

SINK OR SWIM "Going for a swim, I see" [LION]

♪"Got a whale of a tale to tell ya lad..."♪

If you mention whaling to any student of the Sherlock Holmes stories, they'll easily point out the story "The Adventure of Black Peter," which concerned a former whaling captain who was found dead in his shack with a steel harpoon driven right through his chest to the wall, where he was "pinned like a beetle on a card."

This of course follows Holmes's return to Baker Street with "a huge barbed-headed spear tucked like an umbrella under his arm."

Whaling is an odd choice of profession for a victim in a Sherlock Holmes story.

Where did the inspiration come from?

In fact, Conan Doyle had some first-hand experience with whaling.

For those interested in the whaling adventures of Arthur Conan Doyle, you should check out **Dangerous Work: Diary of an Arctic Adventure**, edited by Jon Lellenberg and Daniel Stashower.

It's an annotated and illustrated version of Doyle's diary from his work on the Hope as a young medical student, including his many inadvertent swimming sessions.

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

**MASTER DOYLE, I BELIEVE
YOUR REPORT ON 'MOBY DICK'
TO BE A LITTLE EXAGERRATED...**



**YOUR BELIEF THAT A WHALING
EXPEDITION WOULD BE
GLAMEROUS AND ADVENTUROUS
MAY BE LOOKING AT THE
JOURNEY THROUGH 'ROSE-
COLORED GLASSES'**



WHILE I ADMIT THE LIFE ON A WHALER
WOULD BE EXTREMELY TRYING, I BELIEVE
IF SOMEONE WAS TO TAKE THE POSITION
OF SHIP'S DOCTOR, THE THREAT OF
DANGER WOULD BE MINIMIZED...



**UNLESS YOU FELL OFF THE ICE
ONCE OR TWICE...**

**OR THE INJURED MAMMAL
TOOK A SWIPE AT YOU
WITH HIS FIN...**



FOR THOSE ON THEIR FIRST VOYAGE, I WOULD SUGGEST THEY MAY BOARD THE WHALER AS A STRAGGLING YOUTH, BUT THEY WOULD EXIT AS A POWERFUL WELL-GROWN MAN...



**...OR SINK TO THE BOTTOM OF
THE SEA AS DID MOST OF THE
CHARACTERS IN THE STORY**

