

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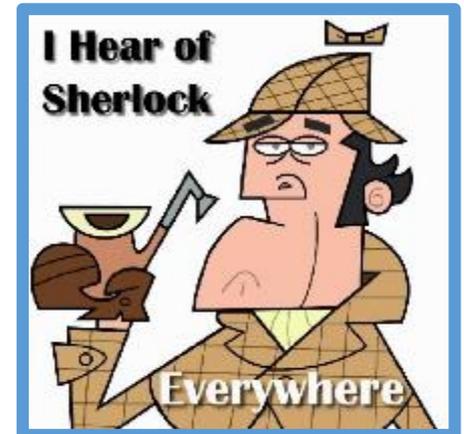
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Bound in the surelox style, apropos of the subject matter.

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 that 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 that there were books!"

While I suspect that 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*."

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

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.

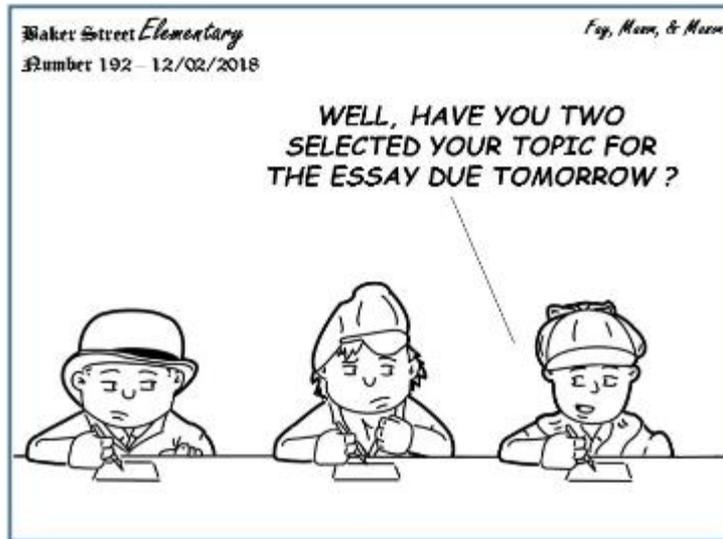
Which brings us to Sherlock Holmes. Could he have had ADHD? His use of cocaine is well known, and it was typically at times when he didn't have work. He said he needed something to keep his mind busy, comparing it to "a racing engine," [SOLI] that "racks itself to pieces" [DEVI].

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...



<< Pssst, HOLMES >>
WHAT IS 22×17 ??



12 BILLION...

THANKS... I
OWE YOU...



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THAT'S INTERESTING... YOU
TOLD ME THAT WAS THE
ANSWER TO 19×15 ALSO...



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

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



Malcolm Gladwell's 2008 Book *Outliers* posited that it takes 10,000 hours of deliberate practice to master anything. A recent study has debunked that claim. But the notion that 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.

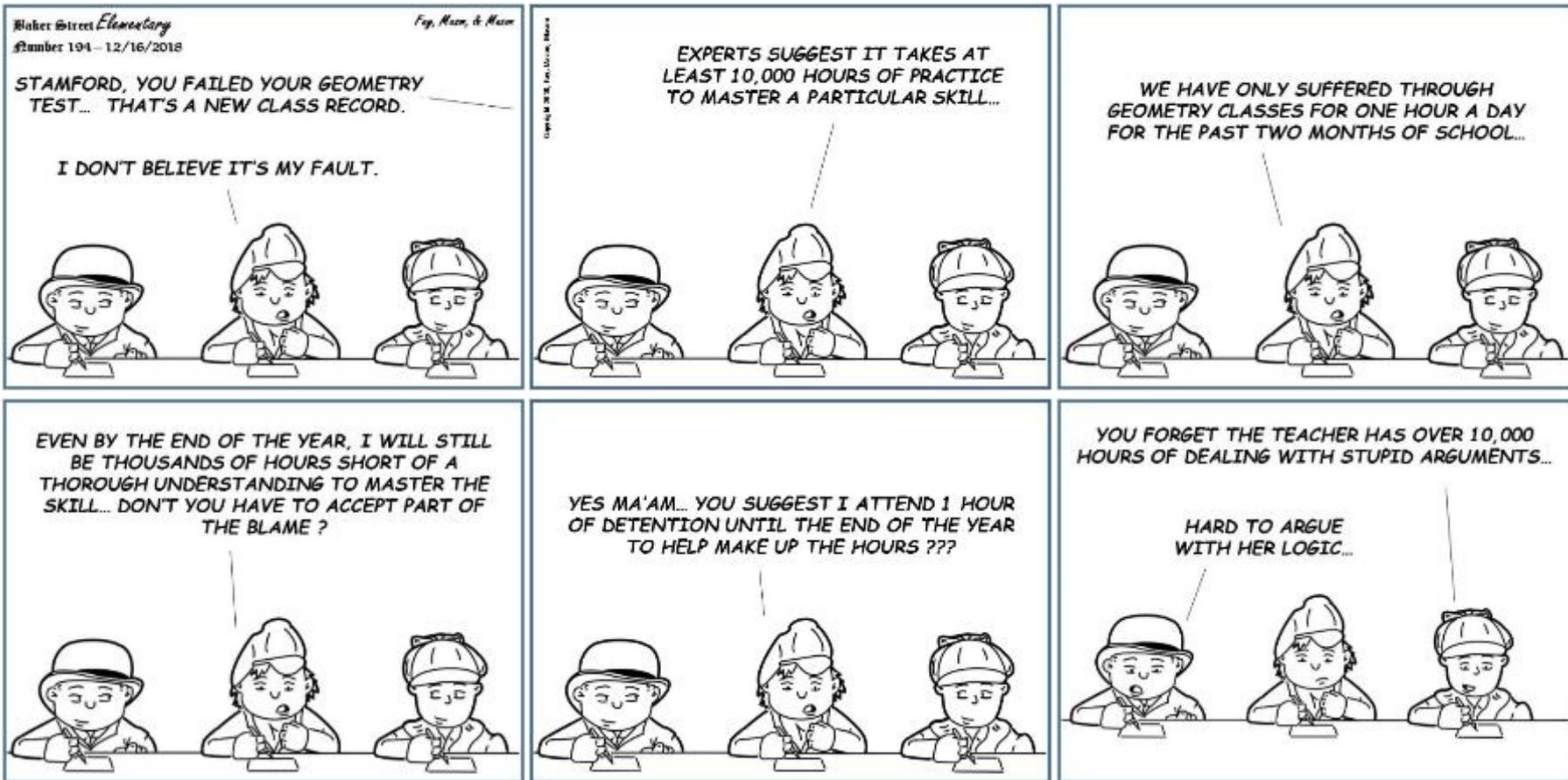
Qualification A. If two or more members fail so to identify, a round shall be bought by each of those so failing.

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 that 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...



IT'S TIME FOR OUR CHRISTMAS
PUNS... THIS YEAR WE ARE
FOCUSING ON OL' SAINT NICK...



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...



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 that 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 that 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* that 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...

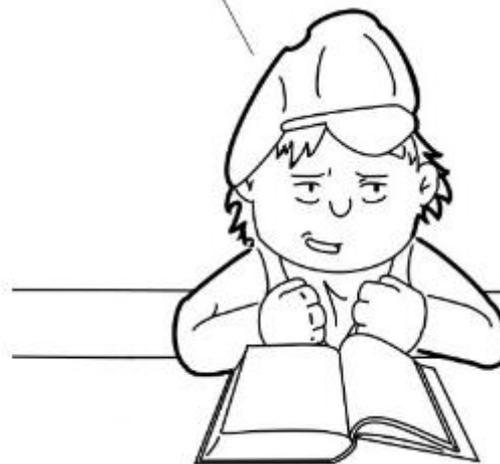


MA'AM, I
UNDERSTAND
TRYING TO KEEP
US BUSY OVER
THE HOLIDAYS
BY ASSIGNING
US A TALE OF
TWO CITIES



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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...



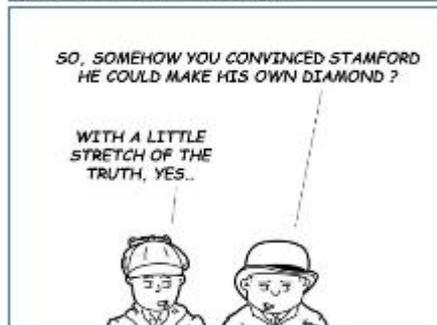
The Baker Street Irregulars Weekend is just wrapping up in New York, where the Irregulars and other Sherlockians have spent eating and drinking their way through Midtown.

Each year, we gather to celebrate the birthday of Sherlock Holmes, which traditionally has been marked as January 6.

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 that the anniversary of his own existence was something that needed celebrating.

However, in his days at Baker Street Elementary, you can rest assured that he hadn't yet matured into the 20-something that he was when he and Watson first met...



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.'



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 Illiad*. 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:

"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:—

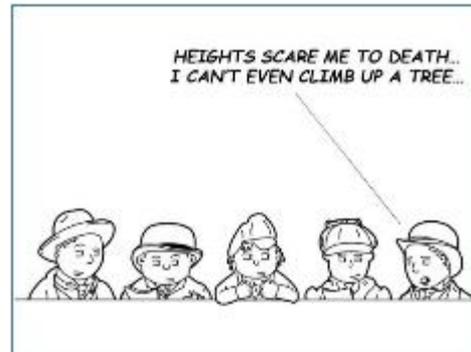
"Mr. Holmes, they were the footprints of a gigantic hound!"

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...



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...



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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.

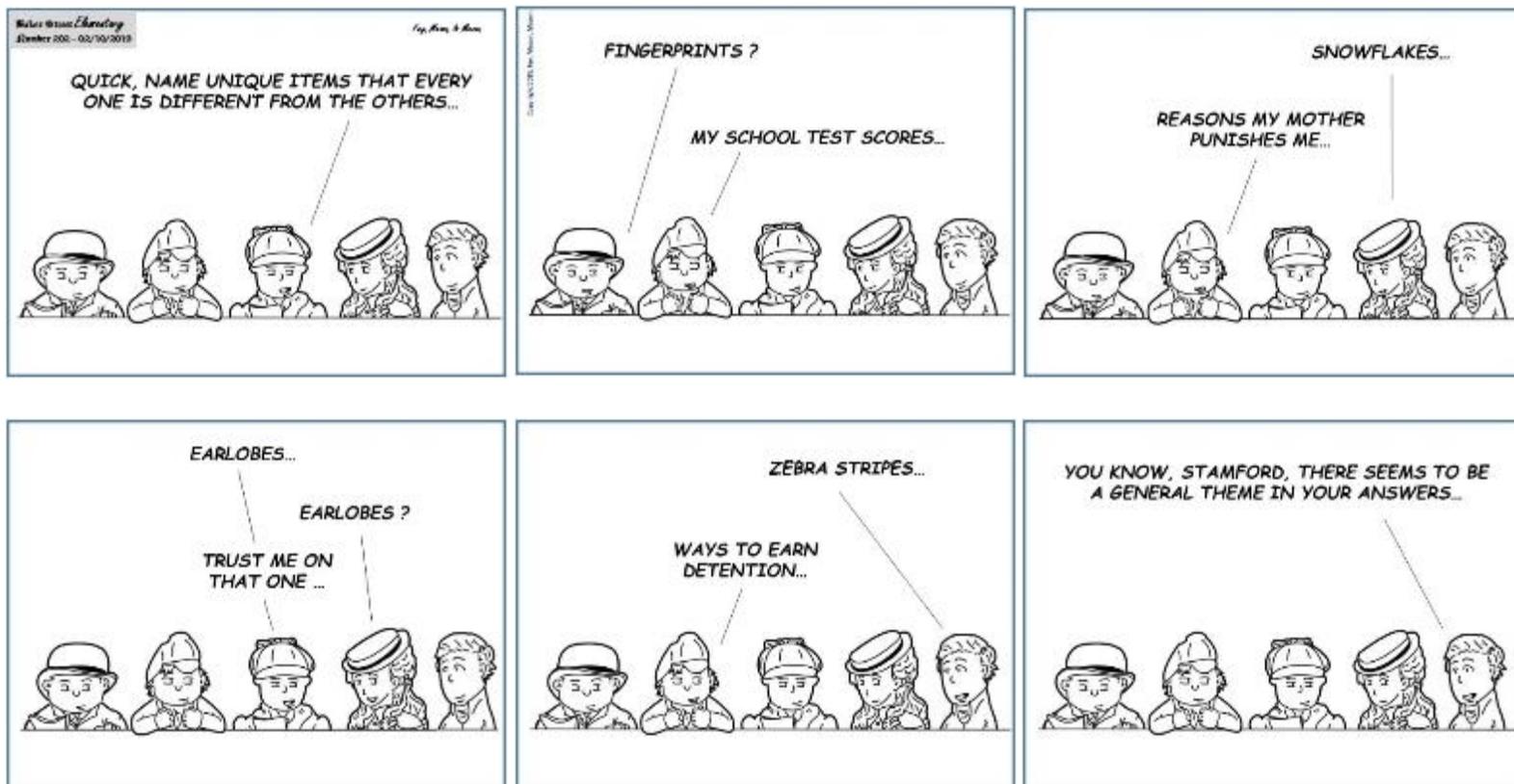
Again, the Rucastle family comes to mind, with little Edward and his cockroach-smacking slippers. What about others? Sherlock Holmes typically sees that punishment is meted out on those who deserve it, and mercy is granted to those who have mitigating circumstances. So it's difficult to think of anyone 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...



YOU KNOW GENETICS IS AN INTERESTING SUBJECT TO STUDY... MY THANKS TO MISTER IMRE FESTERICS...



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...



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.

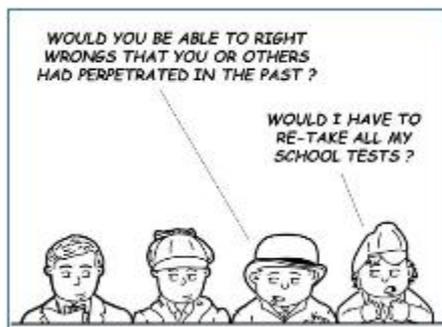
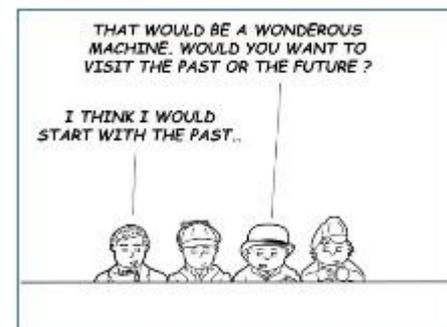
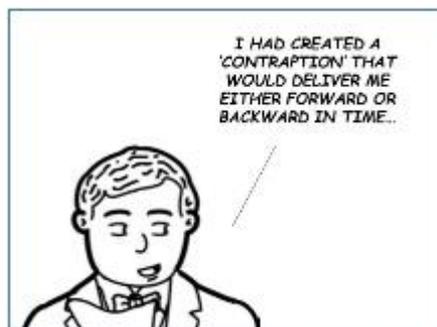
Naturally, there's an intersection between Wells and Sherlock Holmes, and it comes partly through the artifice of Manly Wade Wellman, BSI ("Wisteria Lodge") and his son. Manly Wade Wellman (not wanly made) was a science fiction writer of note whose association with Sherlock Holmes goes back to the early 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*.

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...



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...



You'll recall that 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.

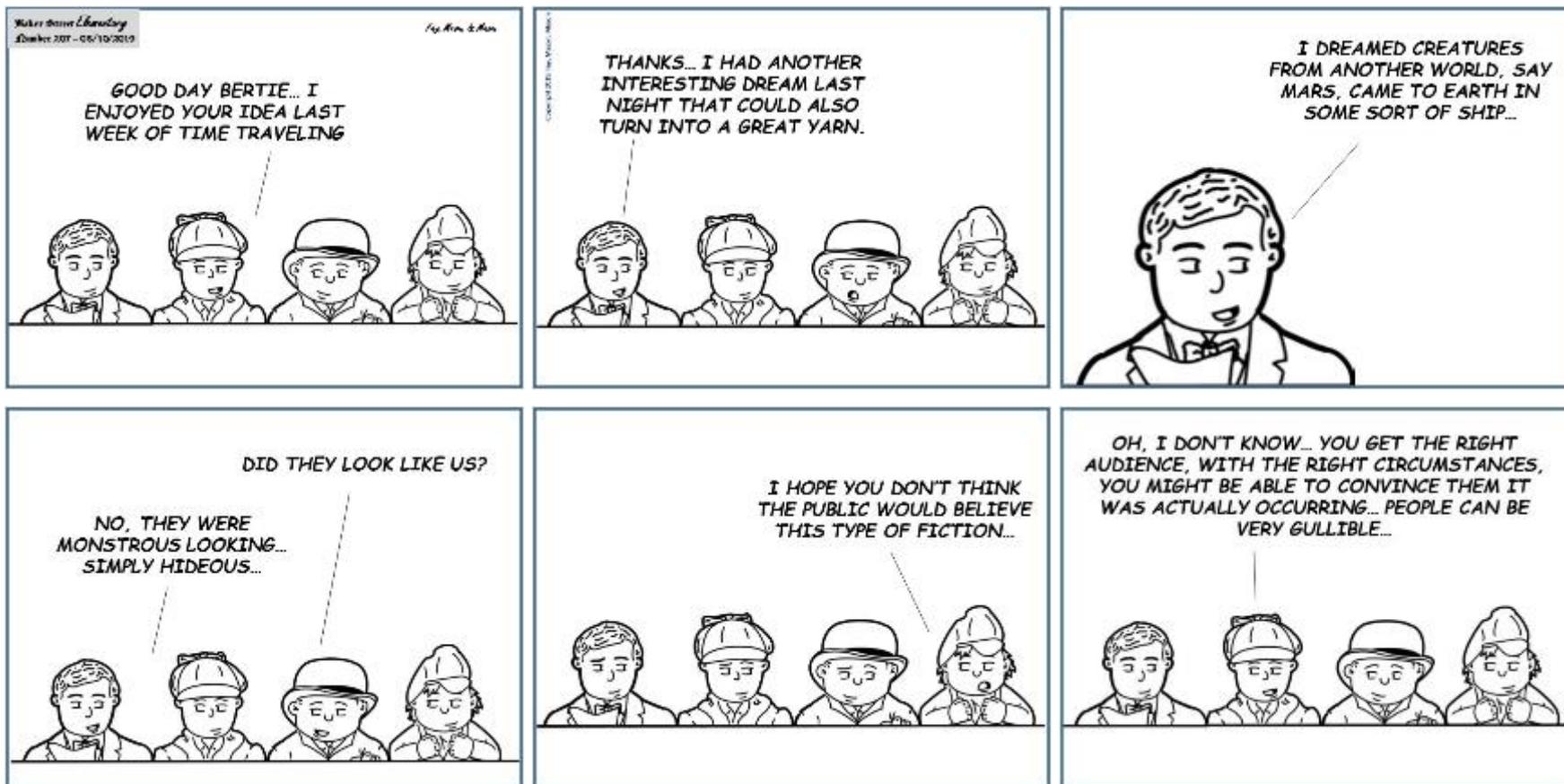
The original The War of the Worlds was developed into a radio drama in 1938 by The Mercury Theater on the Air (more on that shortly) famously directed and narrated by Orson Welles (no relation to H.G.) on October 30, 1938. The production was so convincingly done that some listeners mistook it for a program 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...



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...



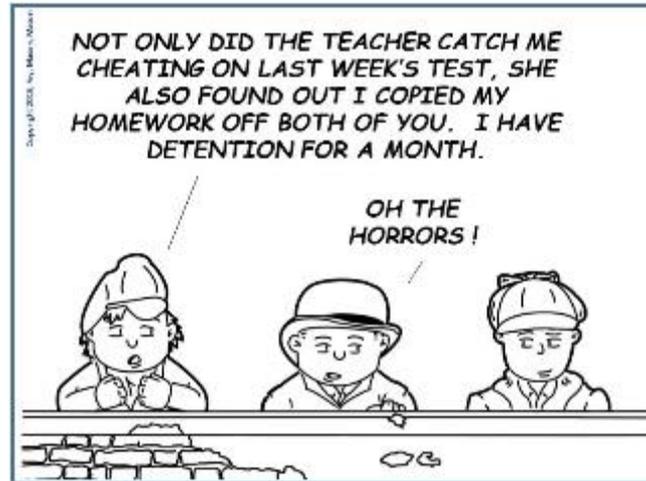
The world knows Sherlock Holmes as a master detective - a professional who assists Scotland Yard in tracking down criminals. But in reality, in his role as a private consulting detective, there were instances when he was approached simply for advice, not because a crime was taking place.

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:

- "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...



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...



Insects don't get a lot of attention in the Sherlock Holmes stories, although they do crawl in from time to time.

In *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, Watson first encountered Stapleton when the moor resident was chasing down 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?

1. "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."
2. "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."

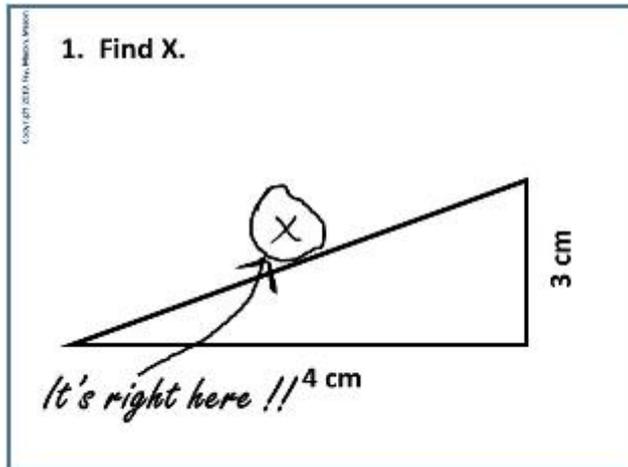
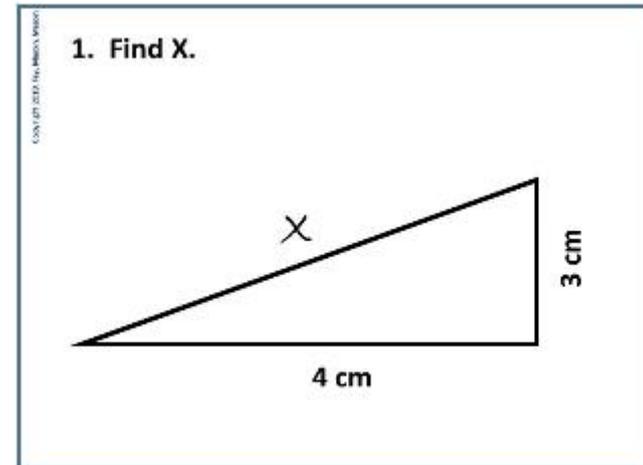
Finally, the most notorious individual connected with insects must be little Edward Rucastle, whose interactions with bugs were described by his proud father Jephro:

"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...



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...



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."

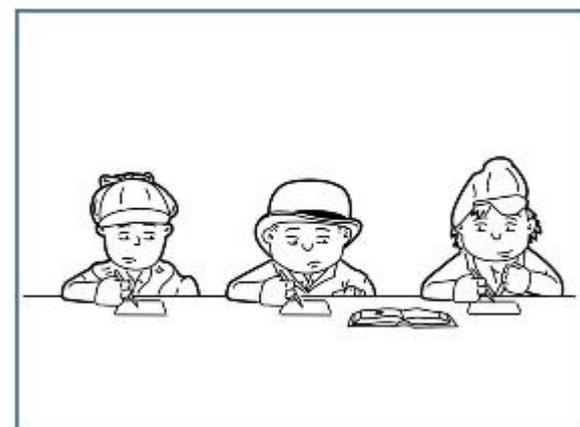
"Yes, it was Adams."

"I was sure of it from the first."

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...



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...

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?



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...



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..."



Young children are not purveyors of or dabblers in subtlety. When it comes to sarcasm specifically, research has shown that 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.

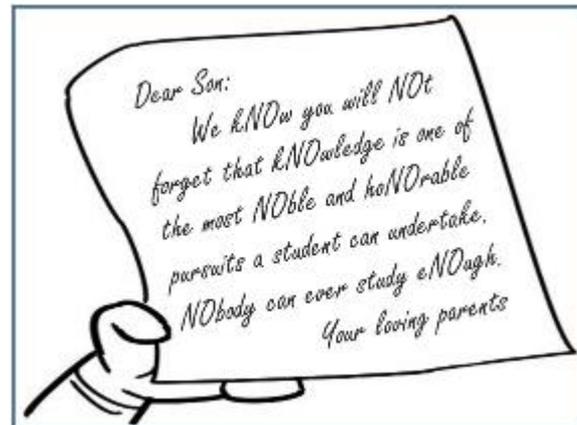
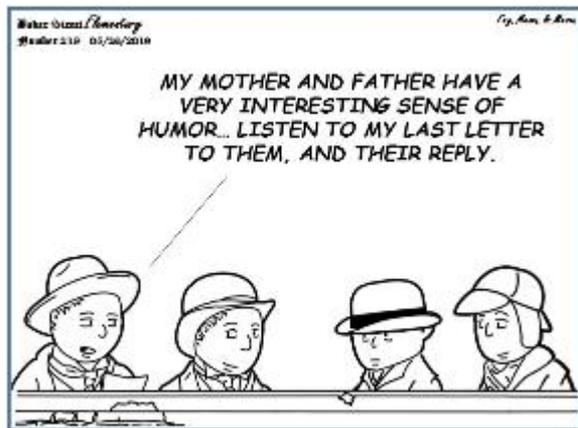
We're reminded of a scene in the Firesign Theater's **The Giant Rat of Sumatra**, in which a young ingénue seeks the help of Hemlock Stones over a secret message. Stones looks at the note and determines:

"Hmm, this is a rebus written in a simple head code. Haha, any English schoolboy could catch it. Achoo! (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 that 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...



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...



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.

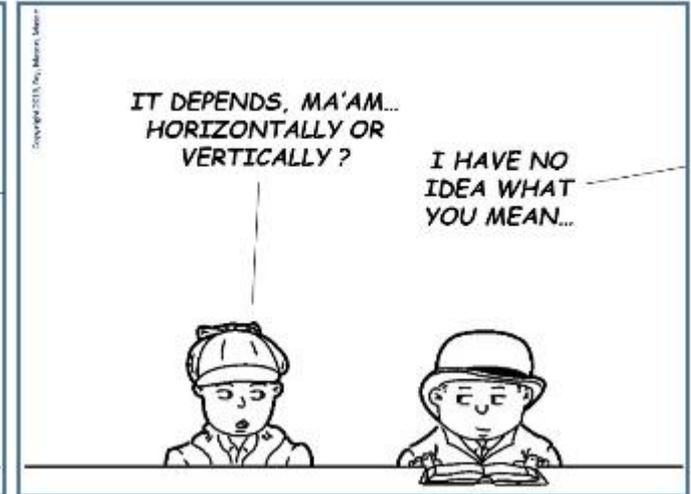
When it comes to deciphering riddles or quizzes of a spatial or logical nature, a decided point of view may make solving them that much easier.

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...

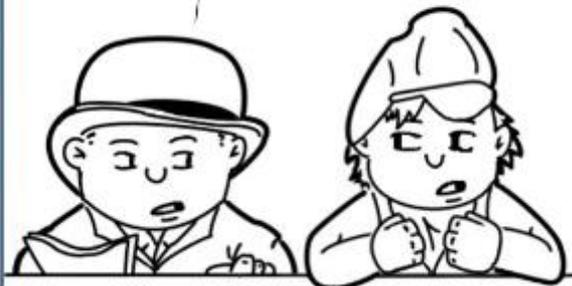


SO THE CAREER COUNSELOR HAS DETERMINED I AM BEST SUITED TO BE A ITINERANT VIOLINIST; WATSON -- A SIDEKICK AND CHRONICLER; IGNATIUS -- A LITERARY AGENT; LESTRADE AND GREGSON -- POLICE OFFICERS; AND STAMFORD -- A DRESSER...



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 ADVENTURESS...



WHAT IS AN ADVENTURESS ?

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...



IT WAS SURPISINGLY NOT BAD...

...BUT IS IT WRONG I WAS
ROOTING FOR THE WHALE ?



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.

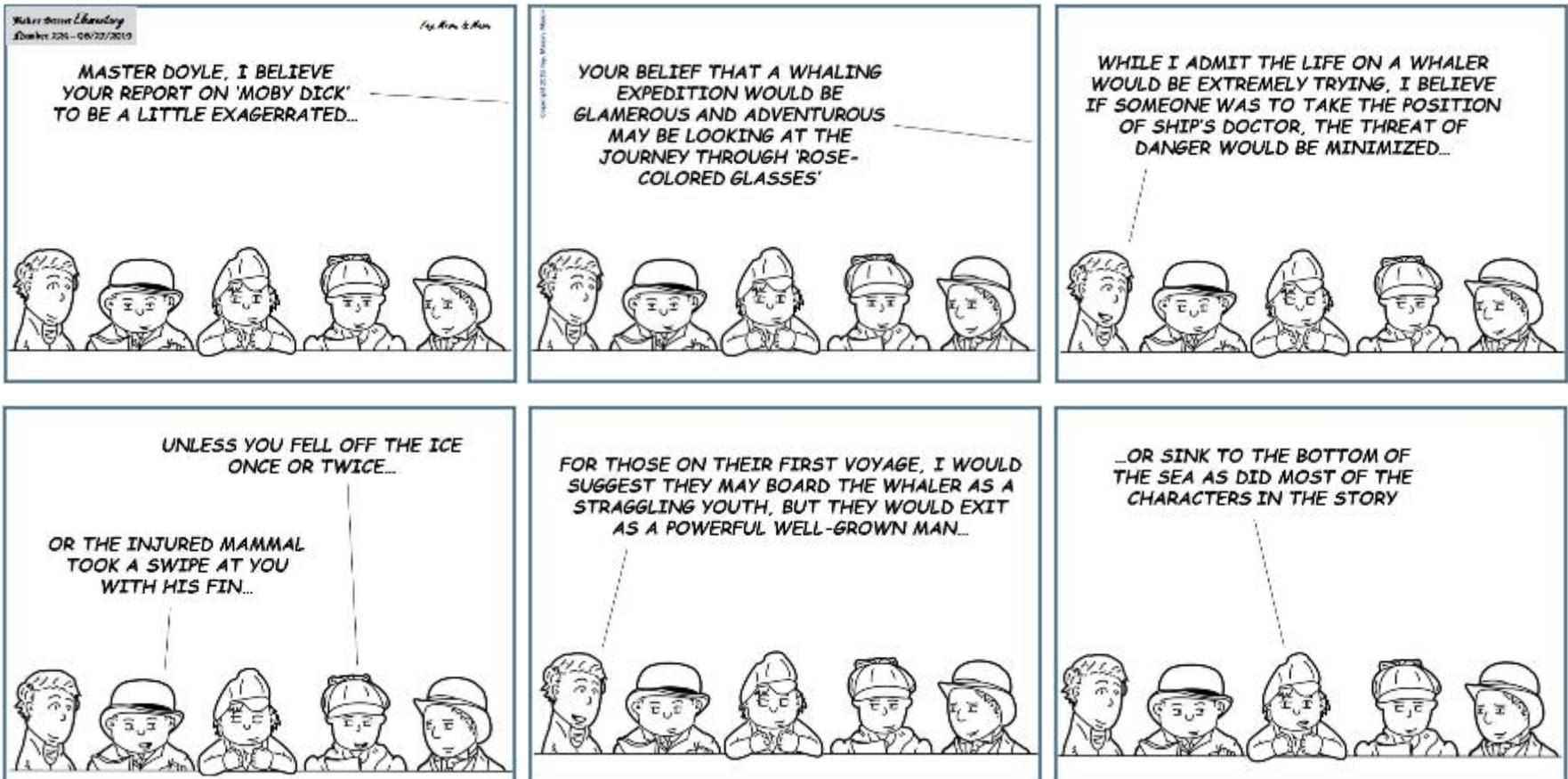
Where did the inspiration come from?

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.

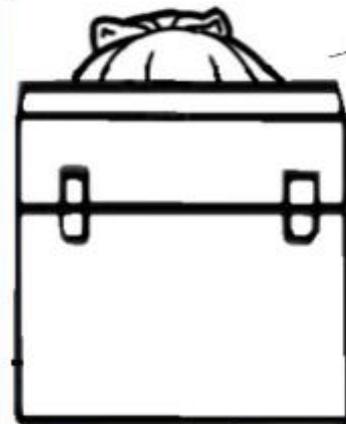
Meanwhile, at Baker Street Elementary, young Arthur's peers may know a thing or two about how the story turns out...



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



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

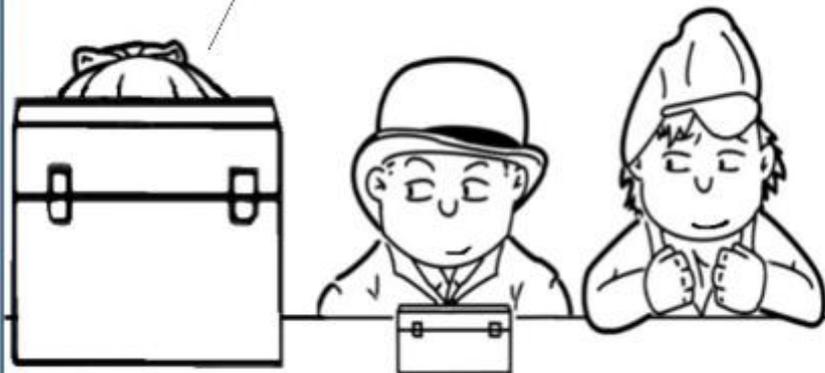


OR YOUR EGO...

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.

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 that a certain consulting detective's work was considered.

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



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 that 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.

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**...



STAMFORD, IF
YOU APPLIED
YOURSELF JUST A
LITTLE HARDER...



YOU COULD BE
THE PRIME
MINISTER
SOMEDAY!



SO THE PRIME
MINISTER CAN ADD
 $3 + 3$?



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 poker 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 Baskervilles*, 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 that 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? Given Holmes's "princely" payments, our supposition is that 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...**

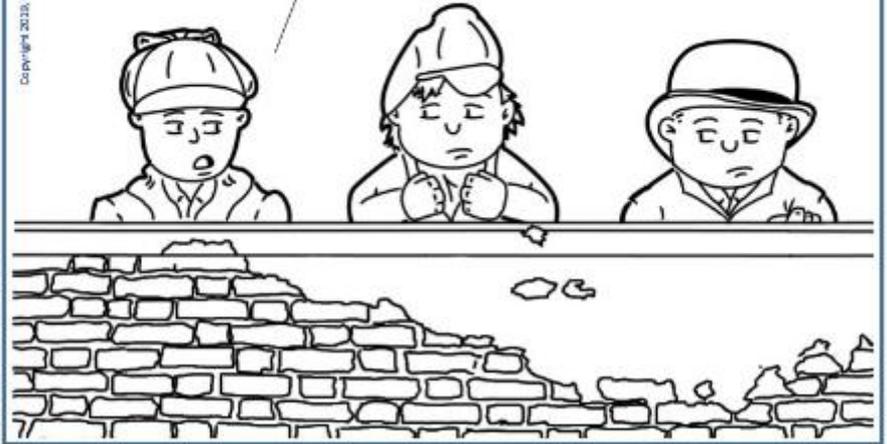


I FEEL SO MUCH
BETTER SINCE I
GAVE UP...



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

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NO, I JUST GAVE UP...



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 that 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."

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



MA'AM... MAY I PLEASE BE ALLOWED
TO GO SEE THE SCHOOL NURSE...



TAKING THIS TEST, I
FEEL AN IMPENDING
ATTACK OF 'BRAIN FEVER...'



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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 3×6 , WATSON ?

SERIOUSLY, IT'S 5,298...



STAMFORD, WHAT DID I
JUST TELL YOU ?



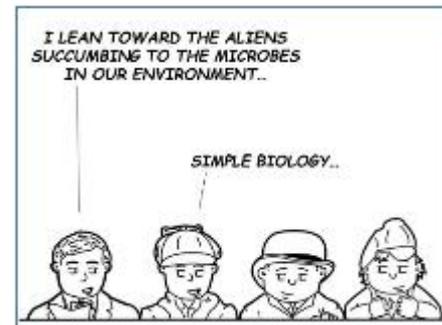
HOW SHOULD I KNOW? WEREN'T
YOU LISTENING EITHER ?



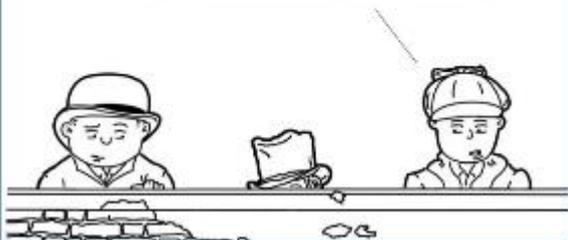
One of the pleasures of collecting Sherlockian books is walking into old bookstores and—sniff—smelling that wonderful odor of old books. It brings with it a sense of contentment and anticipation, that soon you'll be enjoying something between the covers of an old book. One of the things we don't pause 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. 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 that "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 that 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 creosote [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."

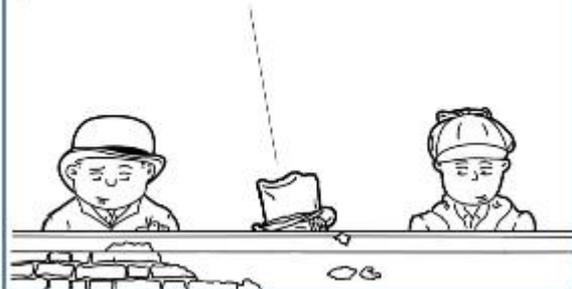
There are certainly other instances; these are but trifles. Meanwhile, let's sniff out what's going on over at Baker Street Elementary...



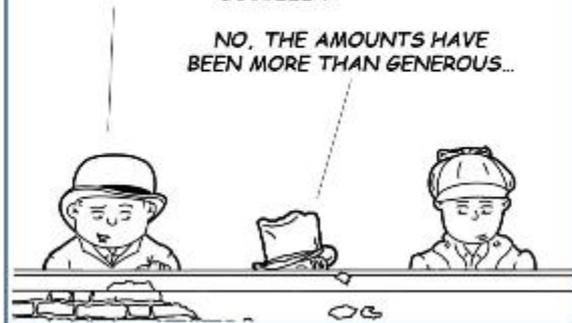
HALLOA, MASTER WHELAN-WIGGINS...
TO WHAT DO WE OWE THIS HONOUR?
WE CURRENTLY DO NOT HAVE ANY
INVESTIGATIONS UNDERWAY...



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

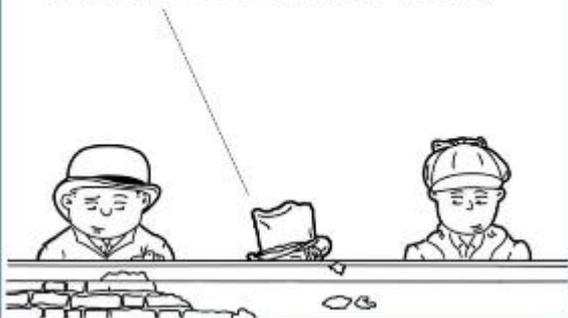


THEY ARE DISSATISFIED WITH THE BUTTONS
HOLMES PAYS THEM WHENEVER THEY
SUCCEED?



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

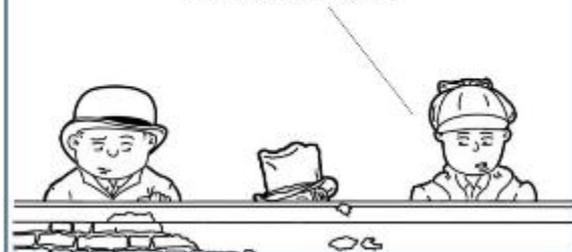
IT'S JUST THAT PENNIES, OR DARE I SAY
SHILLINGS, COULD BE USED OFF THE SCHOOL
PLAYGROUND TO ACTUALLY BUY THINGS...



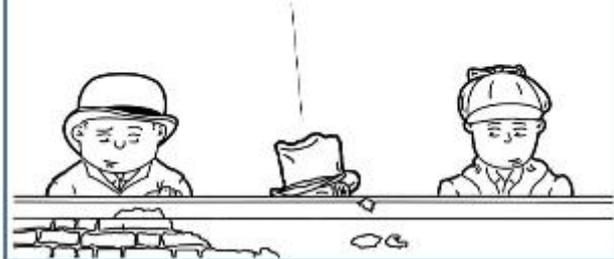
BUT THAT WOULD COMPLETELY DISSRUPT
THE ECONOMICAL BALANCE WE HAVE
ESTABLISHED WITHIN THE CONFINES OF
OUR OWN LIVING SYSTEM HERE...



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...

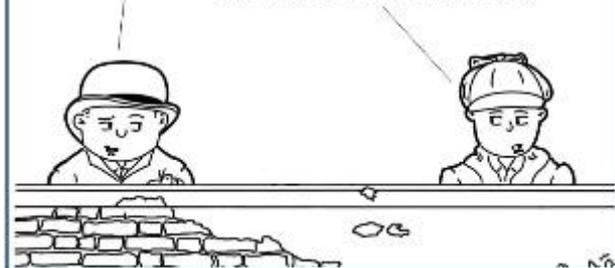


NOT SURE HOW I WILL
SELL THAT, BUT I'LL TRY...



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...



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."

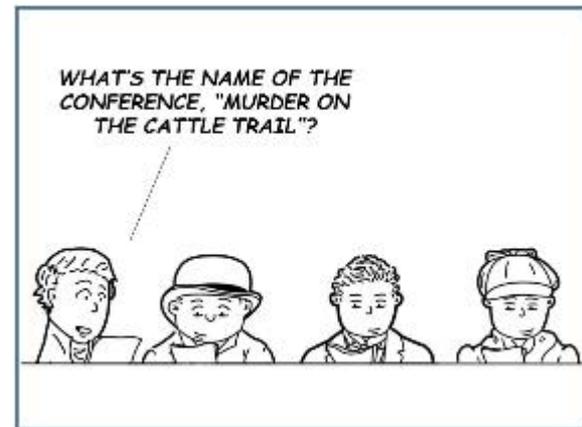
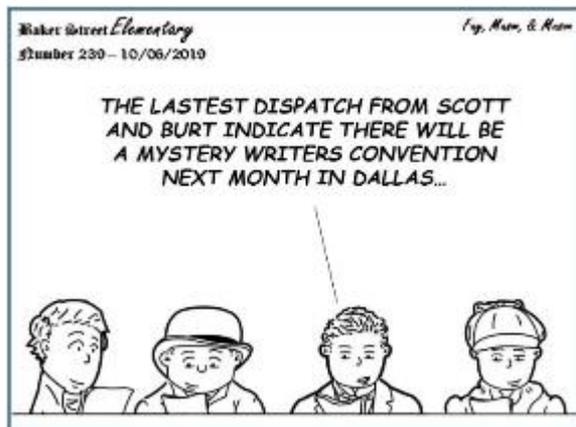
Holmes clearly didn't care:

"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 1972 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.

Before we head off to Baker Street Elementary, here are a couple of links related to Boucher's work:



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.

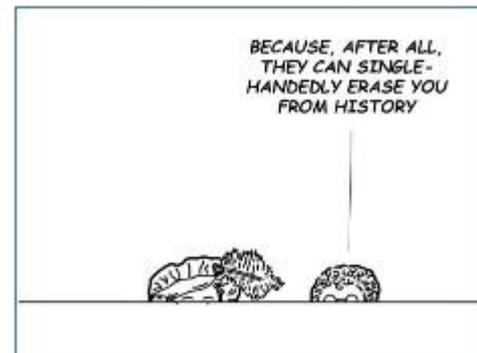
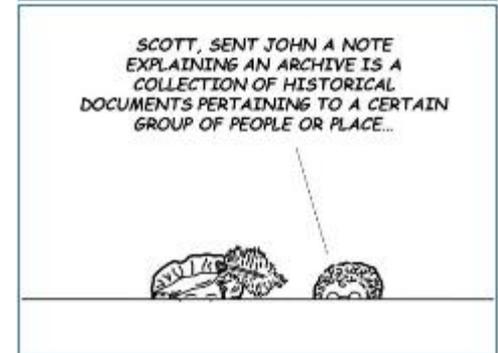
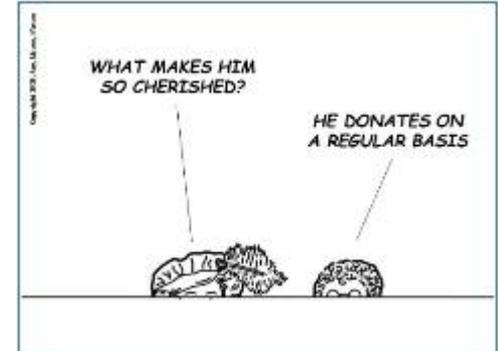
I BET THE ASHES ARE
STILL WARM ENOUGH
TO TOAST OUR BREAD.



Next weekend marks the Baker Street Irregulars (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...



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 that Holmes had "a good practical knowledge of British law."

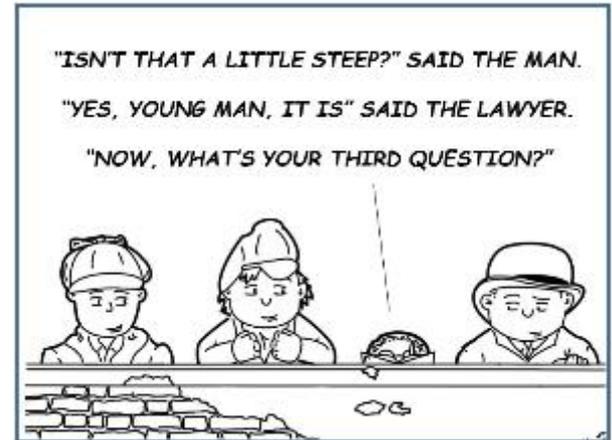
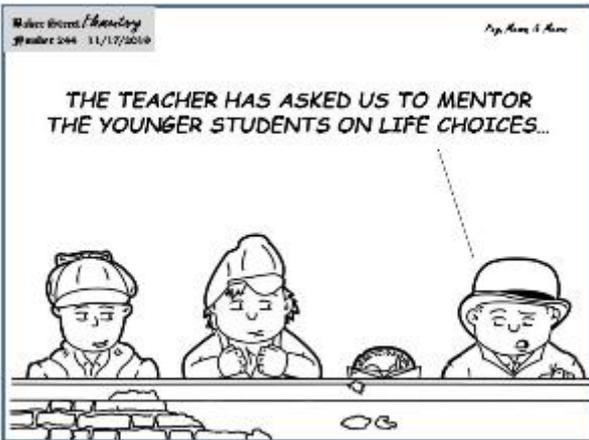
The Sherlockian world is no stranger to legal wranglings, going back to the Conan Doyle sons Denis and his hothead brother Adrian (to whom the head of the BSI at the time referred as "Adrenaline"), who contested the positioning of their father as the Literary Agent by the tongue-in-cheek Irregulars.

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

Meanwhile, there are some legal rumblings at Baker Street Elementary...



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...



I ADVISED YOU
NOT TO MOVE.

EEEEKK !!!!

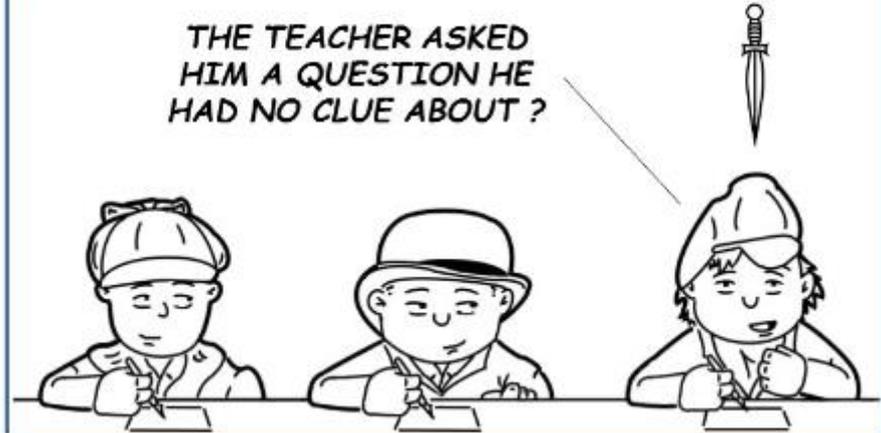


CAN ANYONE TELL ME WHY
MACBETH SEES AN IMAGINARY
DAGGER ABOVE HIM?



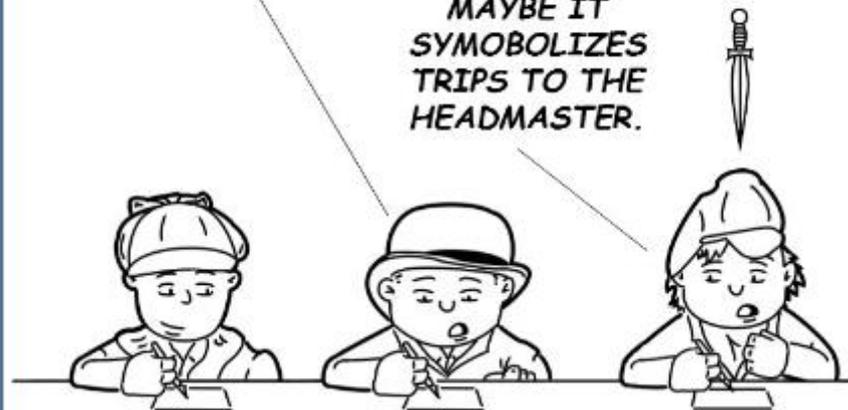
MASTER STAMFORD ?

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.



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 that this case occurred in September 1903. By that time, Holmes had gotten over his disappointment and was rather curt with Watson, perhaps indicating that 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...

