

NATURALLY SUPER "no ghosts need apply" [SUSS]

We have very few "ghost story" elements in the original Sherlock Holmes stories.

As Holmes reminds us in "The Sussex Vampire," "This agency stands flat-footed upon the ground, and there it must remain."

And yet, we were led to believe—through creative storytelling and incredulous observers—that the supernatural was present:

- *In The Hound of the Baskervilles, when Dr.*

- Mortimer suspects the hound of being supernatural, he follows up with "Since the tragedy, Mr. Holmes, there have come to my ears several incidents which are hard to reconcile with the settled order of Nature."*
- *Later, when Holmes mentions something about the devil's work, Dr. Mortimer wonders if Holmes believes in the supernatural. Holmes answers, "The devil's agents may be of flesh and blood, may they not?"*

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- In "The Devil's Foot," the vicar Roundhay burst into Holmes's cottage, screaming "We are devil-ridden, Mr. Holmes! My poor parish is devil-ridden! Satan himself is loose in it! We are given over into his hands!"
- And in "The Sussex Vampire," the title itself gives us to believe that there are supernatural elements afoot. Holmes, from the very outset, is skeptical of anything of the sort, reminding Watson, "The world is big enough for us. No ghosts need apply."

Not that Conan Doyle didn't have experience with stories that were other-worldly. "

J. Hababuk Jephson's Statement" is a fictional version of the Mary Celeste incident; "Lot No. 249" is the original mummy story; "The Horror

of the Heights" makes us wonder what lurks in the skies above; and "The Terror of Blue John Gap" puts our thoughts to what lurks in the earth below.

His ability to create believable scenarios and build suspense through the eyes of his narrators made him a superb story-teller indeed.

Perhaps we were never quite so frightened when reading the Sherlock Holmes stories because Watson, our narrator, is fairly fearless.

Fortunately, most feet remain flat-footed on the ground at Baker Street Elementary. And some students remain flat on their backs...

BAKER STREET ELEMENTARY

NUMBER 342 - 06/13/2021

FAY, MASON & MASON

*HOLMES, DO GHOSTS
EXIST ?*



*NOT AT THIS
SCHOOL...*



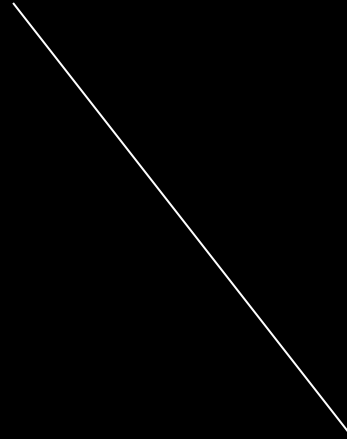
THE FIRST ADVENTURES OF HOLMES AND WATSON

**THAT'S A RELIEF... I
WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN
ABLE TO SLEEP...**

**WAIT, WHY DID YOU
SAY NOT AT THIS
SCHOOL ?**

**IT'S A BIG
WORLD,
WATSON... WHO
KNOWS WHAT
IS OUT THERE...**

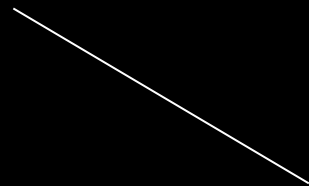
**THIS SCHOOL STANDS
ON FIRM GROUND... I
DON'T SEE ANY GHOSTS
APPLYING TO BE
STUDENTS HERE...**



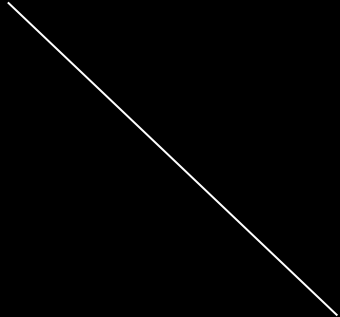
WHAT
ABOUT
MONSTERS
UNDER YOUR
BED ?



DON'T
WORRY
STAMFORD,
I FED THEM
BEFORE WE
RETIRED FOR
THE NIGHT...



**BUT MAKE SURE YOU KEEP
YOUR TOES UNDER THE
BLANKETS, BECAUSE THEY
DO LIKE LATE-NIGHT
DESSERTS...**



A-A-U-G-G-H-H

THUMP!

OH GREAT, HE RAN
FULL TILT INTO THE
WALL AGAIN...



AT LEAST HE'LL
SLEEP THROUGH
THE NIGHT
NOW...

