



ST. LAWRENCE HIGH SCHOOL



Sub: English Text

Class: 7

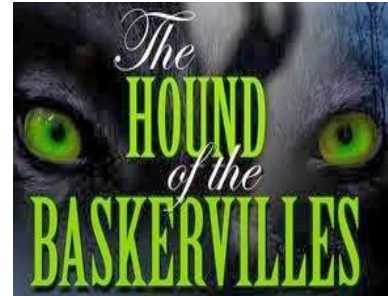
Date: 06/05/2020

Study Material

Chapter- Sherlock Holmes

The Hound of Baskerville

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Arthur Conan Doyle, in full Sir Arthur Ignatius Conan Doyle, (born May 22, 1859, Edinburgh, Scotland—died July 7, 1930, Crowborough, Sussex, England), Scottish writer best known for his creation of the detective Sherlock Holmes—one of the most vivid and enduring characters in English fiction.

INTRODUCTION OF THE THRILLER

The Hound of the Baskervilles is the third of the four crime novels written by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle featuring the detective Sherlock Holmes. Originally serialised in The Strand Magazine from August 1901 to April 1902, it is set largely on Dartmoor in Devon in England's West Country and tells the story of an attempted murder inspired by the legend of a fearsome, diabolical hound of supernatural origin. Sherlock Holmes and his companion Dr. Watson investigate the case. This was the first appearance of Holmes since his apparent death in "The Final Problem", and the success of The Hound of the Baskervilles led to the character's eventual revival.

SUMMARY

On Baker Street in London, Dr. John Watson, the first-person narrator, silently examines a cane to surmise information about the identity of the visitor who left it behind. Although he sits with his back to Watson, Sherlock Holmes asks for Watson's conclusions about the cane. Watson is amazed that Holmes knew what he was doing although he couldn't possibly see, but Holmes admits that he was simply using the polished tea pot in front of him like a mirror. In competitive yet friendly banter, Holmes compliments Watson's conclusions about the cane but then goes on to draw rather different ones. When the visitor, Dr. James Mortimer, returns, it turns out that, indeed, Sherlock Holmes's analysis was correct: Mortimer is a young man who retired to the country when he got

married and owns a cocker spaniel. After introductions, Dr. Mortimer asks if he can touch the skull of the famous detective to examine the shape of a brilliant man's head.

ANALYSIS

This first chapter introduces the two main characters of the story: Sherlock Holmes, the famous detective, and his sidekick Dr. John Watson. They are friends of unequal standing. Watson clearly admires his brilliant friend, while Sherlock Holmes looks upon Watson with benevolent amusement although he clearly appreciates his assistance and friendship. While Watson has the academic degree, the superiority of Holmes's mind is obvious. Although they observe the same details on the cane they draw vastly different conclusions, and Sherlock Holmes is right every time. Their friendly banter shows a tinge of competitiveness, as Holmes takes mischievous pleasure in proving Watson wrong and Watson shows signs of frustration with Holmes's superior attitude.

As the first-person narrator of *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, Watson reports the events of the novel. The reader sees the world of the novel through his eyes, sharing his point of view and attitude. Everything Watson knows the reader knows—no more and no less—and therefore Watson becomes the reader's substitute. The reader is invited to try to solve the puzzle, stumbling along like Watson himself at the mercy of Holmes's superior insights. Therefore, even though it is Watson who tells the story, Sherlock Holmes, is the image of reason and mental prowess, is the story's hero.

Chapter 1- SHERLOCK HOLMES

1. Who is the narrator?

Dr Watson, Holmes assistant is the narrator

2. According to Watson who is actually the owner of the stick?

A elderly, country doctor. He thinks the C.C.H that the H has something to do with a local hunt

3. According to Holmes, who is actually the owner of the stick?

A under thirty young fellow, amiable, unambitious, absent-minded and possesses a dog.

4. What did Holmes induce from the clues on the object (Mortimer's cane)

It showed he had a spaniel, walked a lot, and was quite friendly with his clients because he left his cane at someone's house.

5. Who is the owner of the stick? Describe him

Dr. James Mortimer. HE was a very tall, thin, long nose, grey eyes set closely together with gold rim glasses, weird, eccentric. His coat was dingy and his trousers frayed. He wanted to study Holmes head.

6. Describe the stick and what clues did the walking stick it provide?

It had a silver band that said, "To James Mortimer M.R.C.S. from his friends at C.C.H. 1884" The stick was worn on the bottom and it had tooth marks in the middle.

7. What does Dr. Mortimer call Holmes in Chapter 1?

The second-best detective in Europe. However since Holmes has no parallel as an observer of men and he understands every particle of human nature he realizes that Holmes is the one who could help him

8. How does Holmes know Watson was examining a cane?

His back was toward him and he saw him through the well-polished coffee pot.

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