

**NEVER TRUST THE OBVIOUS**  
**"it was perfectly obvious" [REDH]**

*In "The Boscombe Valley Mystery," Dr. Watson told Sherlock Holmes: "I am afraid the facts are so obvious that you will find little credit to be gained out of this case."*

*And Holmes replied, "There is nothing more deceptive as an obvious fact."*

*In some ways, that feels like what we have in this week's strip from Baker Street Elementary.*

*I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere has been given two panels with which to work.*

*Let's focus that phrase Sherlock Holmes uttered—a phrase that is even repeated outside of Sherlockian circles: "nothing more deceptive than an obvious fact."*

*Is that really true?*

# **NEVER TRUST THE OBVIOUS**

## **"it was perfectly obvious" [REDH] (continued)**

*We take it at face value, of course, that because something looks true, it must be so.*

*But simply because something is easy to perceive or comprehend does not necessarily make it false.*

*But our way of comprehending things sometimes tricks the mind into believing something is so, due to our preconceived notions or expectations.*

*In short, Holmes was cautioning Watson*

*(and us) against jumping to a conclusion that would support a false bias.*

*But it does not necessarily follow obvious facts are always deceptive.*

*It's a bit of a leap of logic to reach that conclusion.*

*However, things at Baker Street Elementary may need to be on the obvious side...*

**I'M PRETTY SURE THE TEACHER DISLIKED  
MY REPORT... TO THE POINT SHE  
THOUGHT IT WAS DUMB.**



**YOU'RE IMAGINING THINGS...  
WHY WOULD YOU THINK THAT ?**

**BECAUSE ON THE TOP OF  
THE PAGE, SHE WROTE "THIS  
IS THE DUMBEST REPORT  
EVER TURNED IN TO ME."**

