

EVERYONE'S A CRITIC
"the critical part of my argument" [PRIO]

When one produces some public work of note, there's virtually never an instance of said work being universally acclaimed.

It's met praise and scorn, depending on the view of the critic.

From weekend sport (from which the popular phrase "Monday morning quarterback" gained popularity) to even some of the greatest works we know—such

as the London premiere of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony—creative works are subject to negative reviews and skeptical audiences.

So, it comes as no surprise we occasionally glimpse Holmes's prickly attitude regarding the cases Watson has chosen to bring to life.

EVERYONE'S A CRITIC

"the critical part of my argument" [PRIO] (continued)

As early at The Sign of Four, we're granted a view of Holmes taking issue with the single previous story Watson has written up:

"You have attempted to tinge it with romanticism, which produces much the same effect as if you worked a love-story or an elopement into the fifth proposition of Euclid." — A Study in Scarlet

Given that Holmes had the demeanor of an artist (recall he said he was descended from the French artist Vernet, and "Art in the blood is liable to take the strangest forms."

[GREE]).

It's not terribly surprising his reaction to Watson's artistry would be emotional—ironic, given that the topic over which he got so emotional was the discourse of the adventures arising from his logical faculties.

Could it be this bickering of "professional beauties" [STUD] was rooted in something earlier in their relationship?

Something that happened, perhaps, at Baker Street Elementary...

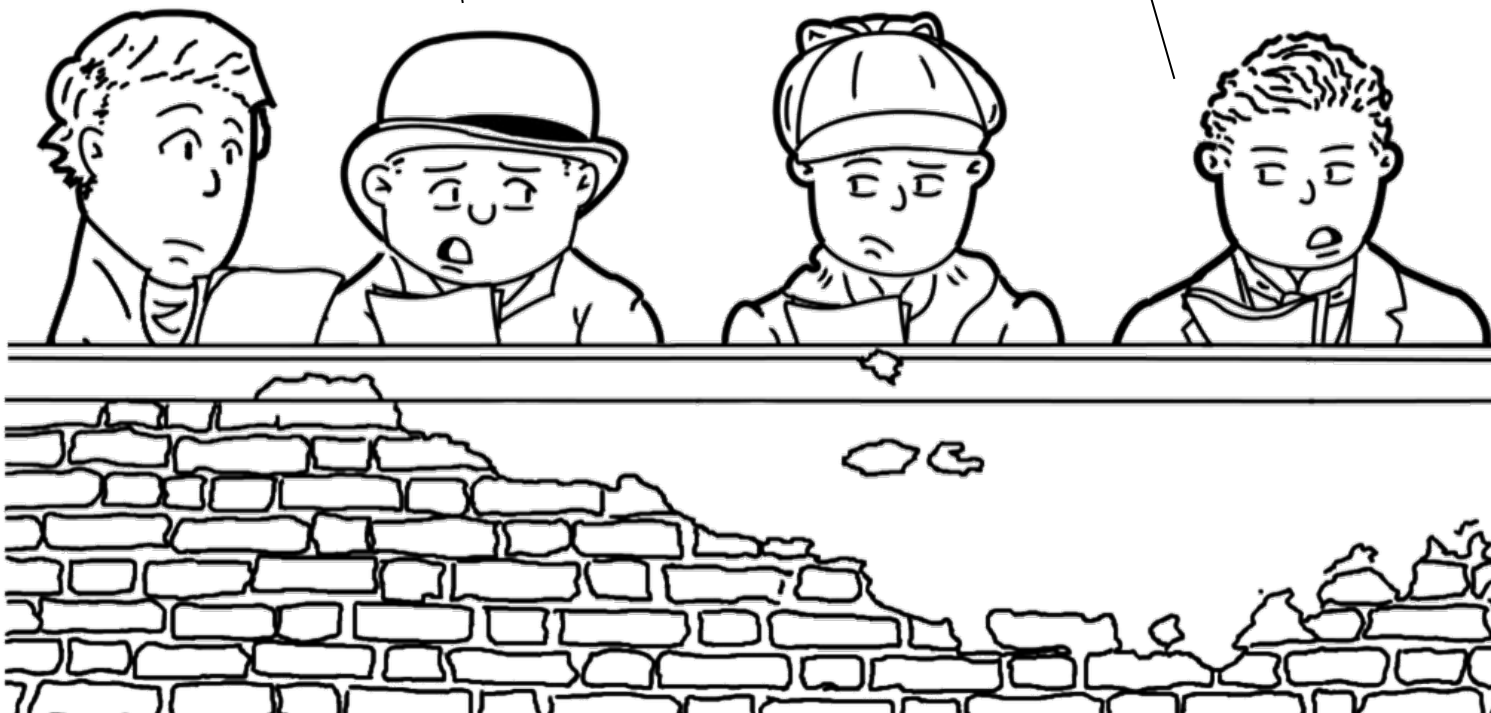
**HALLO, IGNATIUS, PAGET... FROM THE SMILES,
I DEDUCE THE CRICKET MATCH WENT WELL...**

**YES, BUT IT WAS A MIGHTY
STRUGGLE... 3 DAYS...**



HOLMES, DO NOT ATTEMPT TO CHANGE THE SUBJECT... I AM STILL VERY ANGRY AT YOU...

WHAT SEEMS TO BE THE TROUBLE ?

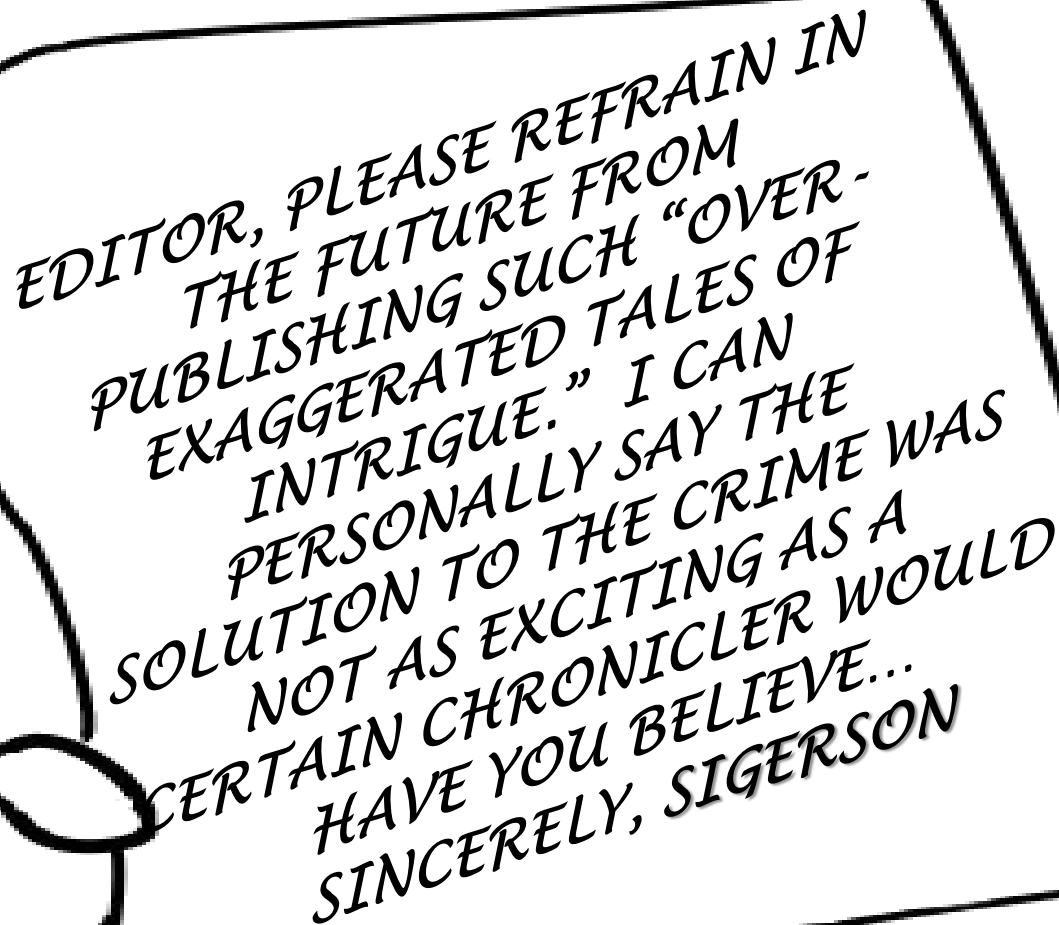


AS YOU KNOW, THE SCHOOL PAPER JUST PUBLISHED MY ACCOUNT OF "THE ADVENTURE OF THE MISSING CHALK ERASERS", CLEVERLY SOLVED BY HOLMES HIMSELF...



TODAY THERE WAS A "LETTER TO THE EDITOR..." LET ME READ IT TO YOU...



A simple line drawing of a hand holding a rectangular piece of paper. The paper is tilted and contains a handwritten letter in all caps. The letter is written in a slightly slanted, casual font. The hand is shown from the bottom left, with the thumb and index finger gripping the edge of the paper.

EDITOR, PLEASE REFRAIN IN
THE FUTURE FROM
PUBLISHING SUCH "OVER-
EXAGGERATED TALES OF
INTRIGUE." I CAN
PERSONALLY SAY THE
SOLUTION TO THE CRIME WAS
NOT AS EXCITING AS A
CERTAIN CHRONICLER WOULD
HAVE YOU BELIEVE...
SINCERELY, SIGERSON

**THAT PSEUDONYM 'SIGERSON' IS NOT
FOOLING ANYONE.**

**I BELIEVE THERE IS
A SPECIFIC CIRCLE
IN HELL FOR
LITERARY CRITICS...**

**RIGHT NEXT TO
THE CIRCLE OF
ART CRITICS...**

