP QUIZ**  
**QUESTION 2: HOW WOULD YOU DIVIDE 17**  
**INTO 328?**

*I WOULDN'T...*



## MATH POP QUIZ

QUESTION 3:  $4 + X = 12$ ;  $X = 12 - 4$ ;  $X = ?$

*YOU TAUGHT US IN ROMAN NUMERALS  
 $X = 10$ ... IS THIS A TRICK QUESTION?*



**I AM STARTING TO GRASP  
THE MYSTERIES OF MATH...**

**THE ONLY MYSTERY  
IS HOW YOU ARE  
STILL IN OUR GRADE.**

