

# *Baker Street Elementary*

## *Year Eight*

*Created by Joe Fay,*

*Rusty Mason & Steve Mason*

*Introduction by Burt Wolder*



*The first adventures of*

*Sherlock Holmes, John Watson, & Stamford*

# Baker Street Elementary

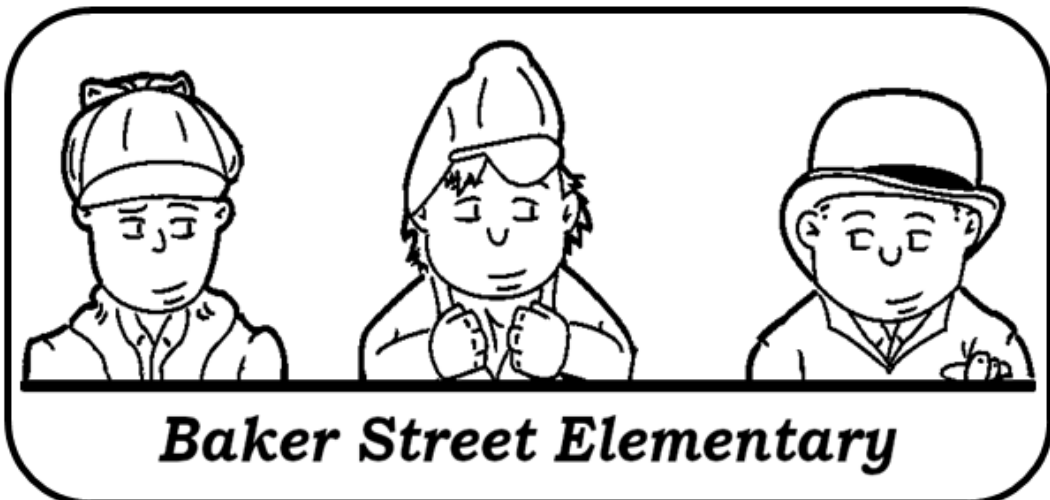
## Year 8

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## INTRODUCTION

BY BURT WOLDER, BSI, ASH  
("THE THIRD PILLAR FROM THE LEFT")

THE MARRIAGE OF ART AND NARRATIVE APPEARS TO BE FUNDAMENTAL TO HUMAN CREATIVITY. STORIES AND PICTURES HAVE GONE TOGETHER SINCE EGYPTIAN HIEROGLYPHICS, IF NOT BEFORE; SATIRE AND CARICATURE HAVE FEATURED IN PRINTS SINCE THE 17TH CENTURY.

IT IS SURPRISING THEREFORE, AT LEAST TO ME, HOW MUCH HAS BEEN MISUNDERSTOOD ABOUT THE ART FORM OVER THE YEARS. FREDERIC WERTHAM, WHOSE 1954 BOOK SEDUCTION OF THE INNOCENT LED TO THE COMICS CODE, THOUGHT COMICS PRODUCED A "READING DISORDER" BECAUSE THEY PROMOTED "PICTURE READING", WHICH HE DEFINED AS "GAZING AT SUCCESSIVE PICTURES OF A

COMIC BOOK WITH A MINIMAL READING OF THE PRINTED LETTERS". LOOKING BACKWARDS, I WOULD HAVE THOUGHT PEOPLE WOULD HAVE HAD OTHER THINGS TO BECOME ALARMED ABOUT.

BUT THEN, I DIDN'T THINK BANNING BOOKS WOULD STILL BE A TOPIC OF CONVERSATION IN 2023, EITHER.

PERHAPS IT IS THE SIMPLICITY OF THE FORM. IN WRITING ABOUT ERNIE BUSHMILLER'S COMIC STRIP NANCY, JAMES ELKINS OBSERVED THAT WHAT MADE THAT SIMPLE, BLACK AND WHITE WONDERFUL WAS THAT IT WAS ABOUT "WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THE VISUAL WORLD BECOMES SO SIMPLE THAT IF YOU TAKE AWAY JUST ONE LINE, IT ALL COMPLETELY COLLAPSES. A COMIC STRIP CAN USE THE MOST BASIC TOOLS TO TELL A STORY FROM BEGINNING TO END."

SIMPLE STRIPS, LIKE NANCY AND **BAKER STREET ELEMENTARY**, FIND ENOUGH ROOM IN THEIR PANELS TO RANGE FAR AND WIDE; IN **BAKER STREET ELEMENTARY**, IT IS THE EVERGREEN LANDSCAPE OF KIDS TRYING TO MAKE SENSE OF THEIR WORLD. THESE KIDS JUST HAPPEN TO BE EXPRESSIVE BEYOND THEIR YEARS, WITH EXPERIENCES THAT HAVE ADDED CANONICAL DIMENSIONS.

THIS LITTLE BAND HAS EXPLORED MANY SUBJECTS OVER EIGHT YEARS. IN THESE PAGES, YOU WILL FIND THEM

THOUGHTFUL ABOUT HOLMES AND FAITH; YOU WILL FIND WRY HUMOR, ALONG WITH CHRISTOPHER MORLEY'S

"SHERLOCK HOLMES PRAYER". THEY WILL EXPLORE THE PAST LIVES OF CANONICAL CHARACTERS, NEW YEAR'S FOOD IN

OTHER COUNTRIES, EGGS FOR BREAKFAST IN BAKER STREET, TREES, AGONY COLUMNS, AND A GREAT DEAL MORE.

THERE IS EVEN ROOM FOR THEM TO REMIND US THAT WATSON WAS CALLED, AT LEAST ONCE, "THE COMPOUND OF BUSY BEE AND EXCELSIOR", AND OF THE MOTTO, "WE CAN BUT TRY".

IT IS ALL AN ENTERTAINING, BRIEF ESCAPE, AND YET ANOTHER DIMENSION TO THE LIMITLESS WORLD OF SHERLOCK HOLMES.

ENJOY!

CROSS PLAINS, NJ



## "A UNIVERSAL PRAYER"

"What would ye think of offering up prayer" [STUD]

Sherlock Holmes was not what you'd call a religious man. Nor even spiritual, for that matter. He was driven by logic. Remember in "The Sussex Vampire," he said "The world is big enough for us. No ghosts need apply." We could assume that he would place the Holy Ghost into that category as well.

However, he acknowledges that there is a higher power than any human can ascertain, and his famous "moss rose" soliloquy in "The Naval Treaty" is often cited as evidence of that:

"Our highest assurance of the goodness of Providence seems to me to rest in the flowers."

And Sherlock Holmes was at least familiar with the Bible (from his school days, no doubt), as he was able to dig up the reference to David and Bathsheba in "The Creeping Man":

"My biblical knowledge is a trifle rusty, I fear, but you will find the story in the first or second of Samuel."

While he wasn't likely to say prayers — even when on the brink of the Reichenbach Falls — Christopher Morley, founder of the Baker Street Irregulars, wrote one that transcends all religious beliefs. A prayer that we can all enjoy this holiday season, or year-round.

### Sherlock Holmes's Prayer by Christopher Morley

[1] Grant me, O spirit of Reason, matter for Deduction, Intuition, and Analysis; plenty of three-pipe problems, that I may avoid the cowardice of seven percent cocaine, or at least substitute something a little special in white wines.

[2] Grant me newspapers, telegrams, and the grind of carriage wheels against the kerb; the meditative breakfast at morning; the unexpected client in the night-time. And, occasionally, the alerting word grotesque.

[3] Strengthen me not to astonish the good Watson merely for theatrical pleasure; yet always to be impatient of Unmitigated Bleat; and of Guessing, which rots the logical faculty.

[4] If in hours of dullness neither the Turkish bath nor mediaeval charters, nor my scrapbooks nor my fiddle avail to soothe, turn my attention to the infallible reactions of chemistry—or to that rational and edifying insect the Bee.

[5] Remind me that there is a season of forgiveness for misfortune; but never for the incredible imbecility of bunglers (from LeCoq to Lestrade).

[6] In all the joys of action let me not forget the intellectual achievements of lethargy; to wit, Mycroft; and, slightly less to wit, Moriarty.

[7] Burden me not with unrelated facts, but encourage the habit of synthetic observation, collating the distinctions between the various. As the hand of the lithotyper is to that of the cork-cutter, so are the types of the Morning Mercury to those of the Yorkshire Post.

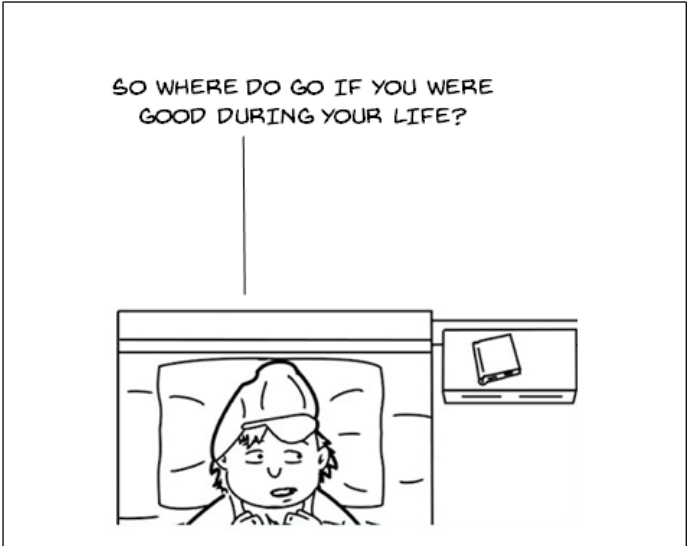
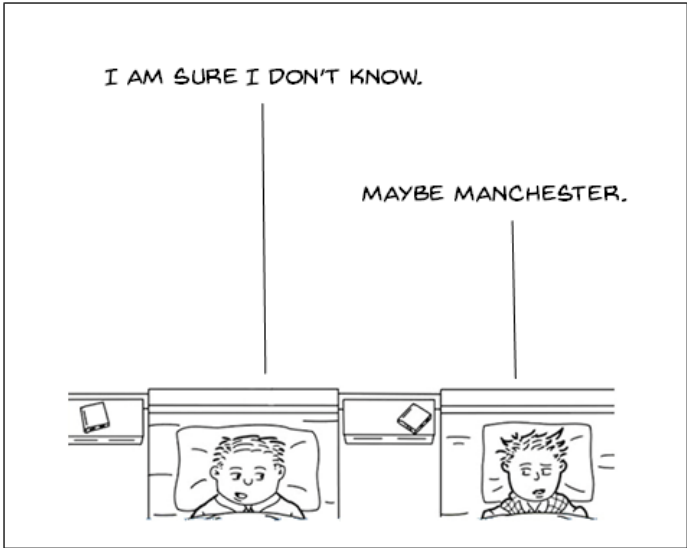
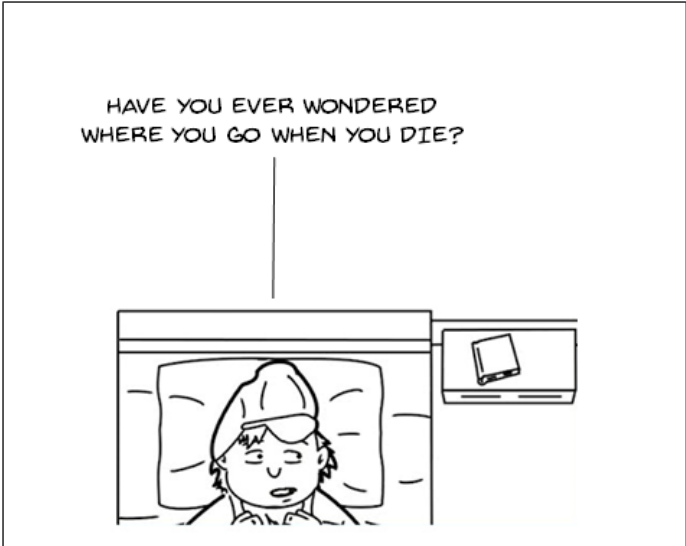
[8] Remember, O spirit, to Segregate the Queen. Viz., the fair sex is Watson's department. For me, the Mind is All. But one confession in remembrance: the pistol-shot initials on the sitting-room wall were not what Watson thought. In the name of that Gracious Lady my favorite letters were the last two. I was writing not VR but IA. The Baker Street Underground shook my aim.

[9] Hold fast the doctrine: When all impossibles are eliminated, what remains, however improbable, must be the Truth.

[10] Then, O spirit, be the Game Afoot!

And here we arrive back at **Baker Street Elementary**, one last time in 2021...





## "PAST IMPERFECT"

"In my past life" [ILLU]

Reincarnation is not a subject we typically associate with Sherlock Holmes.

Although there is passing mention of "Hindoos" and Sikhs in *The Sign of Four* (reincarnation is a belief of the Hindu and Sikh religions), there is no time spent on the topic of having lived another life.

However, there are individuals in the Canon who are eager to escape from their previous lives. People like Jephro Rucastle, whose ruse became apparent after Sherlock Holmes's involvement in "The Copper Beeches":

"Mr. Rucastle survived, but was always a broken man, kept alive solely through the care of his devoted wife. They still live with their old servants, who probably know so much of Rucastle's past life that he finds it difficult to part from them."

And Baron Adelbert Gruner wanted to avoid the naked truth of his past romantic liaisons in "The Illustrious Client":

"The cunning devil has told her every unsavoury public scandal of his past life, but always in such a way as to make himself out to be an innocent martyr. She absolutely accepts his version and will listen to no other."

Hilton Cubitt had an inkling that there was something to Elsie Patrick's past in "The Dancing Men," but he was as good as his word and never inquired. She married him with an intention to leave her old life behind:

"I have had some very disagreeable associations in my life,' said she; 'I wish to forget all about them. I would rather never allude to the past, for it is very painful to me. If you take me, Hilton, you will take a woman who has nothing that she need be personally ashamed of; but you will have to be content with my word for it, and to allow me to be silent as to all that passed up to the time when I became yours.'"

And *The Valley of Fear* was based on the double (triple?) life of John Douglas / Birdy Edwards / John McMurdo. Indeed, Watson acknowledged that Mrs. Douglas didn't know the full story.

"It was remarked sometimes, however, by those who knew them best, that the confidence between the two did not appear to be complete, since the wife was either very reticent about her husband's past life, or else, as seemed more likely, was imperfectly informed about it."

These past lives merely scratch the surface of individuals who take on alternative identities as they go about their duplicitous and sometimes nefarious activities in the Sherlock Holmes stories.

Is life for those associated with criminal enterprises, either as pursuers or the pursued, destined to be one of many lives? Perhaps that's something that a philosophy class at **Baker Street Elementary** might examine...

MA'AM WILL WE BE STUDYING  
REINCARNATION THIS SEMESTER?



IT'S IMPORTANT TO UNDERSTAND WHAT  
YOUR PAST LIVES WERE ALL ABOUT.

I'M NOT ENTIRELY CLEAR ON THIS LIFE YET.

STAMFORD, YOU INTRIGUE ME  
MORE AND MORE EACH DAY.



DO YOU ACCEPT THE BELIEF YOU  
COME BACK AS SOMEONE ELSE?

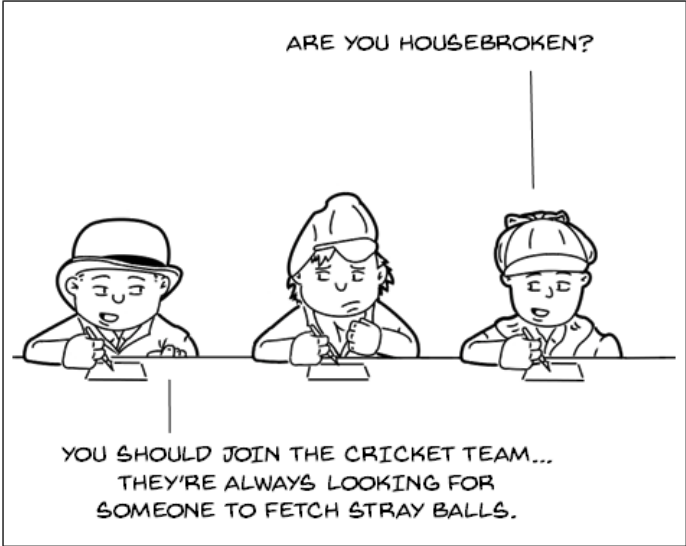
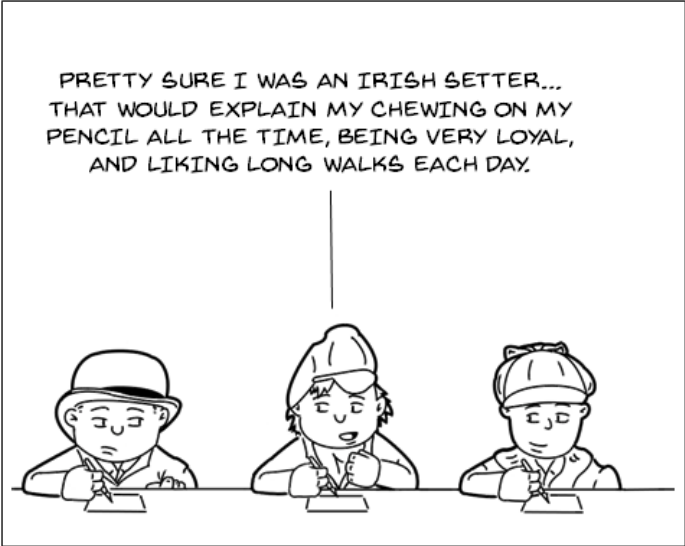


I DO... I BELIEVE I WAS A SERVANT  
GIRL IN MY FORMER LIFE.

IS BEING A TEACHER A STEP UP OR  
DOWN FROM YOUR FORMER LIFE?

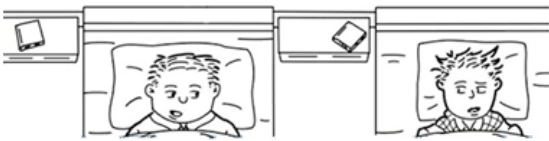






I'VE DECIDED IT IS A GOOD IDEA TO BELIEVE IN SANTA CLAUS AFTER ALL.

WHAT CAUSED THE CHANGE?



MY MUM SUGGESTED THE NUMBER OF PRESENTS FOR ME MIGHT BE TIED TO MY BELIEF IN THE JOLLY OL' MAN... WHY RISK IT?



WHY DO WE HAVE TO WRITE 'THANK YOU NOTES' TO ALL THE RELATIVES WHO MIGHT GIVE US A PRESENT, BUT NOT TO SANTA WHO COMES THROUGH EACH YEAR?



THERE'S TOO MANY PRESENTS GIVEN OUT... I BELIEVE CHRISTMAS SHOULD FOCUS ON THE SPIRIT OF THE DAY AND THE FRIENDSHIPS WE HAVE.

SO, NO MONEY TO BUY ME A GIFT, RIGHT?





MY LETTER TO SANTA THIS YEAR EXPLAINED THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS 'GOOD' OR 'BAD' CHILDREN... SIMPLY MISUNDERSTOOD.



WELCOME TO BOXING DAY... OR  
NATIONAL GIFT RETURN DAY.

ALL 3 OF US DID LEARN  
TRUTHS THIS YEAR.



WHAT'S THE BEST THING TO GIVE YOUR PARENTS...  
A LIST OF WHAT YOU WANT FOR CHRISTMAS.



IF YOU SING ENOUGH CHRISTMAS CAROLS  
AT SCHOOL, THEY WILL SEND YOU HOME.



THE FOUR STAGES OF MAN... YOU BELIEVE IN  
SANTA, YOU DON'T BELIEVE IN SANTA, YOU  
BECOME SANTA, YOU START LOOKING LIKE SANTA.



AND ONCE AGAIN, SANTA JUDGED US  
WAY TOO HARSHLY, IN MY OPINION.

MAYBE HE COULD SET UP A  
'NAUGHTY OR NICE COMMITTEE'  
WITH A FEW FORGIVING MEMBERS.





## "OUT WITH THE OLD"

*"Her idea of cuisine is a little limited" [NAVA]*

*One of the most remembered quotes about Mrs. Hudson and her culinary abilities comes from "The Naval Treaty," in which Holmes, Watson, and Percy Phelps sit down for breakfast a la Hudson.*

*"Mrs. Hudson has risen to the occasion," said Holmes, uncovering a dish of curried chicken. "Her cuisine is a little limited, but she has as good an idea of breakfast as a Scotch-woman. What have you here, Watson?"*

*"Ham and eggs," I answered.*

*We know that what Mr. Phelps uncovers is entirely inedible, but we'll leave the spoilers out of it for now.*

*Could it be that Mrs. Hudson tired of cooking for the Baker Street boys after so many years? After all, she must have taken possession of 221B Baker Street after her husband's death, and being a landlady to one of the worst tenants in London likely took a toll on her.*

*In "The Problem of Thor Bridge," we're told that there is a new cook:*

*"There is little to share, but we may discuss it when you have consumed the two hard-boiled eggs with which our new cook has favoured us. Their condition may not be unconnected with the copy of the Family Herald which I observed yesterday upon the hall-table. Even so trivial a matter as cooking an egg demands an attention which is conscious of the passage of time and incompatible with the love romance in that excellent periodical."*

*Thus, the "old" cook was likely to have been Mrs. Hudson. Either she required a holiday from cooking or Holmes (in his uniquely straightforward way) intimated that he had had enough of her cooking.*

*She had a little more variety when it came to her duties in the dining hall at **Baker Street Elementary**...*

WHAT INTERESTING MENU HAS MRS. HUDSON PREPARED FOR US TODAY?

IT'S NEW YEAR'S DAY... WE ARE GETTING A BUFFET OF GOOD LUCK FOODS.



THERE ARE GOOD LUCK FOODS? WHY HAVE I NOT KNOW ABOUT THIS BEFORE?




SURE... IN ITALY, THEY EAT FRIED PASTRIES TO GUARANTEE A SWEET YEAR.

IN SPAIN, YOU EAT 12 GRAPES AT MIDNIGHT FOR GOOD LUCK.



IN PENNSYLVANIA, PORK AND SAUERKRAUT BRIGHTENS THE NEW YEAR.

AND IN THE SOUTHERN UNITED STATES, BLACK-EYED PEAS ATTRACT A FINANCIAL WINDFALL.



GERMAN FOLKLORE REQUIRES EATING HERRING AT MIDNIGHT FOR GOOD LUCK.

AND PICKLED HERRING IN POLAND DOES THE TRICK.



IN GREECE, POMEGRANATES ARE SUPPOSED TO IMPROVE FERTILITY ON THIS DAY.



PRETTY SURE I DON'T WANT THAT THIS YEAR.

I'M GAME IF IT HELPS THE CROPS TO GROW FOR THE FARMERS.

ASIAN CULTURES BELIEVE EATING ORANGES AND HONEY WILL BRING YOU FORTUNE AND WEALTH.

AND MANY FEEL EATING PORK IS LUCKY, AS PIGS PUSH FORWARD AS THEY EAT.




WILL EATING ALL THAT MAKE ME FEEL LIKE AN ADULT?



NO, YOU WILL FEEL LIKE AN ADULT WHEN YOU EAT TOO MUCH FOR LUNCH AND FEEL DROWSY ALL AFTERNOON...

...BUT IF YOU EAT TOO MUCH FOR DINNER, YOU STAY AWAKE ALL NIGHT.






WHY ARE YOU GIVING ME THAT SLY LOOK?

JUST WONDERING WHEN YOU WERE GOING TO ACKNOWLEDGE WHAT DAY IT IS?

Three characters wearing different styles of hats (a flat cap, a beanie, and a bowler hat) are shown from the chest up, looking over a horizontal line that represents a ledge or a wall.


YOU KNOW, AS YOU GET OLDER, LIFE HAS A WAY OF MAKING YOU REALIZE THE IMPORTANT THINGS.

A single character wearing a bowler hat is shown from the chest up, looking slightly to the side with a thoughtful expression.

OR IT MAKES YOU REALIZE HOW MUCH NONSENSE YOU'VE WASTED PRECIOUS TIME ON.

A single character wearing a flat cap is shown from the chest up, looking forward with a serious expression.

YOU MEAN LIKE WISING A BIRTHDAY TO A BUNCH OF PEOPLE YOU HAVE NEVER EVEN MET IN PERSON?


A single character wearing a beanie is shown from the chest up, looking slightly to the side with a questioning expression.

I'M NOT QUITE THAT CYNICAL... I WILL STILL GLADLY ACCEPT A PRESENT.

IT MAY BE A WHILE... I HID IT, AND NOW CAN'T REMEMBER WHERE IT IS.

Three characters wearing different styles of hats (a flat cap, a beanie, and a bowler hat) are shown from the chest up, looking over a horizontal line that represents a ledge or a wall.

HAS ANYONE ELSE NOTICED WE HAVE NOT AGED IN THE PAST 7 YEARS... ISN'T THAT JUST A LITTLE CREEPY?


A single character wearing a beanie is shown from the chest up, looking slightly to the side with a concerned expression.

THE LATEST DESPATCH FROM SCOTT AND BURT INDICATE THEY HAVE HELD SEVERAL MEMORIALS THIS YEAR.




WHAT IS DONE AT A MEMORIAL?

PEOPLE PAY TRIBUTE TO THE PERSON WHO IS NO LONGER WITH THEM.




THEY PAY MONEY LIKE THE ROMANS DID?

WRONG TYPE OF TRIBUTE.



THIS TYPE OF TRIBUTE IS WHERE PEOPLE SAY VERY NICE THINGS ABOUT THE PERSON WHO HAS PASSED ON... ESPECIALLY WHAT THE DECEASED MEANT TO THEM.



IF THEY MEANT SO MUCH, WHY DIDN'T THE  
PEOPLE SAY VERY NICE THINGS ABOUT  
THEM WHEN THEY WERE STILL ALIVE?



YOU KNOW STAMFORD, SOME DAYS YOU ARE  
THE WISEST LAD AT THIS INSTITUTION.

AND SWEETEST...



WAIT, DID YOU JUST PAY TRIBUTE TO ME...  
DID I DIE? IF SO, I HAVE BEEN IN SCHOOL  
ALL DAY... THIS MUST NOT BE HEAVEN, BUT  
THE PLACE I AM NOT ALLOWED TO MENTION.

THEN, OTHER  
DAYS...



## "NOW THAT I DO KNOW IT"

"I shall do my best to forget it" [STUD]

Talk about embarrassing...

Last Sunday was one of the weeks when our fortnightly feature **Baker Street Elementary**, courtesy of our friends Joe Fay and Steve & Rusty Mason from The Crew of the Barque Lone Star was to run.

And thanks to all of the activity bustling around the BSI Weekend, we dropped the ball. Whether because of being overwhelmed with seeing all of the online updates or from traveling, we just forgot about it. Which seems entirely on-brand for today's comic.

When we think about all of the things Sherlock Holmes had to keep in his mind and the multiple monographs he seemed to have at the ready (much like Adam West's Batman had the can of Bat Shark-Repellent spray handy that one time a shark froze to his leg...), it's astounding that his "little brain-attic" seemed to be organized and prepped for just the right moment.

Even ~~Conan Doyle~~ Watson seemed to have difficulty remembering dates. H placed "Wisteria Lodge" in 1892, when Holmes was in the second year of his hiatus. And the ultimate fumbling of dates: not between stories, but within one. When Jabez Wilson visited Baker Street in "The Red-Headed League" and shared the origins of his strange tale, he noted "April 27, 1890, just two months ago."

And yet, when he returned a little while later, he showed Holmes and Watson this:

He held up a piece of white cardboard about the size of a sheet of note-paper. It read in this fashion:

The Red-headed League  
is  
Dissolved  
October 9, 1890.

That is one long case. Perhaps that untested memory got its start at **Baker Street Elementary**...

[We'll be back next week, with our regularly scheduled programming.]



I CAN'T BELIEVE I FORGOT WE WERE  
HAVING A MAJOR HISTORY TEST TODAY.



YOU SEEM TO BE VERY FORGETFUL  
ON DATES AND NAMES.

IT RUNS IN MY  
FAMILY.....  
..... HOLMES.



MASTER WATSON, MAY I SUGGEST  
YOU GO TO THE LIBRARY AND  
CHECK OUT A BOOK ON MEMORY  
IMPROVEMENT.



I DID... I BELIEVE IT'S NOW 5 WEEKS OVERDUE.



I READ WE ONLY RETAIN 10% OF WHAT WE  
LEARN... ANY CHANCE, MA'AM, YOU COULD  
JUST TEACH US THAT 10%, AND SKIP THE  
PARTS WE WON'T REMEMBER ANYWAY?



IF I FOLLOW MY DREAM OF BEING AN AUTHOR,  
DATES AND OTHER TRIVIAL FACTS JUST WON'T  
BE THAT IMPORTANT IN MY STORIES.



OF COURSE, THAT IS HOW YOU  
LEARN, BY CONSTANTLY  
SEEKING OUT THE ANSWERS  
TO YOUR QUESTIONS.



WHY ARE YOU AN ART TEACHER? COULDN'T YOU  
DO MUCH BETTER FINANCIALLY IF YOU SOLD  
YOUR ARTWORK OUT IN THE REAL WORLD?



THAT'S THE EARLIEST SHE HAS EVER LEFT CLASS.

I THINK I WILL PRACTICE  
MY STICK DRAWING.



## "THE MOTTO OF THE FIRM"

"We can but try" [CREE]

Sherlock Holmes was fortunate to have John H. Watson, M.D. as his helpmate. Time and again, Holmes put the good doctor into questionable circumstances, and Watson gave it his best effort (sometimes after Holmes had to overcome Watson's initial reluctance).

In "The Bruce-Partington Plans," we find Holmes considering breaking and entering the household of the suspect, and Watson initially expressing some trepidation before coming around:

"I don't like it, Holmes."

"My dear fellow, you shall keep watch in the street. I'll do the criminal part. It's not a time to stick at trifles. Think of Mycroft's note, of the Admiralty, the Cabinet, the exalted person who waits for news. We are bound to go."

My answer was to rise from the table.

"You are right, Holmes. We are bound to go."

He sprang up and shook me by the hand.

"I knew you would not shrink at the last."

And when Sherlock Holmes announced his plans to burgle Charles Augustus Milverton's household, Watson resolutely demanded to join him:

"Well, I don't like it; but I suppose it must be," said I. "When do we start?"

"You are not coming."

"Then you are not going," said I. "I give you my word of honour—and I never broke it in my life—that I will take a cab straight to the police-station and give you away unless you let me share this adventure with you."

"You can't help me."

"How do you know that? You can't tell what may happen. Anyway, my resolution is taken. Other people beside you have self-respect and even reputations."

Even when pressed for service with questionable motives in "The Creeping Man," Watson's can-do attitude came through, and Holmes immediately appreciated the combination of industriousness and motivation:

"I think, Watson, that we can catch the professor just before lunch. He lectures at eleven and should have an interval at home."

"What possible excuse have we for calling?"

Holmes glanced at his notebook.

"There was a period of excitement upon August 26th. We will assume that he is a little hazy as to what he does at such times. If we insist that we are there by appointment I think he will hardly venture to contradict us. Have you the effrontery necessary to put it through?"

"We can but try."

"Excellent, Watson! Compound of the Busy Bee and Excelsior. We can but try—the motto of the firm."

"We can but try." Good old Watson!

Meanwhile, the boys at **Baker Street Elementary** are giving it their best shot...


WELL, AT LEAST I PASSED...  
WHAT ABOUT YOU, HOLMES?

I RECEIVED A 'O'... I WAS  
BUSY SOLVING A CASE.



MA'AM... A 'O' WILL UNFAIRLY AFFECT MY TERM  
AVERAGE... I BELIEVE A SIMPLE FAILING  
GRADE WOULD BE MORE APPROPRIATE, AND NOT  
DESTROY MY ENTIRE GRADE.


THIS SHOULD BE INTERESTING.

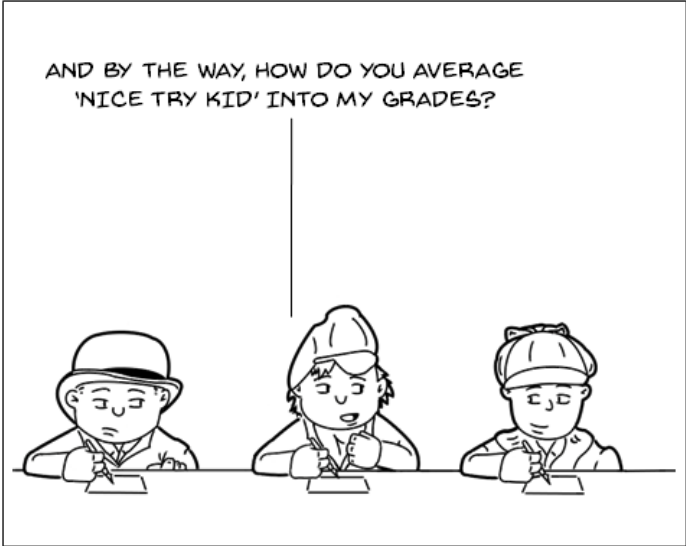
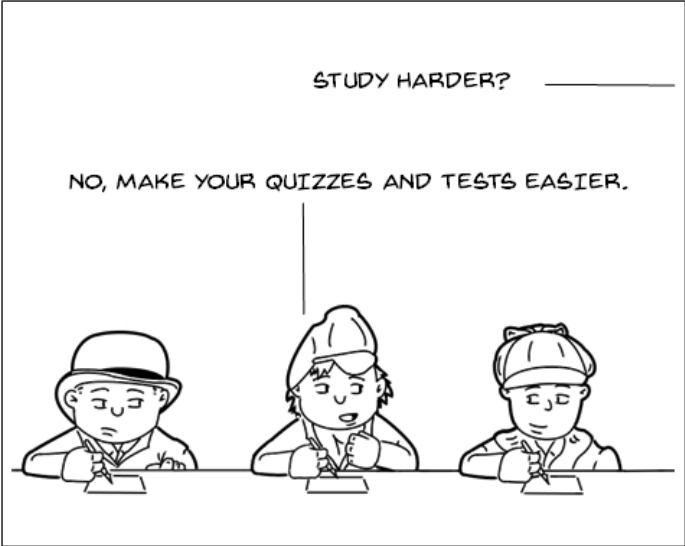
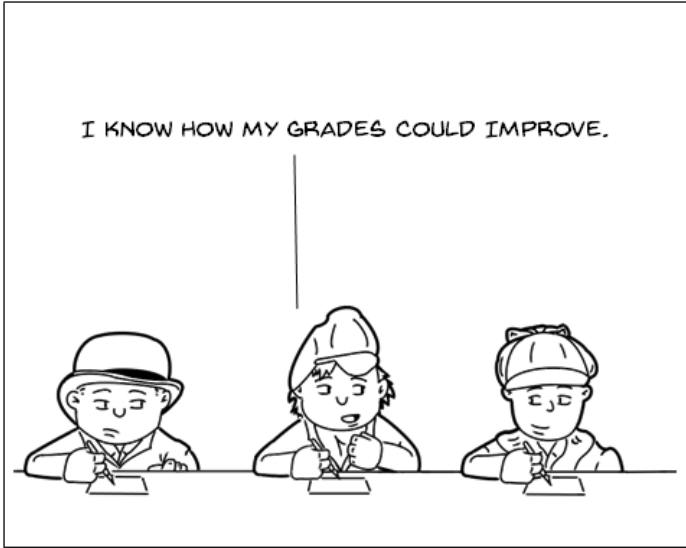


SO, SHERLOCK TURNS IN NOTHING AND WILL GET  
THE SAME GRADE I RECEIVED FOR SUBMITTING  
A PAPER? THAT DOESN'T SEEM FAIR.



MASTER STAMFORD, YOU ARE  
ONE OF MY VERY SPECIAL  
STUDENTS... BUT HONESTLY, YOU  
SOMETIMES MIGHT GET A  
BETTER GRADE BY NOT  
SUBMITTING ANYTHING.









## "A GOOD EGG"

"two empty egg-shells" [RETI]

We've talked about Humpty Dumpty in these parts previously, with the connection between annotated editions.

This time around, let's focus on the edible aspects of the ovicular.

To put it plainly, Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson frequently enjoyed eggs for breakfast. In The Sign of Four, we find them sitting down to ham and eggs:

"When I came down to our room I found the breakfast laid and Holmes pouring out the coffee."

"Here it is," said he, laughing, and pointing to an open newspaper.

"The energetic Jones and the ubiquitous reporter have fixed it up between them. But you have had enough of the case. Better have your ham and eggs first."

When Watson brought Victor Hatherley to Baker Street in "The Engineer's Thumb," Holmes welcomed them with and joined them for breakfast:

"Sherlock Holmes was, as I expected, lounging about his sitting-room in his dressing-gown, reading the agony column of The Times and smoking his before-breakfast pipe, which was composed of all the plugs and dottles left from his smokes of the day before, all carefully dried and collected on the corner of the mantelpiece. He received us in his quietly genial fashion, ordered fresh rashers and eggs, and joined us in a hearty meal."

Of course, that famous scene at the conclusion of "The Naval Treaty" found Mrs. Hudson rising to the occasion with curried chicken, ham and eggs.

"Good! What are you going to take, Mr. Phelps—curried fowl or eggs, or will you help yourself?"...

Sherlock Holmes swallowed a cup of coffee, and turned his attention to the ham and eggs.

Breakfast was interrupted by the capture of Patrick Cairns in "Black Peter":


"I must really apologize, Hopkins," said Sherlock Holmes; "I fear that the scrambled eggs are cold. However, you will enjoy the rest of your breakfast all the better, will you not, for the thought that you have brought your case to a triumphant conclusion."

And what should have been soft-boiled eggs in "The Problem of Thor Bridge" became another offering, due to an absent-minded cook:

"There is little to share, but we may discuss it when you have consumed the two hard-boiled eggs with which our new cook has favoured us. Their condition may not be unconnected with the copy of the Family Herald which I observed yesterday upon the hall-table. Even so trivial a matter as cooking an egg demands an attention which is conscious of the passage of time and incompatible with the love romance in that excellent periodical."


Meanwhile, the boys at **Baker Street Elementary** are considering the implications of a large fractured egg...

...COULDN'T PUT HUMPTY  
TOGETHER AGAIN.

Three cartoon characters, two boys and one girl, are sitting at a desk. They are all wearing hats and looking thoughtful or slightly confused. The boy on the left is wearing a fedora, the girl in the middle is wearing a beret, and the boy on the right is wearing a cap. They are all holding pens and looking down at their papers.

MA'AM... I DO HAVE ONE  
QUESTION ON OUR LESSON TODAY.

YOUR QUESTIONS ARE VERY  
SIMILAR TO ARGUMENTS.

The same three cartoon characters are sitting at the desk. The boy on the left is speaking, and the girl in the middle is looking at him. The boy on the right is also looking at the boy on the left.

COULD HUMPTY DUMPTY SUE THE KING'S  
MEN FOR MEDICAL MALPRACTICE?

CAN'T CRY OVER SPILLED MILK.

The same three cartoon characters are sitting at the desk. The boy on the left is speaking, and the girl in the middle is looking at him. The boy on the right is also looking at the boy on the left.


OR POSSIBLY GET A JUDGEMENT AGAINST THE  
KINGDOM FOR BUILDING A DEFECTIVE WALL?

I WONDER HOW BIG AN OMELETTE HUMPTY MADE?

The same three cartoon characters are sitting at the desk. The boy on the left is speaking, and the girl in the middle is looking at him. The boy on the right is also looking at the boy on the left.

AND YOU TWO WONDER  
WHY I STICK TO MATH  
AND SCIENCES?

SEEMS WE WERE LEFT WITH A  
RHYME, BUT NO REASON.

The same three cartoon characters are sitting at the desk. The boy on the left is speaking, and the girl in the middle is looking at him. The boy on the right is also looking at the boy on the left.

STAMFORD, CAN YOU  
EXPLAIN HOW YOU BROKE  
THE PENCIL SHARPENER? \_\_\_\_\_



I DIDN'T DO IT!!



EVERYONE IN THE CLASS  
SAW YOU DO IT... CAN YOU  
PLEASE TRY TO BE A  
LITTLE MORE TRUTHFUL? \_\_\_\_\_



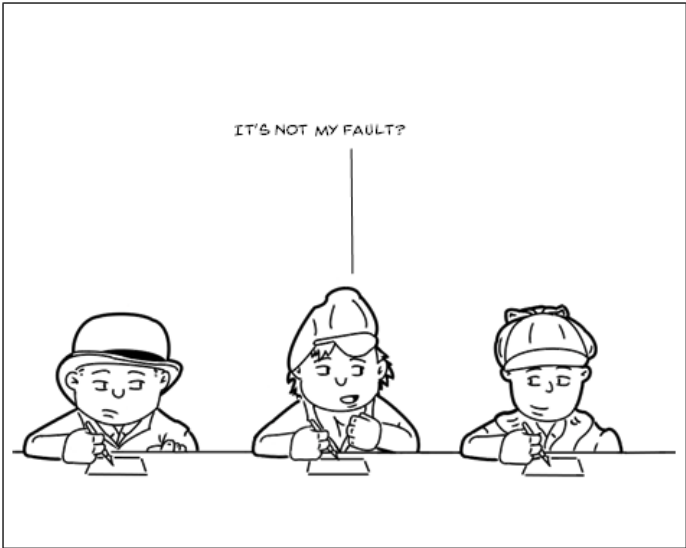
IT WAS LIKE THAT WHEN I FOUND IT?



I USED IT 10 MINUTES AGO, AND IT  
WORKED JUST FINE... ALL I WANT TO  
HEAR IS THE HONEST TRUTH.

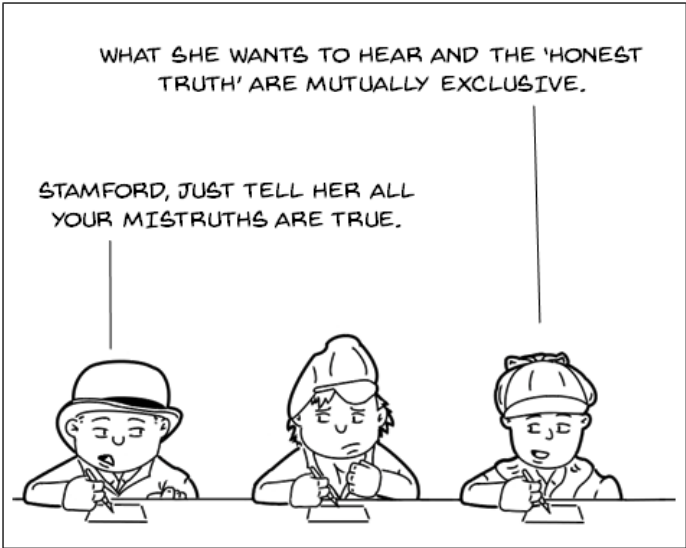


IT'S NOT MY FAULT?



WHAT SHE WANTS TO HEAR AND THE 'HONEST  
TRUTH' ARE MUTUALLY EXCLUSIVE.

STAMFORD, JUST TELL HER ALL  
YOUR MISTRUTHS ARE TRUE.



## "THE PLANE TRUTH"

"thickly strewn with trees" [STUD]

Generally speaking, trees are background decorations—in model train setups, satellite imagery, and storytelling. It is rare that a tree becomes a central focus.

Of course, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle was a master storyteller, and in many cases, the trees mattered a great deal to him in setting a scene.

For example, we vividly remember the yew alley at Baskerville Hall, where Sir Charles awaited a rendezvous but fled for his life on tiptoes down the alley.

But do you recall where we might find "a lime-lined avenue" leading up to a building?

It's a small detail, but one that helps paint a picture in our minds of the Trevor estate in Donnithorpe in "The Gloria Scott."

The oak and the elm play an essential part in "The Musgrave Ritual," as they help Brunton (and later Holmes) map out the location hinted at in the ritual.

" 'Where was the sun?'

" 'Over the oak.'

" 'Where was the shadow?'

" 'Under the elm.'

In fact, we get an entire story named for a tree in the canon: "The Copper Beeches" takes us to Winchester, to Jephro Rucastle's "dearest old country-house," where a "clump of copper beeches immediately in front of the hall door has given its name to the place."

And lest we forget, Watson had a view out his own window, from which he was able to observe "the solitary plane tree which graces the yard behind our house."

Haven't heard of a plane tree? It's more commonly known as a buttonwood or sycamore in the United States. The boys at Baker Street Elementary probably prefer learning about this kind of tree rather than trigonometry...

[We'll see ourselves out.]

MY FATHER PLANTED SOME YOUNG TREES  
IN OUR BACKYARD THIS WEEKEND.



BUT I CANNOT FIGURE OUT WHY HE  
TIED THEM ALL TO THE GROUND?



EASY... WHEN THEY ARE THAT YOUNG,  
THEY JUST CAN'T STAND STILL...

IF YOU DON'T TIE THEM DOWN,  
THEY WOULD JUMP OUT AND  
CHASE YOU ALL NIGHT LONG.



SO MUCH FOR ASKING EACH OF YOU  
TO COMPLETE A LEAF COLLECTION!!  
THERE ARE TIMES I WONDER WHY I  
EVEN TRY TO TEACH STAMFORD!!



THEY PAY YOU.

IT'S A CHALLENGE YOU  
JUST CAN'T PASS UP.



SHE MAY RACE THE TWO OF YOU TO  
THE HEADMASTER'S OFFICE TODAY!






MASTER WATSON, WOULD YOU LIKE TO EXPLAIN WHY YOU DID SO BAD ON THE LAST QUIZ? \_\_\_\_\_

Three cartoon characters, two boys and one girl, are sitting at a desk. They are all looking down at a quiz they have just finished. The boy on the left is looking at the quiz with a sad expression. The girl in the middle is looking at the quiz with a sad expression. The boy on the right is looking at the quiz with a sad expression.

I SEEM TO BE HAVING LOTS OF PERSONAL PROBLEMS RIGHT NOW.

Three cartoon characters, two boys and one girl, are sitting at a desk. They are all looking down at a quiz they have just finished. The boy on the left is looking at the quiz with a sad expression. The girl in the middle is looking at the quiz with a sad expression. The boy on the right is looking at the quiz with a sad expression.

ARE YOU SAYING YOU NEVER WERE AN ADOLESCENT, MA'AM? \_\_\_\_\_

Three cartoon characters, two boys and one girl, are sitting at a desk. They are all looking down at a quiz they have just finished. The boy on the left is looking at the quiz with a sad expression. The girl in the middle is looking at the quiz with a sad expression. The boy on the right is looking at the quiz with a sad expression.

LET ME EXPLAIN TO YOU HOW THE STAGES OF LIFE WORK... AT YOUR AGE, YOU WISH YOU COULD HAVE FUN EVERY DAY... \_\_\_\_\_

Three cartoon characters, two boys and one girl, are sitting at a desk. They are all looking down at a quiz they have just finished. The boy on the left is looking at the quiz with a sad expression. The girl in the middle is looking at the quiz with a sad expression. The boy on the right is looking at the quiz with a sad expression.

...WHEN YOU GO TO UNIVERSITY, YOU REALIZE YOU CAN HAVE FUN EVERY DAY... \_\_\_\_\_

Three cartoon characters, two boys and one girl, are sitting at a desk. They are all looking down at a quiz they have just finished. The boy on the left is looking at the quiz with a sad expression. The girl in the middle is looking at the quiz with a sad expression. The boy on the right is looking at the quiz with a sad expression.

...WHEN YOU REACH MY AGE, YOU JUST WISH OTHERS WOULD QUIT ASKING YOU TO HAVE FUN WITH THEM. \_\_\_\_\_

Three cartoon characters, two boys and one girl, are sitting at a desk. They are all looking down at a quiz they have just finished. The boy on the left is looking at the quiz with a sad expression. The girl in the middle is looking at the quiz with a sad expression. The boy on the right is looking at the quiz with a sad expression.

## **"A TIDY BUSINESS"**

*"a strong natural turn for this sort of thing" [CHAS]*

*In The Hound of the Baskervilles, Watson tells us that Sherlock Holmes had a "cat-like love of personal cleanliness."*

*Could that penchant for tidiness have overlapped into his professional dealings? It seems most likely.*

*Take this commentary from "The Adventure of the Red Circle":*

*"Why should you go further in it? What have you to gain from it?"*

*"What, indeed? It is art for art's sake, Watson. I suppose when you doctored you found yourself studying cases without thought of a fee?"*

*"For my education, Holmes."*

*"Education never ends, Watson. It is a series of lessons with the greatest for the last. This is an instructive case. There is neither money nor credit in it, and yet one would wish to tidy it up. When dusk comes we should find ourselves one stage advanced in our investigation."*

*How fascinating that Holmes couldn't stand to allow a little conundrum like this stand without busying himself with it.*

*Certainly, consistent with his need to have things just so.*

*Of course, when we find the mention of Watson finding "himself once more in the untidy room of the first floor of Baker Street," in "The Mazarin Stone," it's a clear indication that the story was written by an imposter.*

*Meanwhile, it seems that John is learning a little something about psychology at **Baker Street Elementary**...*

WHAT DID YOU DO AT YOUR PARENT'S HOUSE THIS WEEKEND?

I TRIED A NEW MIND TRICK ON THEM.



WHAT DID YOU DO?

MY MOTHER WOULD NOT LET ME PLAY OUTSIDE UNTIL I CLEANED MY ROOM.



SUCH TORTURE!!

IT TOOK ME ALL WEEKEND, SO I NEVER WAS ABLE TO GO OUTSIDE.



I TOLD MY PARENTS THOUGH I WAS DEPRIVED OF ONE OF THE BASIC RIGHTS OF A CHILD, THE IMPORTANT THING WAS THEY WERE HAPPY.



MOM RESPONDED, 'OF COURSE WE ARE HAPPY... WE WANTED YOUR ROOM CLEAN, WHICH IT NOW IS'.

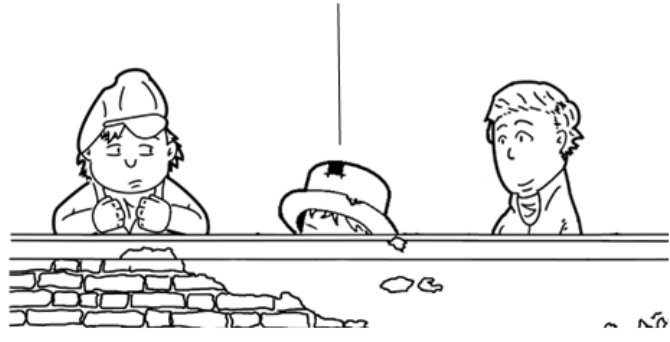


OBVIOUSLY, MY 'GUILT TRIP' TECHNIQUE NEEDS SOME IMPROVEMENT.

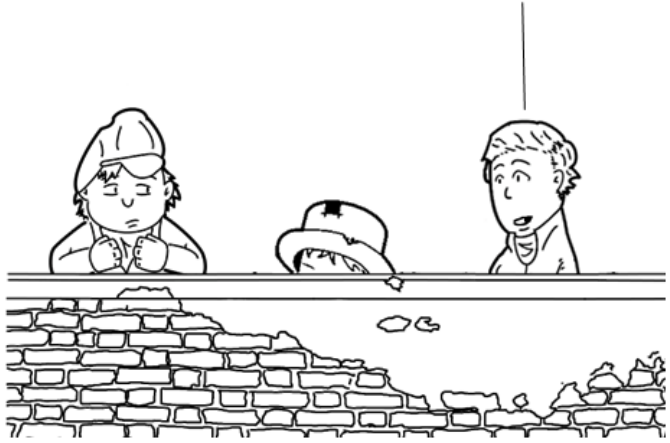
ACTUALLY, MOMS INVENTED THE TECHNIQUE... YOU WERE UP AGAINST A MASTER.



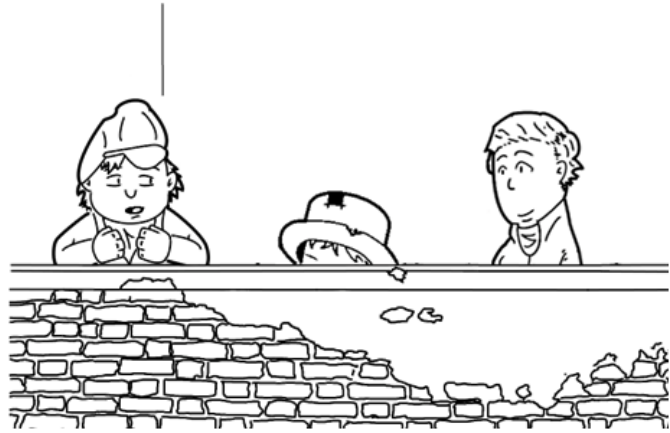
MASTER STAMFORD, MAY I WISH  
YOU A HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY.



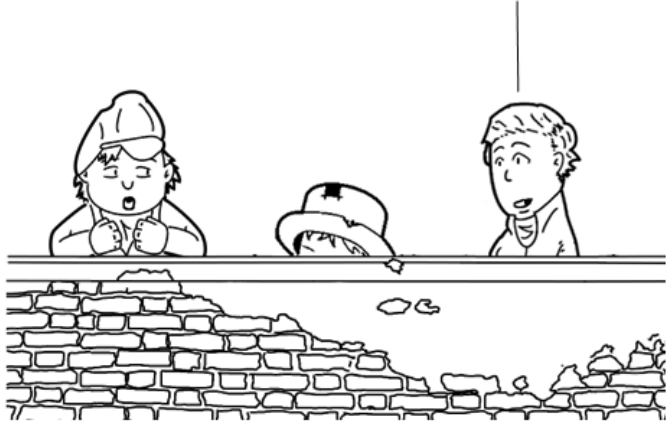
AS I... I HOPE WE HAVE NO  
SNAKES TO CHASE AWAY TODAY.



IGNATIUS, IF I UNDERSTAND IT CORRECTLY,  
I MAY PINCH YOU WITHOUT IMPUNITY IF  
YOU ARE NOT WEARING AN ITEM OF GREEN.



YOU ARE CORRECT... HOWEVER, IF I HAPPEN TO BE  
WEARING SOMETHING OF GREEN, I AM ENTITLED  
TO PUNCH YOU AS HARD AS I CAN 10 TIMES.



MASTER PETER, IF I UNDERSTAND IT CORRECTLY, I  
MAY PINCH YOU WITHOUT IMPUNITY IF YOU ARE  
NOT WEARING AN ITEM OF GREEN.



## "THE ODD COUPLE"

"someone to share the rooms and the expenses" [STUD]

Here's an interesting thought experiment. We know that financial straits conspired to bring Sherlock Holmes and John H. Watson together to share a suite of rooms in Baker Street.

Watson recognized that he was outspending his military pension in the opening scenes of A Study in Scarlet:

"There I stayed for some time at a private hotel in the Strand, leading a comfortless, meaningless existence, and spending such money as I had, considerably more freely than I ought. So alarming did the state of my finances become, that I soon realized that I must either leave the metropolis and rusticate somewhere in the country, or that I must make a complete alteration in my style of living. Choosing the latter alternative, I began by making up my mind to leave the hotel, and to take up my quarters in some less pretentious and less expensive domicile."

And upon bumping into his old colleague Stamford, uttered these immortal words:

"Looking for lodgings," I answered. "Trying to solve the problem as to whether it is possible to get comfortable rooms at a reasonable price."

It seems that it was not a unique sentiment, however. Stamford conveyed the phrase

"[Y]ou are the second man to-day that has used that expression to me."

The first, of course, was Sherlock Holmes. But it leads us to wonder: would Watson have lived with Holmes—or put up with him, rather—had the two not been tied together by way of economic necessity?


When Stamford introduced the two, Holmes only outlined three "shortcomings" to Watson: smoking, chemical experiments, and stretches of taciturn behavior. And violin-playing, if that can be considered a shortcoming. That's not much to object to.

Over time, Watson would discover that Holmes had a drug habit, stayed up all hours, associated with dangerous criminals, was the victim of assaults, arson, and attempted murder, and had an outsized ego.

Had Holmes been more forthright with Watson about his "shortcomings," perhaps even Watson's tight finances wouldn't have caused him to agree to a cohabitation agreement. We have a difficult time seeing these two becoming fast friends outside of that initial incentive.


And Baker Street Elementary is where the boys dream of a brighter future...

HAVE YOU TWO CONSIDERED WHO YOU WILL LIVE WITH WHEN YOU GET OLDER?


A line drawing of a character with a beret and a headband lying in a bed. A book is on a shelf to the right of the bed.

I ASSUME MY WIFE (OR WIVES)...

AS MY CHRONICLER, DO YOU NOT THINK WE SHOULD SHARE ROOMS?

A line drawing showing two characters in separate beds. Each bed has a book on a shelf next to it.

OF COURSE, YOU WOULD HAVE TO PUT WITH MY CHEMICAL EXPERIMENTS AND MY SULKY PERIODS.

A line drawing of a character in a bed. A book is on a shelf to the left of the bed.

PROBABLY 90% OF ADULTS SMOKE, SO I DOUBT THE TOBACCO WILL BOTHER ME... WILL YOUR VIOLIN PLAYING IMPROVE BY THEN?

A line drawing of a character in a bed. There are books on shelves on both sides of the bed.



NO PROMISES... I ASSUME YOU WILL HAVE  
MORE CONSISTENT HOURS, GETTING UP ON  
TIME... AND NO DOGS ALLOWED.



I DO LIKE TO HAVE THINGS IN ORDER, SO  
I CANNOT TOLERATE A MESSY ROOM.




YOU TWO WON'T LAST A WEEK TOGETHER.



WHAT IS WRONG WITH OUR STAMFORD?

HE RECEIVED HIS BOOSTER SHOT TODAY FOR 'CUDIES'... IT WAS ADMINISTERED ON THE PLAYGROUND.



THERE IS NO DEFINITIVE TEST FOR 'CUDIES', SO IT IS BETTER 'SAFE' THAN 'SORRY'.


YOU GUYS ARE SO RIDICULOUS.



THE MAIN SYMPTOM OF THE ILLNESS IS 'SKEPTICISM'... YOU CAN ALWAYS SPOT A 'CARRIER' FROM THAT, LIKE YOU.


'CUDIES' AREN'T REAL!!!

MY DIAGNOSIS IS CONFIRMED.



WHAT CONSTITUTES A BOOSTER SHOT?

UMMM... I HIT THE PATIENT ON THE ARM 3 TIMES.



I WISH ONE OF THE YOUNG'UNS ON THE  
PLAYGROUND COULD ADMINISTER THE  
SHOT... MIGHT NOT HURT SO MUCH.



MY FATHER HAD AN INTERESTING THOUGHT  
ABOUT THE PAST 2 YEARS... HE STATED, "OF  
ALL THE THINGS I LEARNED IN PRIMARY  
SCHOOL, TRYING TO AVOID 'CUDIES' WAS  
THE LAST ONE I EXPECTED TO USE.



WE HOPE YOU STAY SAFE AND WELL!!!



## "AGONY"

"where all gossip is welcome" [VALL]

*Sherlock Holmes knew that he could clean up when he paid attention to those dishing dirt.*

*The "The Red Circle," Holmes expresses his disdain for such material, but acknowledged its utility:*

*He took down the great book in which, day by day, he filed the agony columns of the various London journals. "Dear me!" said he, turning over the pages, "what a chorus of groans, cries, and bleatings! What a rag-bag of singular happenings! But surely the most valuable hunting-ground that ever was given to a student of the unusual!"*

*In "The Three Garridebs," Holmes recommended that John Garrideb use such a resource for finding his quarry:*

*"I should have thought, sir, that your obvious way was to advertise in the agony columns of the papers."*

*"I have done that, Mr. Holmes. No replies."*

*Of course, Holmes scanned the columns daily, so if something so unusual were to appear, he would have certainly seen it and added it to his clippings.*

*Nor was Holmes averse to personal communication to achieve his goals. In "The Solitary Cyclist," he chided Watson for missing an obvious opportunity to gather intelligence:*

*"What should I have done?" I cried, with some heat.*

*"Gone to the nearest public-house. That is the centre of country gossip. They would have told you every name, from the master to the scullery-maid."*

*And Silas Brown, the trainer at the Mapleton stables in "Silver Blaze" knew exactly how information vital to races could be conveyed:*

*As Sherlock Holmes replaced the half-crown which he had drawn from his pocket, a fierce-looking elderly man strode out from the gate with a hunting-crop swinging in his hand.*

*"What's this, Dawson!" he cried. "No gossiping! Go about your business!"*

*At Baker Street Elementary, there are all kinds of dirt available on the playground...*


I CANNOT BELIEVE HOW THE DISCUSSIONS  
ON THE PLAYGROUND HAVE DEVOLVED.

Three cartoon characters, two boys and one girl, are sitting at a table. They are all wearing hard hats and looking down at papers in front of them. The boy on the left is looking up and speaking.

THERE IS NOT THOUGHTFUL DISCUSSIONS... NO  
GOOD EXAMPLES, NOT ONE REDEEMING  
VALUE... IT'S PRETTY MUCH ALL RUMOURS,  
ENUENDOS, AND PETTY GRIPING.

Three cartoon characters, two boys and one girl, are sitting at a table. They are all wearing hard hats and looking down at papers in front of them. The boy on the left is looking up and speaking.

THEN WHY DO YOU LISTEN  
TO SUCH THINGS? \_\_\_\_\_

Three cartoon characters, two boys and one girl, are sitting at a table. They are all wearing hard hats and looking down at papers in front of them. The boy on the left is looking up and speaking.

FOR ALL THE REASONS I JUST LISTED.

Three cartoon characters, two boys and one girl, are sitting at a table. They are all wearing hard hats and looking down at papers in front of them. The boy on the left is looking up and speaking.

I WAS ABLE TO COLLECT OVER 30 EASTER EGGS YESTERDAY. HOW DID YOU TWO DO?



I STILL CAN'T FIGURE OUT WHY A BUNNY DELIVERS THE EGGS... SHOULDN'T A CHICKEN HAVE THE JOB?



THE CHICKEN COULDN'T CROSS THE ROAD, SO HE DELEGATED THE JOB TO A RABBIT.




I FOUND OUT MY MOTHER DOES NOT APPRECIATE MY SENSE OF HUMOUR.

THIS SHOULD BE GOOD.








I MADE TINY CRACKS IN THE HARD-BOILED EGGS BEFORE MY MOTHER DYED THEM WITH BEET JUICE...

THE RED COLOUR SOAKED UNDER THE SHELL AND TURNED THE ACTUAL EGGS RED... I THOUGHT IT MADE THE EGG SALAD MORE COLOURFUL... SHE THOUGHT THE EGGS WERE ROTTEN.

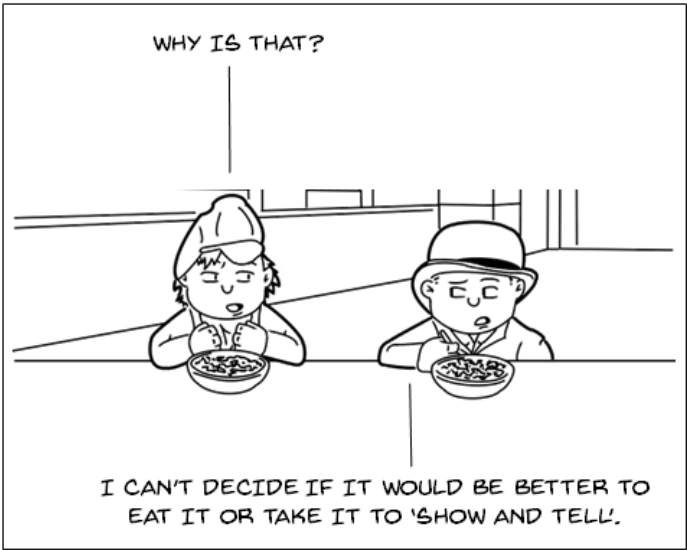
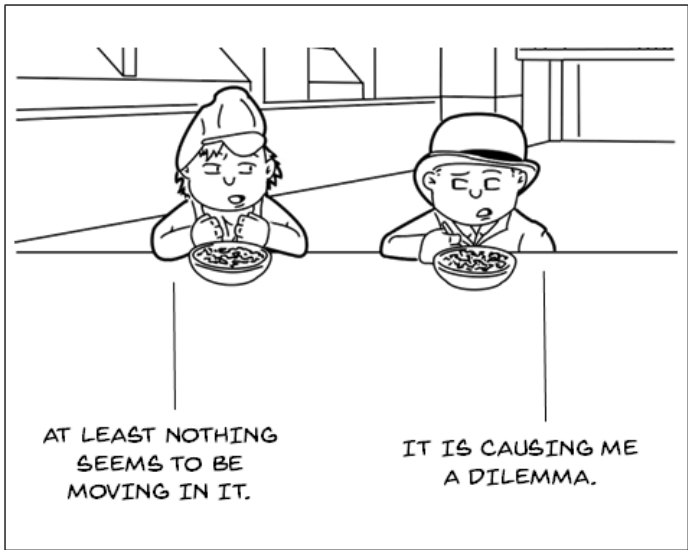
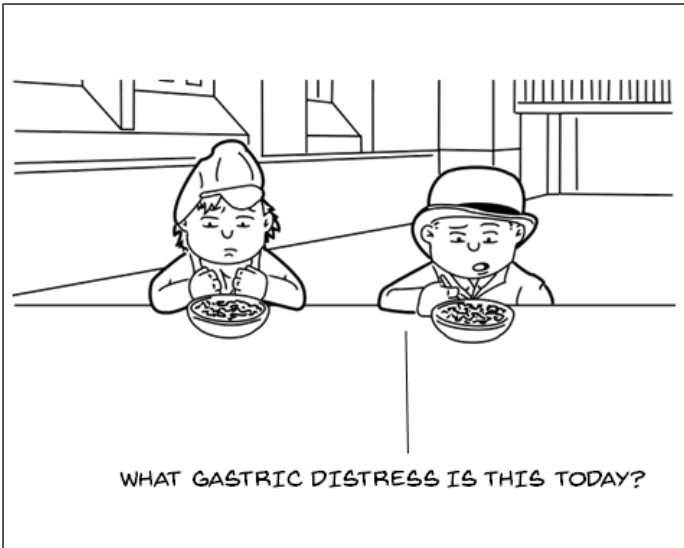


WHAT DOES THE DECORATED EASTER EGG REPRESENT?



IN MY HOUSEHOLD, A VERY FESTIVE OMELETTE.






BAKER STREET Elementary  
NUMBER 393 - 04/19/2022

FAY, MASON & MASON © 2022


HAVE YOU TWO CONSIDERED...  
WHERE DO WE GO WHEN WE DIE?



THE FIRST ADVENTURES OF HOLMES AND WATSON

WE COVERED THIS IN AN EARLIER STRIP.

I STILL VOTE 'MANCHESTER'  
IF YOU WERE BAD.




IF WE GO TO HEAVEN, WE GET A HARP... WHAT  
DO YOU GET IF YOU GO TO THE OTHER PLACE?



AN ACCORDION.

WITH MANY OF THE  
KEYS STUCK.



"E - I - E - I - O"  
"small farmers, well-known" [SIGN]

When we think of Sherlock Holmes, we immediately conjure up images of Victorian London, a city swathed in fog, with citizens bustling about on streets lit by gas-lamp. The stories evoke city life.

And yet, we find a few instances of farm life that creeps into the tales from time to time.

Consider the very first time the public met Holmes in A Study in Scarlet: we're taken to a place very different from London: the Great Alkalai plain and eventually to Utah, where John Ferrier sets up as...a farmer. He eventually became "the richest of the farmers," making his daughter Lucy an attractive object for many a suitor.

Next, we find Jonathan Small recounting his tale in The Sign of Four, expressing how different he was from his family:

"They were all steady, chapel-going folk, small farmers, well known and respected over the country-side, while I was always a bit of a rover."

It isn't until we reach stories in The Return of Sherlock Holmes that we encounter farmers again. In "The Dancing Men," we discover that Norfolk farmers are something of a Victorian Airbnb: "And the farmers take in lodgers."

And then there are the few "moor farmers" who rear sheep and cattle in "The Priory School," and "two moorland farmers" in The Hound of the Baskervilles.

Anyone who's familiar with farming — at least the agricultural type — has heard of bushels and pecks as a form of volumetric measurement. However, we don't seem to encounter a single instance of those in the Canon, even from young Francis Prosper, the greengrocer in "The Beryl Coronet."

The Baker Street Irregulars do have a peck, though: Andrew J. Peck ("Inspector Baynes, Surrey Constabulary"), who made a very different measurement in his scholarship: a chronology of the 60 stories, published together with Les Klinger, BSI ("The Abbey Grange"), titled The Date Being—? A Compendium of Chronological Data.

Meanwhile, the boys at **Baker Street Elementary**, try to wrap their heads around mathematical measurements...

QUESTION # 1... A BUSHEL IS EQUAL TO  
4 PECKS... WHAT THE HECK IS A PECK?



IT'S A QUICK KISS ON THE LIPS... I SEE MY  
MOTHER GIVING MY FATHER A PECK ALL THE TIME.

WELL, MATHEMATICS IS  
OUT AS A CAREER CHOICE.



YOU KNOW, I DID INFINITELY BETTER ON  
THE LAST MATH TEST THAN I EXPECTED.



UHHH... HOW IS THAT  
POSSIBLE? YOU STILL FAILED.



I EXPECTED A ZERO... ANYTHING  
HIGHER IS INFINITELY BETTER.



SO, LET ME GET THIS STRAIGHT...  
FRANKENSTEIN WAS THE NAME OF THE  
DOCTOR, NOT THE MONSTER ITSELF?



I ASSUME WHEN FRANKENSTEIN WAS YOUNGER,  
HE HAD NO PROBLEM MAKING NEW FRIENDS.

DRUM ROLL INSERTED HERE.



I WONDER WHY THE DOCTOR NEVER  
MADE A SECOND MONSTER?



HE JUST DIDN'T HAVE THE GUTS FOR IT.



'GOING TO MEET YOUR MAKER' IS A  
EUPHEMISM FOR DYING... WHEN THE MONSTER  
WAS KILLED, DID HE GO BACK TO VICTOR?



I ASSUME THE DOCTOR HAD A  
'NO RETURN POLICY'.

I DON'T THINK THE THREE  
OF YOU ARE TAKING THIS  
NOVEL VERY SERIOUSLY.





**"LA- Z - BOY"****"Lazy Devil" [STUD]**

Quick, think of a word to describe Sherlock Holmes.

Some words that likely came to your mind are: detective, intelligent, clever, energetic, smoker, consultant, high-strung, lazy.

Wait — lazy?

Yes, lazy.

Holmes himself admits to Watson in *A Study in Scarlet* that he can be incurably lazy:

"I'm not sure about whether I shall go. I am the most incurably lazy devil that ever stood in shoe leather—that is, when the fit is on me, for I can be spry enough at times."

And there we have the wonderful dichotomy of Holmes's character that makes him both endearing and infuriating — a contradiction of personality. The bringer of justice (while breaking laws), the defender of British government (but a proponent of the little guy), and a natural athlete (who seldom took exercise for its own sake).

So is it any surprise that Sherlock Holmes would call himself lazy?

Of course, he's not only lazy; he's lazy at times. Even Watson understood that, as this dialog from *The Sign of Four* indicates:

"Yes, the reaction is already upon me. I shall be as limp as a rag for a week."

"Strange," said I, "how terms of what in another man I should call laziness alternate with your fits of splendid energy and vigor."

"Yes," he answered, "there are in me the makings of a very fine loafer and also of a pretty spry sort of fellow. I often think of those lines of old Goethe,—

*Schade, daß die Natur nur einen Mensch aus Dir schuf, Denn zum würdigen Mann war und zum Schelmen der Stoff.*

["Alas, that Nature made only one man of you, when there was material enough for a good man and a rogue."]

Perhaps Watson hoped that the shock value of Holmes describing himself as lazy took the focus off of he, the narrator.


Recall that during that first meeting, it was Watson who first described himself as lazy:

"I keep a bull pup," I said, "and I object to rows because my nerves are shaken, and I get up at all sorts of ungodly hours, and I am extremely lazy. I have another set of vices when I'm well, but those are the principal ones at present." [Emphasis ours - Ed.]

Of course, this could have been a self-effacing or overly self-critical assessment from a former Army doctor, still recovering from his wounds. An extremely lazy individual wouldn't take up private practice, nor would he put pen to paper to immortalize the greatest detective who ever lived.


Meanwhile, we detect more than a bit of laziness at **Baker Street Elementary...**

ONCE AGAIN, I GOT IN TROUBLE  
TODAY FOR NO REASON.


A line drawing of a boy named Sherlock wearing a school cap, sitting in a school locker. A book is on a shelf to his right.A line drawing of a boy named Stamford wearing a school cap, sitting at a desk and writing on a piece of paper.

STAMFORD, WHY ON  
EARTH DID YOU TURN  
IN AN ESSAY WITH  
ONLY 12 WORDS?


NO REASON. \_\_\_\_\_

A line drawing of a boy named Stamford wearing a school cap, sitting at a desk and writing on a piece of paper.


SHERLOCK, YOU'RE SMART... I COULD DO SO  
MUCH BETTER IN SCHOOL IF YOU WOULD  
SIMPLY DO MY HOMEWORK FOR ME... WE  
COULD EVEN CHARGE IF YOU DID OTHER  
STUDENT'S HOMEWORK.

A line drawing of a boy named Sherlock wearing a school cap, sitting in a school locker. A book is on a shelf to his right.

STAMFORD, THAT IS WRONG ON SO MANY LEVELS.


A line drawing of a boy named Stamford wearing a school cap, sitting in a school locker. A book is on a shelf to his left.

OH SURE! TOSS MORALITY IN MY  
FACE, SIMPLY BECAUSE YOU'RE TOO  
LAZY TO DO A LITTLE EXTRA WORK.


A line drawing of a boy named Sherlock wearing a school cap, sitting in a school locker. A book is on a shelf to his right.

I ACUTALLY HAVE TO GIVE  
HIM CREDIT FOR TRYING.

HE DEFINITELY COULD HAVE  
A CAREER IN POLITICS.

A line drawing showing two school lockers side-by-side. Sherlock is in the left locker and Stamford is in the right locker. Both are wearing school caps.

HOW LONG DO YOU SUPPOSED WE WILL LIVE?




I DON'T KNOW... HOLMES, DO YOU HAVE ANY GUESSES?

I WOULD HAZARD APPROXIMATELY 80-85 YEARS, WITH A GOOD BREEZE BEHIND YOU.




AT WHAT POINT SHOULD WE START TAKING CARE OF OURSELVES TO REACH THAT AGE?



"SOMETIMES OLD AGE JUST SHOWS UP ON HIS OWN..."


I BELIEVE THERE IS AN ADAGE, "WISDOM DOES NOT ALWAYS COME WITH OLD AGE."



MY GREAT-GRANDFATHER, WHO IS 88, HAS AN INTERESTING PHILOSOPHY... 'TO STAY HEALTHY, DON'T GO TO THE DOCTOR... THEN HE CAN'T FIND ANYTHING WRONG WITH YOU.'



MY GRANDMOTHER TOLD ME, 'SOMEDAY I WILL BE OLD ENOUGH TO DO ANYTHING I LIKE... BUT BY THEN, I'LL BE TOO TIRED TO LIKE ANYTHING'.



## "THEY SAY IT'S YOUR BIRTHDAY"

*"a good man of good birth and excellent education" [FINA]*

Today marks what would have been the 163rd birthday of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.

*And it's a wonderful time to enjoy the creations of Conan Doyle — not just Sherlock Holmes, but beyond. A number of energetic and enterprising individuals have developed outlets for Conan Doyle enthusiasts to express and share their interests.*

*A smattering of current offerings includes:*

*The Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Public Library, preparing to celebrate its 50th anniversary at a big event in September.*

*Then there's the newly-formed ACD Society, with its newsletter, awards and projects, including "The Terror of Blue John Gap" annotated edition, among other things. The site, created and updated by Ross Davies, is a great jumping-off point for all things about Conan Doyle and contains a definitive list of ACD-centric links and sites.*

*One of the great rabbit holes to explore is the Arthur Conan Doyle Encyclopedia, with over 7,000 pages of wonderful history, descriptions, illustrations, and even full texts of some short stories.*

*There's even a podcast dedicated to Conan Doyle: Doings of Doyle, hosted by Mark Jones and Paul M. Chapman.*

*Speaking of podcasts, we've assembled a number of IHOSE episodes in which we've had Conan Doyle-centric conversations:*

*I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere · Arthur Conan Doyle*

*Meanwhile, it's time to celebrate at **Baker Street Elementary**.*

SIR... I BELIEVE SOMEONE IN OUR CLASS  
IS CELEBRATING A BIRTHDAY TODAY.




WHEN I WAS A CHILD, I COULDN'T  
WAIT FOR MY BIRTHDAY... I WISHED \_\_\_\_\_  
I COULD HAVE ONE EVERY DAY.



GEE... THE WAY I FEEL THESE  
DAYS, THAT KID WAS AN IDIOT! \_\_\_\_\_




WHAT IS THE MOST RELEVANT THING YOU  
HAVE LEARNED THROUGH THE YEARS?



I LEARNED GAINING WEIGHT IS WHAT \_\_\_\_\_  
THEY MEANT BY 'GROWING' OLDER.




DO YOU THINK I AM GOING TO PASS MATH THIS SEMESTER... I AM SURE I AM FAILING.




HAVE YOU CONSIDERED A GOOD TRADE SCHOOL?



THAT'S A MEAN THING TO SAY... YOU'RE MY FRIEND... YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO REASSURE ME.



I'LL TRY THIS ONE MORE TIME... I AM SCARED I WILL FAIL OUT OF SCHOOL.



WE ASSURE YOU STAMFORD, TRADE SCHOOL IS YOUR BEST OPTION.


STAMFORD, WE'RE JUST KIDDING YOU.



WELL, I AM NOT TO BLAME... MY MOTHER SAYS MY FATHER TAUGHT ME EVERYTHING I KNOW.



JUST REMEMBER, WHEN THE TEACHER SAID NOT TO LET EDUCATION GO TO YOUR HEAD, FAILING EVERY SUBJECT IS NOT WHAT SHE MEANT.





## "BAKER STREET ELEMENTARY CELEBRATES 400<sup>TH</sup> STRIP"

*"my own small achievements" [HOUN]*

Five years ago, *I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere* welcomed the contributions of Joe Fay, Rusty Mason, and Steve Mason, BSI ("The Fortescue Scholarship") under the banner of "**Baker Street Elementary**," a Sherlockian comic strip in the style of Charles Schultz's "Peanuts." We've been featuring one of their strips every other Sunday since then.

Over the years, we've become familiar with the younger versions of Holmes, Watson, and Stamford, as well as occasional appearances by Ignatius (Conan Doyle), Irene (Adler), William (Gillette), and others, including a couple of podcast hosts, and their antics at the school known as **Baker Street Elementary**.

They now mark their 400th strip from this delightful series that is housed in full on the website of The Crew of the Barque Lone Star.

Many comic strip writers churn out daily strips — undoubtedly a slog and a full-time job. But even to do this on a weekly basis shows dedication and creativity, and we're glad that these Sherlockians have both in addition to their knowledge of the Sherlock Holmes stories.


We thank them for their wonderful contributions to not only our site, but to the world of Sherlock Holmes. May they find a way to produce 400 more strips.

Let's reflect back on what is **Baker Street Elementary**...

WELL, TODAY IS DEFINITELY A MILESTONE IN OUR YOUNG LIVES... HARD TO BELIEVE WE HAVE BEEN AROUND FOR 400 EPISODES.




HARDER TO BELIEVE THIS IS WHAT WE LOOKED LIKE 7 YEARS AGO.



YOU TWO HAD MUCH MORE HAIR BEFORE SHERLOCK'S EXPERIMENTS BLEW UP.

WHAT WOULD EACH OF YOU SAY IS THE MORE IMPORTANT THING YOU HAVE LEARNED IN THESE 7 YEARS?



NO MATTER HOW POOR OR WELL WE DO ON OUR TESTS, WE SEEM TO BE IN THE SAME CLASS.



IN THE DINING HALL, 'FOOD' IS NOT NECESSARILY A SYNONYM FOR 'EDIBLE'.



NEVER STAND DOWNWIND FROM STAMFORD  
AFTER HE HAS EATEN TOO MANY MEATBALLS.



I BELIEVE I SPEAK FOR MANY, MANY  
PEOPLE WHEN I SAY HOW MUCH JOY  
YOU HAVE BROUGHT TO ME IN THE  
PAST 7 YEARS... THANK YOU.



OUR SINCERE APPRECIATION TO JOE FAY,  
FOR HAVING THE IMAGINATION TO  
BELIEVE IN US FROM THE BEGINNING.

YES, INDEED.



AND THANKS TO RUSTY MASON  
FOR BRINGING US TO LIFE!



IS THERE ANY CHANCE OUR FATES  
ARE ACTUALLY PREDESTINED BY  
THE STARS IN THE COSMOS?



I AM SURE I DON'T KNOW.

I BELIEVE YOU WOULD  
HAVE BETTER LUCK WITH  
A 'TALKING BOARD'.



MAYBE THE ROMAN, NORSE, OR GREEK  
GODS ARE CONTROLLING OUR LIVES?



THESE QUESTIONS ARE NOT  
GOING TO HELP ME GO TO SLEEP.

STAMFORD, WHY ARE  
YOU TRYING TO PAWN  
OFF YOUR ACTIONS?



EASY, I COULD BLAME MY MATH TEST  
TODAY ON A MINOR DEITY, AND I WOULD  
HAVE MORE FUN IF SOMEONE ELSE TOOK  
RESPONSIBILITY FOR MY ACTIONS.



## "HOW FUN"

"some fun for this cases" [STUD]

We know Sherlock Holmes enjoyed his profession. After all, he created it for himself.

He told us so in The Sign of Four:

"I crave for mental exaltation. That is why I have chosen my own particular profession,—or rather created it, for I am the only one in the world."

But what did Holmes do when he wasn't exercising his brain, which he said rebelled at stagnation and needed to be "connected up with the work for which it was built"?

That is, what did Sherlock Holmes do for fun?

He enjoyed music, for one. At the conclusion of The Hound of the Baskervilles, he and Watson headed off to the opera:

"And now, my dear Watson, we have had some weeks of severe work, and for one evening, I think, we may turn our thoughts into more pleasant channels. I have a box for 'Les Huguenots.' Have you heard the De Reszkes?"

Of course, music helped Holmes process his thinking as well. We saw it in "The Red-Headed League," as he spent an afternoon "in the stalls, in the most perfect happiness, gently waving his long, thin fingers in time to the music."

He had claimed:

"I observe that there is a good deal of German music on the programme, which is rather more to my taste than Italian or French. It is introspective, and I want to introspect.

But aside from music, we also know that he unwound and geeked out in other ways, such as trying to decipher the remains of a palimpsest [GOLD] and the study of the Chaldean roots of the Cornish branch of the Celtic language [DEVI].

To each his own, we suppose.

And that's just what's going on at recess at **Baker Street Elementary**..

<< I CAN'T DECIDE IF THAT IS  
PERPLEXING OR SIMPLY AMAZING. >>

WHAT ARE YOU  
MUMBLING ABOUT?



I HAVE CREATED A LIST OF THOSE MYSTERIES  
OF THE UNIVERSE I WANT TO SOLVE.



WHY WOULD YOU POSSIBLY WANT TO DO THAT?

KEEP BOREDOM AWAY.



I THINK STAMFORD AND I WILL SIMPLY  
GO TO LUNCH AND THEN 30 MINUTES  
RECESS ON THE PLAYGROUND.



DOESN'T UNRAVELING THE  
MYSTERIES OF THE UNIVERSE RANK  
HIGHER THAN FOOD AND PLAY?



PRETTY SURE, NOPE!

WELL, HOW ABOUT THAT...  
1 DOWN, 27 MORE TO GO.






OUR SCIENCE CLUB FELT THE RUGBY TEAM IS BEING SINGLED OUT FOR SPECIAL TREATMENT, SO WE STARTED A GROUP TO ENSURE WE GET TREATED BETTER.

Three cartoon characters are sitting at a table. The character on the left is wearing a fedora and a suit, looking thoughtful with a hand on his chin. The middle character is wearing a beanie and a jacket, also looking thoughtful. The character on the right is wearing a beanie and a jacket, looking thoughtful.

BUT NOW THE ORCHESTRA CLUB THINKS THE SCIENCE CLUB IS GETTING SPECIAL TREATMENT, SO THEY FORMED A GROUP TOO.

Three cartoon characters are sitting at a table. The character on the left is wearing a fedora and a suit, looking thoughtful with a hand on his chin. The middle character is wearing a beanie and a jacket, also looking thoughtful. The character on the right is wearing a beanie and a jacket, looking thoughtful.

IT WOULD APPEAR TO ME IT WOULD MAKE MORE SENSE IF EVERYONE JUST JOINED THE SAME GROUP... THEN EVERYONE WOULD GET TREATED THE SAME.

Three cartoon characters are sitting at a table. The character on the left is wearing a fedora and a suit, looking thoughtful with a hand on his chin. The middle character is wearing a beanie and a jacket, also looking thoughtful. The character on the right is wearing a beanie and a jacket, looking thoughtful.

STAMFORD, YOU JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND THE SITUATION... IF EVERYONE'S TREATED THE SAME, THEN NO ONE FEELS THEY ARE SPECIAL.

Three cartoon characters are sitting at a table. The character on the left is wearing a fedora and a suit, looking thoughtful with a hand on his chin. The middle character is wearing a beanie and a jacket, also looking thoughtful. The character on the right is wearing a beanie and a jacket, looking thoughtful.

## "SOMETHING A LITTLE RECHERCHÉ"

"Ah, naughty, naughty" [SIGN]

*When we get children together of a certain age, there's a certain kind of humor that inevitably makes its way to the fore.*

*At the utterance of a double entendre or a scatological reference, furtive glances lead to smirks that lead to outbursts of laughter.*

*Did Holmes and Watson experience such instances as schoolboys? Almost certainly. And what about in the Canon itself?*

*Well, the great Sherlockian John Bennett Shaw delivered a paper at a dinner in 1971 along those lines. It was so racy that the editor of The Baker Street Journal (who was also the head of the BSI, and was still incensed from the talk at the dinner) refused to publish it.*

*It was called "a most amusing talk...showing evidence of much research and truly specialized knowledge, but, unfortunately, unpublishable." At least by the BSJ. But it did appear later that year in Bruce Kennedy's Shades of Sherlock.*

*Meanwhile, we'll see what the boys are snickering about at **Baker Street Elementary**...*

HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED WHAT HUMOUR  
WILL BE LIKE IN 150 YEARS OR SO?



I AM GUESSING IT WILL BE  
KNOWN AS 'TOILET HUMOUR'.

WHAT'S A TOILET?

OK... MAYBE 'POTTY HUMOUR'.



AND WHAT CONSTITUTES 'POTTY HUMOUR'?

IT WILL BE LACED WITH  
OFFENSIVE WORDS.



THE 'NAUGHTY'  
WORDS YOU REFER TO AREN'T REALLY  
THAT BAD...


THEY ARE JUST ANOTHER  
ARRANGEMENT OF  
VOWELS AND  
CONSONANTS... THEY  
ARE ONLY OFFENSIVE IF  
THE LISTENER DECIDES  
THEY ARE OFFENSIVE.




SO, IN REALITY, USING OFFENSIVE WORDS IS GIVING UP CONTROL, WHICH IN A WEIRD WAY IS THE OPPOSITE OF OFFENSIVE.

Three cartoon characters, two boys and one girl, are sitting at a table. They are all wearing hats and looking down at papers in front of them, appearing to be in a classroom or meeting setting.

WELL, SHE JUST TOOK THE FUN OUT OF LEARNING MORE WORDS ON THE PLAYGROUND.


The same three cartoon characters are sitting at the table. The boy on the left is speaking, with a line from his mouth leading to the text above.

I CAN ONLY IMAGINE MY FUTURE DISAPPOINTMENTS WILL BE MORE FRUSTRATING IF I DON'T HAVE SWEAR WORDS TO YELL OUT.

The same three cartoon characters are sitting at the table. The girl in the middle is speaking, with a line from her mouth leading to the text above.

I TOLD MY PARENTS THIS WEEKEND I AM NEVER WASTING TIME AGAIN BY REGRETTING ACTIONS TAKEN IN THE PAST.

SOUND ADVICE.

Three cartoon characters, two boys and one girl, are sitting at a table. They are all wearing hats and are looking down at papers in front of them, appearing to be writing or taking notes. The boy on the left is wearing a fedora-style hat, the boy in the middle is wearing a flat cap, and the girl on the right is wearing a headband with a bow.


AND THAT SOMEDAY THEY WILL MISS THESE YOUNG, CAREFREE DAYS OF OUR YOUTH AND SAY, "DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN THAT LITTLE SCAMP JOHN DID SUCH CUTE THINGS?"

UUUH... OOOH!

The same three cartoon characters are sitting at the table, looking at their papers. The boy on the left is looking up and speaking, while the other two are looking down at their papers.


IT MAY BE A LONG TIME BEFORE ME SPILLING PAINT ON THE KITCHEN FLOOR IS A CHERISHED MEMORY.

UNLIKE THE PUNISHMENT?


The three cartoon characters are sitting at the table. The boy on the left is looking up and speaking, while the other two are looking down at their papers.

WELL, I THINK I FAILED QUESTIONS FROM MY SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER AGAIN.


THERE'S A PATTERN FORMING.

A line drawing of two boys sitting at their desks in a classroom. The boy on the left is looking towards the right, and the boy on the right is looking towards the left. They are both wearing collared shirts. There are books on their desks.

HE ASKED, "IF I FOUND MONEY OUT ON THE STREET, WOULD I KEEP IT?"... I REPLIED, "OF COURSE NOT... I WOULD SPEND IT."

A line drawing of a boy sitting at his desk in a classroom. He is looking towards the left. There is a book on his desk.


HE THEN ASKED IF I KNEW THE MORAL OF 'GENESIS'?... I STATED, "DON'T WALK WITH A CAIN IF YOU'RE ABEL"... DID YOU KNOW THEY HAVE DETENTION IN SUNDAY SCHOOL?

A line drawing of a boy sitting at his desk in a classroom. He is looking towards the left. There is a book on his desk.

WHEN DO YOU GET YOUR MORALS... IN OTHER WORDS, HOW DO YOU KNOW WHAT IS RIGHT AND WHAT IS WRONG?

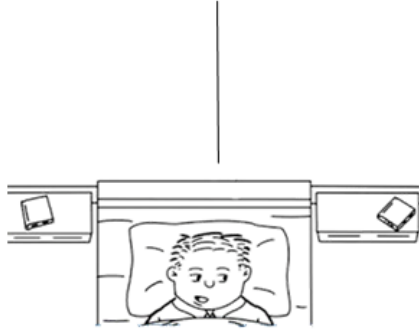
A line drawing of a boy wearing a hard hat and safety goggles, sitting at his desk in a classroom. He is looking towards the left. There is a book on his desk.

ACCORDING TO MY DAD, THAT'S EASY...  
WHATEVER MOM SAYS IS RIGHT.

A line drawing of a boy sitting at his desk in a classroom. He is looking towards the left. There is a book on his desk.



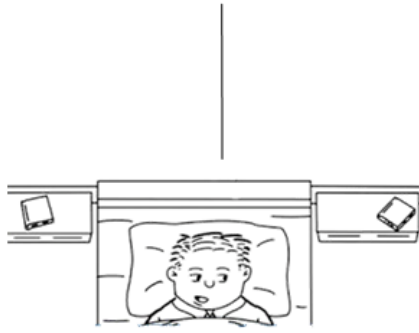
IT DOES SEEM THAT FOR MOST PEOPLE,  
THEY ARE CONSTANTLY LOOKING FOR THE  
GOOD IN OTHERS, BUT ONLY THINKING  
THEY FIND IT IN THEMSELVES.



I HOPE I AM CONFUSED, BUT IT APPEARS  
TO ME IN LIFE, RIGHT IS RIGHT, BUT  
WRONG USUALLY PAYS BETTER.



I THINK I MAY STICK WITH MY DAD'S ADVICE...  
NEVER DO ANYTHING YOU WOULD BE  
EMBARASSED FOR YOUR WIFE, SISTER, AND  
GRANDMOTHER TO KNOW ABOUT.



STAMFORD, YOU ARE GOING  
TO HAVE ONE BORING LIFE!

BUT YOUR RELATIVES  
WILL BE ABLE TO SLEEP  
AT NIGHT, UNLIKE US.



WELL, I RECOGNIZED ANOTHER LITTLE  
IRONY OF LIFE THIS MORNING.



WE CUT DOWN TREES TO MAKE PAPER,  
AND THEN USE THE PAPER TO SAY WE  
NEED TO PROTECT TREES?

OR THAT ALMOST ALL PEOPLE LIE AT SOME  
POINT, BUT NO ONE WANTS TO BE LIED TO.



ACTUALLY, I WAS GOING TO SAY, WHEN I  
WAS GETTING READY TO COME BACK TO  
SCHOOL AFTER THE LONG WEEKEND, I  
WAS VERY SAD TO BE LEAVING HOME.



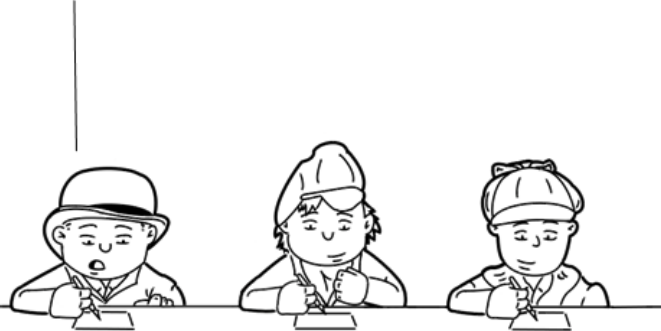
A COMMON AFFECTION FOR ALL OF US.

BUT STRANGELY, MY PARENTS  
SEEMED TO BE ACTUALLY HAPPY TO  
SEE MY BROTHER AND I LEAVING.



LET ME GUESS... ONE OF YOU BROKE SOMETHING.

WHO COULD HAVE GUESSED THE VASE  
HAD BELONGED TO MY GRANDMOTHER?



## "NOT SO ELEMENTARY, MY DEAR WATSON"

"Interesting, though elementary" [HOUN]

*Sherlock Holmes is iconic, well-known to nearly the entire world thanks to his easily recognizable Inverness cape, deerstalker hat, meerschaum pipe, and his pithy "Elementary, my dear Watson."*

*Of course, you know that none of those are associated with him in the original 56 short stories and four novels by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.*

*"Elementary, my dear Watson" never appears in print in Doyle's original works. We have this exchange from "The Crooked Man":*

*"Excellent!" I cried.*

*"Elementary," said he.*

*And six other uses of "elementary." Along with scores of "my dear Watson." But nothing that links them together—at least not in the original tales.*

*But when we find ourselves immersed in the wonderful world of P.G. Wodehouse — specifically the Psmith stories. In the 1915 novel Psmith, Journalist, we find this passage:*

*"I fancy," said Psmith, "that this is one of those moments when it is necessary for me to unlimber my Sherlock Holmes system. As thus. If the rent collector had been there, it is certain, I think, that Comrade Spaghetti, or whatever you said his name was, wouldn't have been. That is to say, if the rent collector had called and found no money waiting for him, surely Comrade Spaghetti would have been out in the cold night instead of under his own roof-tree. Do you follow me, Comrade Maloney?"*

*"That's right," said Billy Windsor. "Of course."*

*"Elementary, my dear Watson, elementary," murmured Psmith.*

*Amazing to think that P.G. Wodehouse coined the most enduring phrase for a character he didn't invent.*

*If you'd like to hear more about Wodehouse and Sherlock Holmes, Episode 143 of I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere features an interview with Curtis Armstrong, Elliott Milstein, and Ashley Polasek.*

*Over at Baker Street Elementary, it's a race to see who gets to choose a turn of phrase for the ages...*

IF WE BECOME FAMOUS AS GROWN-UPS,  
WE NEED A CATCH WORD... I BELIEVE I  
WOULD GO WITH 'DYN-O-MITE'.



THAT SOUNDS VAGUELY FAMILIAR... IT  
MAY HAVE ALREADY BEEN USED... FOR  
MYSELF, I AM PARTIAL TO THE WORD  
'SINGULAR\*'. WHAT SAY YOU HOLMES?



*\* He is very partial to the word. Watson/Doyle used the term  
'singular' 147 times in the Canon, in 49 of the 60 stories.*

I FAVOR 'ELEMENTARY', BUT I FEAR IF  
I BECOME FAMOUS, PEOPLE WILL  
CONSTANTLY MISQUOTE ME.



DID EITHER OF YOU ENSURE OUR  
BEDROOM WINDOW WAS LOCKED?



STAMFORD, WE ARE ON THE 3<sup>RD</sup> FLOOR.

AND THERE IS NO TRELLIS  
OR IVY TO CLIMB UP.



EVERYONE KNOWS A  
MURDERER COULD  
WORK AROUND  
THOSE ISSUES.



THERE COULD BE A  
SERIAL KILLER IN  
OUR BASEMENT, OR  
EVEN IN OUR PRESS.

NOT TO MENTION THE MONSTERS UNDER MY BED.

*The boy makes some good  
points... he even makes me  
scared.*



ACTUALLY, I AM A LITTLE NERVOUS  
MYSELF... WHICH MAKES ME NEED TO PEE.

OH, GOOD GRIEF, THIS IS THE  
LAST TIME YOU TWO READ THE  
NEWSPAPER RIGHT BEFORE BED.



I WONDER IF I CAN GET THEM TO DO MY HOMEWORK?


*If we're so terrifying, why  
do we have to sleep on the  
cold floor?*




MASTER STAMFORD, WOULD YOU PLEASE TRY TO EXPLAIN YOUR ANSWER TO QUESTION # 3 ON THIS WEEKEND'S TAKE-HOME QUIZ? I AM TRULY HAVING A HARD TIME FOLLOWING YOU.

Three cartoon characters are sitting at a desk. The character on the left is wearing a hat and looking down at a piece of paper. The middle character is wearing a cap and looking towards the right. The character on the right is wearing a cap and looking down at a piece of paper. They all appear to be in a classroom setting.

LET'S SEE... QUESTION # 3... WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN RADIUS, CIRCUMFERENCE, AND DIAMETER... I HAD NO CLUE TO THE RIGHT ANSWER, SO I ASKED MY DAD FOR HELP... HIS RESPONSE WAS, AND I QUOTE...

Three cartoon characters are sitting at a desk. The character on the left is wearing a hat and looking down at a piece of paper. The middle character is wearing a cap and looking towards the right. The character on the right is wearing a cap and looking down at a piece of paper. They all appear to be in a classroom setting.

"DIAMETER IS THE... OH WAIT, MAYBE THAT'S THE RADIUS... THE CIRCUMFERENCE ONLY APPLIES TO A SPHERE, I THINK... SO IMAGINE YOU ARE IN THE CENTER OF A CIRCLE, OR MAYBE A TRIANGLE WOULD BE BETTER..."

Three cartoon characters are sitting at a desk. The character on the left is wearing a hat and looking down at a piece of paper. The middle character is wearing a cap and looking towards the right. The character on the right is wearing a cap and looking down at a piece of paper. They all appear to be in a classroom setting.

"...ANYWAY, THE DIAMETER MAY BE BIGGER THAN THE RADIUS... STAMFORD, YOU WILL NEVER LEARN IF YOU KEEP GETTING HELP FROM ME."

Three cartoon characters are sitting at a desk. The character on the left is wearing a hat and looking down at a piece of paper. The middle character is wearing a cap and looking towards the right. The character on the right is wearing a cap and looking down at a piece of paper. They all appear to be in a classroom setting.


THAT'S MY ANSWER AND I AM STICKING WITH IT.

Three cartoon characters are sitting at a desk. The character on the left is wearing a hat and looking down at a piece of paper. The middle character is wearing a cap and looking towards the right. The character on the right is wearing a cap and looking down at a piece of paper. They all appear to be in a classroom setting.


MASTER WATSON, DID YOU COMPLETE THE ESSAY YOU WERE ASSIGNED FOR BEING TARDY YESTERDAY?

Three cartoon characters are sitting at a desk, looking at their papers. The character on the left is wearing a hat and a suit. The character in the middle is wearing a cap and a uniform. The character on the right is wearing a cap and a uniform.


NO, I WAS TOO BUSY FINISHING MY MATHEMATICS PROBLEMS.

Three cartoon characters are sitting at a desk, looking at their papers. The character on the left is wearing a hat and a suit. The character in the middle is wearing a cap and a uniform. The character on the right is wearing a cap and a uniform.

IN OTHER WORDS, YOU ARE USING ONE RESPONSIBILITY FOR EVADING THE OTHER ONE?

Three cartoon characters are sitting at a desk, looking at their papers. The character on the left is wearing a hat and a suit. The character in the middle is wearing a cap and a uniform. The character on the right is wearing a cap and a uniform.

MY FATHER SAYS THAT COULD BE A VERY PRODUCTIVE SKILL AND COULD BE USEFUL ONCE WE ENTER THE ADULT WORKFORCE.

Three cartoon characters are sitting at a desk, looking at their papers. The character on the left is wearing a hat and a suit. The character in the middle is wearing a cap and a uniform. The character on the right is wearing a cap and a uniform.



## "TIME AND TIDINESS WAIT FOR NO MAN"

"tidy up a bit" [SECO]

We might think that Dr. Watson, as a doctor, appreciated cleanliness and tidiness. But we have him at his own word in the opening of "The Musgrave Ritual" that his field experience in Afghanistan superseded his medical sensibilities:

*"An anomaly which often struck me in the character of my friend Sherlock Holmes was that, although in his methods of thought he was the neatest and most methodical of mankind, and although also he affected a certain quiet primness of dress, he was none the less in his personal habits one of the most untidy men that ever drove a fellow-lodger to distraction. Not that I am in the least conventional in that respect myself. The rough-and-tumble work in Afghanistan, coming on the top of a natural Bohemianism of disposition, has made me rather more lax than befits a medical man.*

*But with me there is a limit, and when I find a man who keeps his cigars in the coal-scuttle, his tobacco in the toe end of a Persian slipper, and his unanswered correspondence transfixed by a jack-knife into the very centre of his wooden mantelpiece, then I begin to give myself virtuous airs."*

Sherlock Holmes had his methods, even in his questionable personal habits. And nowhere was this more evident than in this scene from The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes, when Holmes takes Mrs. Hudson to task for tidying up.

Who would have thought that it was at **Baker Street Elementary** that she got her start?

OUR ROOM SEEMS LESS CLUTTERED...  
ANYONE ELSE NOTICED?



WHEN HOLMES WAS SICK YESTERDAY, MRS. HUDSON DELIVERED A TRAY TO OUR ROOM.

DEAR LADY, BUT NOT A MASTER CHEF.




SHE TOOK PITY ON YOU AND I AND TIDIED UP THE ROOM.

I MAY NEVER FIND ANYTHING AGAIN.




SHE COMMENTED SHE FELT SORRY FOR WHOEVER LOOKED AFTER HOLMES WHEN HE GREW UP.

I TOLD HER IT WAS A NICE GESTURE, BUT WE BOTH KNEW I WILL JUST MESS IT UP AGAIN.



WHEN WE GRADUATE OUT OF THIS SCHOOL, MAYBE THE ADMINISTRATION SHOULD SEAL OUR ROOM AND DEEM IT A 'TIME CAPSULE'.



I DON'T WANT TO WRITE THIS PAPER... I CAN'T BELIEVE I HAVE TO DO IT... I WILL NEVER GET IT FINISHED IN TIME.



I THOUGHT YOU WROTE IT LAST NIGHT.



I DID, BUT I COULD NOT FIND IT THIS MORNING WHEN WE WERE LEAVING OUR ROOM.

JUST SAY ONE OF YOUR ROOMMATES ACCIDENTALLY TORE IT UP WHEN HE WAS CLEANING UP THE ROOM LAST NIGHT.

YEAH, RIGHT... LIKE THE TEACHER WILL BUY THAT EXCUSE.



UHHH... YOU BETTER HOPE SHE DOES!



## "GRAND GIFT OF SILENCE"

*"a child has done the horrid thing" [SIGN]*

When Holmes and Watson come across clues in Pondicherry Lodge after the death of Bartholomew Sholto, Watson describes what they found:

*"He held down the lamp to the floor, and as he did so I saw for the second time that night a startled, surprised look come over his face. For myself, as I followed his gaze my skin was cold under my clothes. The floor was covered thickly with the prints of a naked foot,—clear, well defined, perfectly formed, but scarce half the size of those of an ordinary man."*

And immediately, Watson's conclusion is:

*"Holmes," I said, in a whisper, "a child has done the horrid thing."*

Now, we know that Sherlock Holmes held a distrust of women and that he told Watson that "The most winning woman I ever knew was hanged for poisoning three little children for their insurance-money."

But what was Watson's experience with children such that he should immediately conclude that a child killed a grown man with a poisoned dart?

Perhaps it was his experience in tormenting children on the playground, as he recounted in 'The Naval Treaty':

*"On the contrary, it seemed rather a piquant thing to us to chevy him about the playground and hit him over the shins with a wicket."*

Was Watson projecting (and perhaps exaggerating) his own misbehavior when he incorrectly assumed that a child had killed Sholto?

He seems silent on the matter, as he was at **Baker Street Elementary**...

MASTERS HOLMES AND  
WATSON, ARE YOU IN THERE? \_\_\_\_\_

YES MA'AM, WE BOTH ARE.



MAY I ASK WHAT  
YOU ARE DOING? \_\_\_\_\_

READING OUR HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT.



UHHH... OK... \_\_\_\_\_



NOTHING SETS OFF AN ADULT'S SENSE OF DANGER  
LIKE THE UNEXPECTED SILENCE OF A CHILD.

COME OUT TO THE  
COMMON ROOM SO I CAN  
KEEP AN EYE ON YOU. \_\_\_\_\_




HYPOTHETICALLY, FOR £1,000,  
WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO...

YES!!

Three cartoon characters, two boys and one girl, are sitting at a table. They are all wearing hats and looking towards the left. The boy on the left is wearing a bowler hat, the girl in the middle is wearing a beret, and the boy on the right is wearing a flat cap. They are all holding pens and looking at a question on the table.

YOU DIDN'T LET ME FINISH THE QUESTION... YOU  
HAVE NO IDEA WHAT I MIGHT HAVE ASKED...

YES!!

Three cartoon characters, two boys and one girl, are sitting at a table. They are all wearing hats and looking towards the left. The boy on the left is wearing a bowler hat, the girl in the middle is wearing a beret, and the boy on the right is wearing a flat cap. They are all holding pens and looking at a question on the table.

AFTER ALL, I DO HAVE A  
VERY ACTIVE IMAGINATION.

Three cartoon characters, two boys and one girl, are sitting at a table. They are all wearing hats and looking towards the left. The boy on the left is wearing a bowler hat, the girl in the middle is wearing a beret, and the boy on the right is wearing a flat cap. They are all holding pens and looking at a question on the table.

STAMFORD, FOR £1,000, MY GREED CAN  
EAT ANYTHING YOUR IMAGINATION CAN  
COME UP WITH, AND STILL WANT MORE.

I WISH I HAD A PENNY FOR EVERY TIME  
MY PARENTS CALLED ME 'GREEDY'.

WAIT, MAKE THAT A SHILLING!

Three cartoon characters, two boys and one girl, are sitting at a table. They are all wearing hats and looking towards the left. The boy on the left is wearing a bowler hat, the girl in the middle is wearing a beret, and the boy on the right is wearing a flat cap. They are all holding pens and looking at a question on the table.

## "NO SHORT, SHERLOCK"

"the facts are briefly these" [SCAN]

Once Sherlockian scholarship took off in the 1930s and early 1940s, the collective writers (who were many — remember Christopher Morley's observation that "Never before had so much been written by so many for so few") must have tired of writing out the full story titles again and again.

So the intrepid Jay Finley Christ, BSI ("The Final Problem"), who needed to save space in his 1947 volume *An Irregular Guide to Sherlock Holmes of Baker Street*, created a standardized four-letter abbreviation for the stories. In fact, we carry a copy of that very list for easy reference. You can find it at [ihose.co/ABREV](http://ihose.co/ABREV).

Christ's basic principle was simple: the abbreviation is the first four letters of the story's title, leaving aside phrases like "The Adventure of." He listed them alphabetically, from ABBE for "The Abbey Grange" to YELL for "The Yellow Face."

A few problems arise with the four-letter rule, most obviously the fact that three stories begin with the word "Three." Christ solved that one easily by using numerals in the stories where there might be confusion: 3GAB for the Gables, 3GAR for the Garridebs, 3STU for the Students.

He didn't do the same thing for "The Five Orange Pips" or "The Six Napoleons" because there's only one five and one six. And The Sign of the Four is SIGN, with no numeral needed.

And lest you think that these choices were capricious or confusing, Christ was a professor at the University of Chicago, home of the famed *Chicago Manual of Style*. The manual indicates that "whole cardinal numbers from one through one hundred, as well as ordinals, are spelled out in nontechnical contexts." Indeed, Christ was working from academic and legal precedents for his abbreviations.

As you know, all good systems have a few exceptions, and Christ's was no different. He chose CHAS for "Charles Augustus Milverton," because that was a recognized abbreviation for Charles; and ENGR for "The Engineer's Thumb."

And in three instances he apparently ignored introductory words, deeming them as insignificant as "The Adventure of." So we have IDEN for "A Case of Identity," LAST for "His Last Bow," and TWIS for "The Man with the Twisted Lip." In each case, the word with the most significant meaning for that story takes precedent.

That's the long and the short of it, anyway. Let's see how **Baker Street Elementary** grapples with it...



I AM CONSIDERING AN INTERESTING  
CONCEPT... YOUR LAST INVESTIGATION  
WAS MY INSPIRATION.



AS YOU RECALL, THE CASE, AS  
I CHRONICLED IN THE  
SCHOOL PAPER, WAS  
ENTITLED, 'THE ADVENTURE OF  
THE MISSING FARTHING AND  
TARNISHED SHILLING'.



THE PAPER HAS SUGGESTED  
I SHORTEN THE NAMES OF  
YOUR FUTURE CASES SO  
THEY DO NOT HAVE TO  
WASTE SO MUCH TYPE...  
WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT  
ABBREVIATING THE  
STORIES?



THE LAST CASE COULD BE KNOWN AS  
EITHER 'MISS', 'TARN', OR 'SHIL'.



I COULD NOT HELP NOTICE YOU DID  
NOT SUGGEST USING A SHORTENED  
VERSION OF 'FARTHING'.




THE SCHOOL NEWSPAPER HAS STANDARDS.

NOT A BAD IDEA... MAYBE ONE OF THE MILLIONS  
OF MY FUTURE ADORING FANS WILL MAKE A LIST  
OF ALL MY ADVENTURES WITH ABBREVIATIONS.

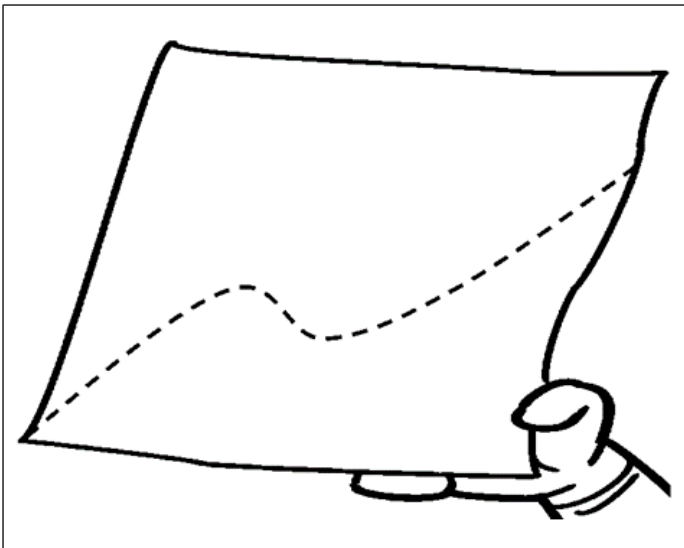


I MAY ALSO STRUGGLE WITH 'THE CASE  
OF THE DAMAGED CRAPPIE GEAR'.


MASTER WATSON, HAVE YOU FINISHED  
YOUR GRAPH ON HOW YOU SEE YOUR  
ACADEMIC TRAJECTORY AS A  
STUDENT THROUGHOUT YOUR CAREER?




YES MA'AM... I BELIEVE IT  
TO BE VERY ENTERPRISING.



MAY I ASK WHAT THE  
DIP IN THE MIDDLE  
REPRESENTS?



I FORGOT TO STUDY FOR THE SCIENCE  
TEST TODAY... WHO KNOWS HOW THAT MAY  
AFFECT MY ENTIRE ACADEMIC LIFE.




MAY EXPLAIN WHY MY GRAPH IS A  
STRAIGHT HORIZONTAL LINE.

NOT TO GET TOO RELIGIOUS, BUT WHO IS MARY, AND WHY IS SHE SO SPECIAL?



SHE WAS THE MOTHER OF JESUS.

WHEN SHE DIED, SHE WENT STRAIGHT TO HEAVEN.




WOW, STRAIGHT TO HEAVEN?



I BET SHE NEVER SPILLED GLUE ON HER MOTHER'S RUG.

THAT WOULD BE A VERY SAFE BET, I CAN GUESS.



### "LUNCH AND LEARN"

*"a hasty luncheon at the buffet" [NAVA]*

*When it comes to dining habits in Victorian England, as with so much during that period, it all comes down to class or status. Lower classes had more humble dining experiences, while upper classes enjoyed more luxurious ones.*


*The good news is you too can eat like a Victorian, should you choose. According to Writers in London in the 1890s, avoiding the lower and upper class options, you could expect the following for a middle class lunch:*

*Bread, with cold leftover beef and asparagus/potato, and a cold pudding  
A couple pieces of buttered bread, a slice of meat, and a cold pudding  
Cold chicken sandwich, a cup of warm broth, and a cold pudding  
Fairly simple for the middle class.*

*But nothing like what the cafeteria offers at **Baker Street Elementary**...*

WILL YOU ALLOW ME TO PUBLISH MY NOTES ON 'THE GIANT RAT OF THE DINING HALL'?

I DON'T BELIEVE THE SCHOOL IS YET PREPARED FOR IT.



WHY... YOU SUCCESSFULLY PROVED IT WAS A HOAX, A SIMPLE PRACTICAL JOKE, EVEN IF IT DID LOOK ALIVE.




YES, BUT MRS. HUDSON, OUR LUNCHLADY, IS STILL HAVING NIGHTMARES.

I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE AN ADULT COULD JUMP STRAIGHT UP SO HIGH... SHE COULD HAVE BEEN AN OLYMPIAN IN GREECE.




I HOPE IN THE FUTURE I CAN PUBLISH ALL THE STORIES I HAVE NOTES OF YOUR CASES.



YOU MIGHT WANT TO INVEST IN A VERY LARGE BOX TO HOLD ALL OF THEM.

I HOPE YOU STUDIED MORE EFFECTIVELY THAN BEFORE... THESE STANDARDIZED TESTS DEVELOPED BY THE SCHOOL ARE 'A LITTLE MORE DIFFICULT' THAN THE ONES I CREATE FOR YOU.



STAMFORD, I NEVER SAW YOU CRACK OPEN YOUR HISTORY TEXTBOOK THIS WEEKEND.

I DID NOT NEED TO.



I SPENT ALL OF LAST WEEK AND THIS WEEKEND LEARNING 'MORSE CODE'.



WHILE I BELIEVE THAT COULD BE A WORTHY PURSUIT FOR FUTURE CAREER PLANS, WHY LEARN IT NOW?

YOU AND SHERLOCK CAN SIMPLY TAP ME THE RIGHT ANSWERS.




IT WOULD HAVE BEEN MUCH EASIER TO SIMPLY STUDY YOUR LESSON.

ONCE AGAIN, YOU ARE ALWAYS LOOKING FOR THE EASY WAY OUT.



THE ONE FLY IN YOUR OINTMENT IS THAT NEITHER HOLMES OR I KNOW THE CODE.

I AM RUNNING OUT OF EXCUSES FOR THE TEACHER... I BETTER FEIGN ILLNESS AGAIN.



TIME FOR ANOTHER QUIZ... \_\_\_\_\_



DO EITHER OF YOU HAVE A  
PENCIL I CAN BORROW?

WHY, YOU HAVE ONE  
IN YOUR HAND?




BUT YOURS ARE MAGICAL... SOMEHOW, YOURS  
SEEM MORE INTELLIGENT ON PAPER.





YOU WILL NEVER GUESS WHAT I FOUND  
IN OUR CHAMBER POT THIS MORNING?

MY MIND REBELS AT THE  
IMAGES I JUST FORMED.

Three cartoon characters, two boys and one girl, are sitting at a table. They are all wearing hats and are looking down at papers in front of them, appearing to be writing or taking notes. The boy on the left is wearing a fedora-style hat, the girl in the middle is wearing a beret, and the boy on the right is wearing a flat cap.

IT WAS A PAIR OF STAMFORD'S SOCKS.


I WAS DEAD ON MY FEET LAST NIGHT...  
I KNEW NOT WHAT I WAS DOING.

Three cartoon characters, two boys and one girl, are sitting at a table. They are all wearing hats and are looking down at papers in front of them, appearing to be writing or taking notes. The boy on the left is wearing a fedora-style hat, the girl in the middle is wearing a beret, and the boy on the right is wearing a flat cap.

GREAT... NOW I HAVE TO GO PEE.

Three cartoon characters, two boys and one girl, are sitting at a table. They are all wearing hats and are looking down at papers in front of them, appearing to be writing or taking notes. The boy on the left is wearing a fedora-style hat, the girl in the middle is wearing a beret, and the boy on the right is wearing a flat cap.

UHHH... I WOULD SUGGEST YOU ALLOW  
ME TO CHECK THE CLOTHES HAMPER  
WHEN WE GET BACK TO OUR ROOM!

Three cartoon characters, two boys and one girl, are sitting at a table. They are all wearing hats and are looking down at papers in front of them, appearing to be writing or taking notes. The boy on the left is wearing a fedora-style hat, the girl in the middle is wearing a beret, and the boy on the right is wearing a flat cap.

## "RISING TO THE OCCASION"

"exceptional physical strength" [VALL]

We don't often think of the physical fitness of Mrs. Hudson, but the reality is that she must have been fairly active to keep up with a tenant like Sherlock Holmes.

For more than 20 years, he occupied the rooms at Baker Street, and during that time, she had to deal with all sorts of unorthodox behavior, as Watson recounts in "The Dying Detective":

"Mrs. Hudson, the landlady of Sherlock Holmes, was a long-suffering woman. Not only was her first-floor flat invaded at all hours by throngs of singular and often undesirable characters but her remarkable lodger showed an eccentricity and irregularity in his life which must have sorely tried her patience. His incredible untidiness, his addiction to music at strange hours, his occasional revolver practice within doors, his weird and often malodorous scientific experiments, and the atmosphere of violence and danger which hung around him made him the very worst tenant in London."

Perhaps it's a good thing that she admired him, though:

"The landlady stood in the deepest awe of him and never dared to interfere with him, however outrageous his proceedings might seem. She was fond of him, too, for he had a remarkable gentleness and courtesy in his dealings with women."

Not only did she put up with these eccentricities, but her role required stamina as well.

For example, in *The Valley of Fear* she welcomed a visitor in the wee hours:

"Late last night Mrs. Hudson, our landlady, brought up a message that a gentleman wished to see Holmes, and that the matter was of the utmost importance."

And in *"The Speckled Band,"* she was roused out of bed:

"Very sorry to knock you up, Watson," said he, "but it's the common lot this morning. Mrs. Hudson has been knocked up, she retorted upon me, and I on you."

These services on behalf of Sherlock Holmes even stretched into the physical, as we saw in *"The Empty House."* Holmes sets up a decoy to catch Col. Moran in the act, and Mrs. Hudson is deployed on the floor:

"I hope you preserved all precautions, Mrs. Hudson?" said Holmes.

"I went to it on my knees, sir, just as you told me."

"Excellent. You carried the thing out very well. Did you observe where the bullet went?"

"Yes, sir. I'm afraid it has spoilt your beautiful bust, for it passed right through the head and flattened itself on the wall. I picked it up from the carpet. Here it is!"

Poor Mrs. Hudson! Having to crouch down on the floor for hours on end, and then being present amid gunfire.



Far from the "comfortable somnolence" of Martha in *"His Last Bow,"* Mrs. Hudson in her prime was a physically fit specimen. Perhaps she got her training at **Baker Street Elementary**...

DID EITHER OF YOU FIND THE MEATBALLS  
AT LUNCH TODAY DISGUSTING?

A black and white line drawing of Sherlock Holmes wearing his iconic deerstalker hat and smoking a pipe. He is sitting inside a school lunchbox. A small book is visible in a compartment to his right.


NO MORE THAN USUAL.

STAMFORD, YOU DID NOT START  
THINKING ABOUT WHERE THEY  
CAME FROM... SLAUGHTERED  
AND BUTCHERED COWS?

A black and white line drawing of two young boys sitting in their respective school lunchboxes. The boy on the left has short hair and a neutral expression. The boy on the right has spiky hair and a slightly mischievous or questioning expression.A black and white line drawing of Sherlock Holmes in his lunchbox, looking towards the right.


NO, BUT I DID SEE  
MRS. HUDSON  
ROLLING THEM IN  
HER HANDS.


BUT SHERLOCK,  
YOU WOULD HAVE  
BEEN PROUD OF  
ME... I RAN INTO  
YOUR NEMESIS ON  
THE PLAYGROUND  
THIS AFTERNOON.

A black and white line drawing of Sherlock Holmes in his lunchbox, looking towards the left.

YOU HAVE AN ENEMY? HOW IS THAT  
POSSIBLE? YOU'RE SO LOVABLE.


ARE YOU SPEAKING  
OF MORIARTY?

A black and white line drawing of the two boys from the previous panel, still in their lunchboxes. The boy on the right is now speaking.




YES, BUT I TAUGHT HIM  
A LESSON... HE KNOCKED  
ME OVER, STARTED  
LAUGHING, AND THEN  
GRABBED ME BY THE  
ANKLES AND SPUN ME  
AROUND AND AROUND.

...BOY, I SURE  
TAUGHT HIM A  
LESSON.



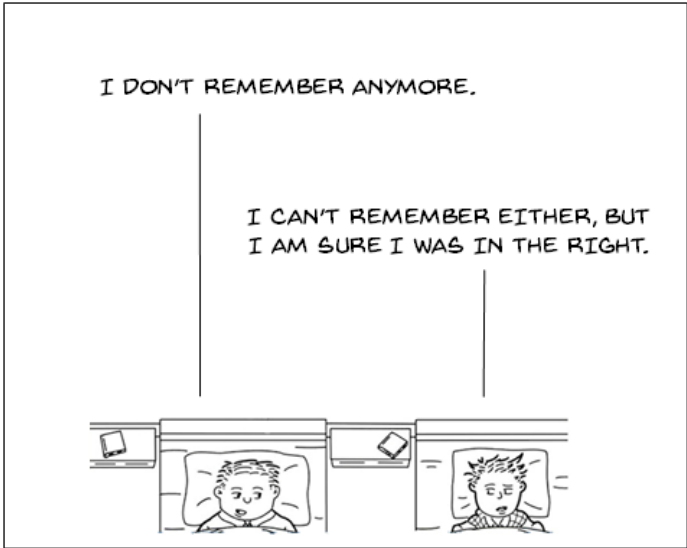
HMMM... STAMFORD, WE MIGHT NEED  
TURN THIS ACT OF BULLYING IN.



I'M CURIOUS... HOW DID YOU TEACH A  
LESSON TO MORIARTY AFTER BEING HURLED  
AROUND THE PLAYGROUND LIKE THAT?

I THREW UP ON HIM... THOSE MEATBALLS  
WERE MORE DISGUSTING COMING OUT  
THAN THEY WERE GOING IN.





## "HOOK, LINE, AND SINKER"

"remarkably good fishing" [GLOR]

While we give Sherlock Holmes much credit for his acumen with sporting activities that are physically involved—boxing, single-stick, bicycle riding—there is one area that deserves more attention.

His ability with the rod and reel. That is, fishing.

We should have been tipped off early on, as in "The Gloria Scott," as he notes all that Trevor's estate offered:

There was excellent wild-duck shooting in the fens, remarkably good fishing, a small but select library, taken over, as I understood, from a former occupant, and a tolerable cook, so that he would be a fastidious man who could not put in a pleasant month there.

And toward the end of the Canon, in "Shoscombe Old Place," we find Holmes using fishing as an excuse to get near the hall:

"Is there good fishing in that part of Berkshire?"

The honest trainer showed very clearly upon his face that he was convinced that yet another lunatic had come into his harassed life.

"Well, sir, I've heard there are trout in the millstream and pike in the Hall lake."


"That's good enough. Watson and I are famous fishermen—are we not, Watson?"

It's one thing to claim to be a good fisherman; it's quite another to prove it. Holmes knew that any disguise or alias was only as good as the proof points that supported it.

Which leads us to conclude that if he were to maintain this ruse, he must have been able to produce the goods to make his fish tale a believable one.

Maybe he got his start with hooks and lines by playing hooky at **Baker Street Elementary...**

SO, JOHN, WERE YOUR PARENT UPSET  
WE SKIPPED SCHOOL TO GO FISHING?





I BELIEVE THE BEST TERM  
WOULD BE 'BORDERLINE LIVID'.

APOLOGIES LASTED  
FOR HOURS I ASSUME.




STRANGE, MY PARENTS  
JUST THANKED ME FOR  
BRINGING HOME  
SUPPER.

DID YOU RECEIVE  
ANY PUNISHMENT  
YET? I CAN ONLY  
IMAGINE.




BEING RIGHTEOUSLY INDIGNANT, THEY ARE  
EXPECTING ATONEMENT FOR OUR ACTIONS.

ATONEMENT? WHAT IS THEIR  
DEFINITION OF ATONEMENT?



IN THIS INSTANCE, ENTERTAINMENT  
OF THE RIGHTEOUSLY INDIGNANT.

I THINK I WOULD REQUEST  
A FIRING SQUAD AT DAWN...  
SOUNDS LESS PAINFUL.





**"WE CAN BUT TRY"**  
*"the motto of the firm" [CREE]*

*One of the wonders of the attraction of Sherlock Holmes is that we stand (or sit, as the case may be) in amazement at his abilities.*

*While we may never have the same skill at ratiocination and logical conclusions, we would at least hope to be able to exercise the same kind of judgment or justice that Holmes did.*

*As Edgar W. Smith wrote in his essay "The Implicit Holmes,"*

*"For it is not Sherlock Holmes who sits in Baker Street, comfortable, competent, and self-assured; it is we ourselves who are there, full of a tre-mendous capacity for wisdom, complacent in the presence of our humble Watson, conscious of a warm well-being and a timeless, imperishable content.*

*The easy chair in the room is drawn up to the hearthstone of our very hearts — it is our tobacco in the Persian slipper, and our violin lying so carelessly across the knee — it is we who hear the pounding on the stairs and the knock upon the door."*


*While we like to picture ourselves in Holmes's shoes — in the sitting room at Baker Street or out on the moor pursuing the Hound — the opposite is closer to the truth: we like to think of Holmes in our shoes.*

*"That is the Sherlock Holmes we love-the Holmes implicit and eternal in ourselves."*

*Let's see how it's playing out at **Baker Street Elementary**...*

STAMFORD, DO YOU SEE ANY  
OF HOLMES IN ME?

WHAT'S THAT MEAN?


A comic panel showing two boys sitting at a desk. The boy on the left is looking at the boy on the right. There are some papers and a small object on the desk.

I GUESS YOU MEAN IN APPEARANCE AND  
MANNERISMS... SO DOES IT BUG YOU?

A comic panel showing a boy sitting at a desk. He is looking down at something on the desk. There is a small object on the desk.

SOMETIMES WHEN TWO PEOPLE SPEND  
A LOT OF TIME TOGETHER, THEY SORT  
OF BECOME THAT OTHER PERSON.

IN WHAT WAY?

A comic panel showing two boys sitting at a desk. The boy on the left is looking at the boy on the right. There are some papers and a small object on the desk.

IT'S JUST HOLMES CAN IGNORE OTHERS, CAN  
BE A SLOB, AND BE EXTREMELY LAZY AT  
TIMES, AND IT DOES NOT SEEM TO FAZE HIM.

IF YOU BECOME LIKE ME,  
IT WON'T FAZE YOU EITHER.

A comic panel showing two boys sitting at a desk. The boy on the left is looking at the boy on the right. There are some papers and a small object on the desk.

LOOK AT THIS PLACE... I LEAVE FOR A WEEKEND, AND IT'S NOW A PIG STY.



WHY IS IT WHEN I AM HERE, I HAVE THE SAME DUTIES AS YOU TWO DO, BUT I SOMEHOW CAN KEEP THE ROOM TIDY?



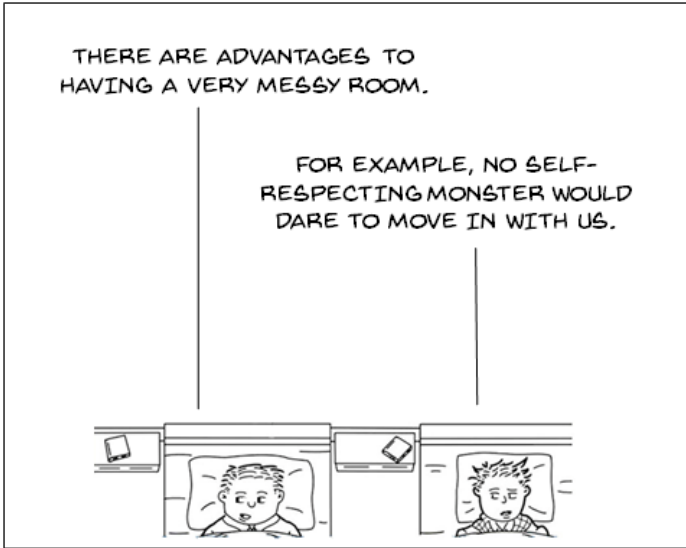
WHEN YOU ARE HERE STAMFORD, MAYBE WE SPEND MORE TIME OUT OF THE ROOM



MAYBE WATSON AND I ARE MORE CREATIVE WHILE YOU ARE GONE.

WAIT, YOU ARE SOMEHOW BLAMING THE MESS ON ME BEING GONE?





## "PICTURE THIS"

*"Your pictures are not unlike you" [3GAR]*

*Who among us doesn't change over the years? Certainly in appearance, and hopefully in intellect as well.*

*We're shaped by the world around us, the people with whom we interact, the programs we consume, and the books we read.*


*For those of us who like to return to the same books over and over again, when we do so, we notice a transformation that was so eloquently observed by Clifton Fadiman:*

*"When you reread a classic, you do not see more in the book than you did before; you see more in you than there was before."*

*And isn't that why we reread the Sherlock Holmes canon? The same characters, the same plots, the same settings are all there. Sherlock Holmes and his habits, methods, and philosophy all remain constant.*



*As we enjoy rereading the Canon at different stages in our lives, our personal growth makes us more aware of things in the stories and in ourselves.*

*Already at **Baker Street Elementary**, the boys are beginning to notice some changes afoot...*




"HOW ARE YOU?  
YOU HAVE BEEN  
IN  
AFGHANISTAN,  
I PERCEIVE."

"VERY GOOD!  
SHALL WE ARGUE  
ABOUT IT HERE  
IN PUBLIC, OR  
TALK IT OVER IN  
YOUR PARLOUR?"




"FROM WHAT I  
HAVE SEEN OF  
THE LADY, SHE  
SEEMS, INDEED,  
TO BE ON A VERY  
DIFFERENT  
LEVEL TO YOUR  
MAJESTY."

"THESE ARE THE RECORDS OF YOUR EARLY  
WORK, THEN? I HAVE OFTEN WISHED THAT  
I HAD NOTES OF THOSE CASES."



SERIOUSLY, THAT'S WHAT  
WE LOOK LIKE IN 20  
YEARS... I LOOK 100  
YEARS OLD.

I LOOK LIKE AN OVER-  
SIZED CRANE OR  
VULTURE.



WHAT ARE YOU TWO COMPLAINING ABOUT? I AM  
ONLY IN 1 PICTURE IN THE ENTIRE 60 STORIES.





# *Home of the Hounds*

