

## **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.'*

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*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."*

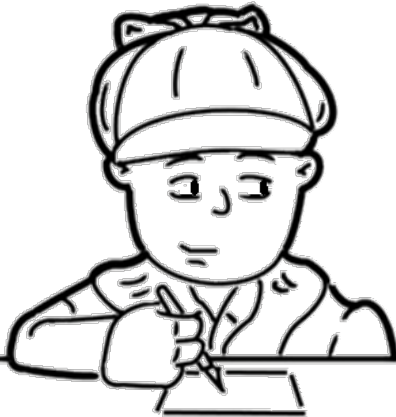
*Haven't heard of a plane tree?*

*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...**

