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Prestwick House
Literature
Teaching Unit
Chapter-by-Chapter Study Guide



The Hound of the Baskervilles

by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

- Learning objectives
- Study Guide with short-answer questions
- Background information
- Vocabulary in context
- Multiple-choice test
- Essay questions
- Literary terms



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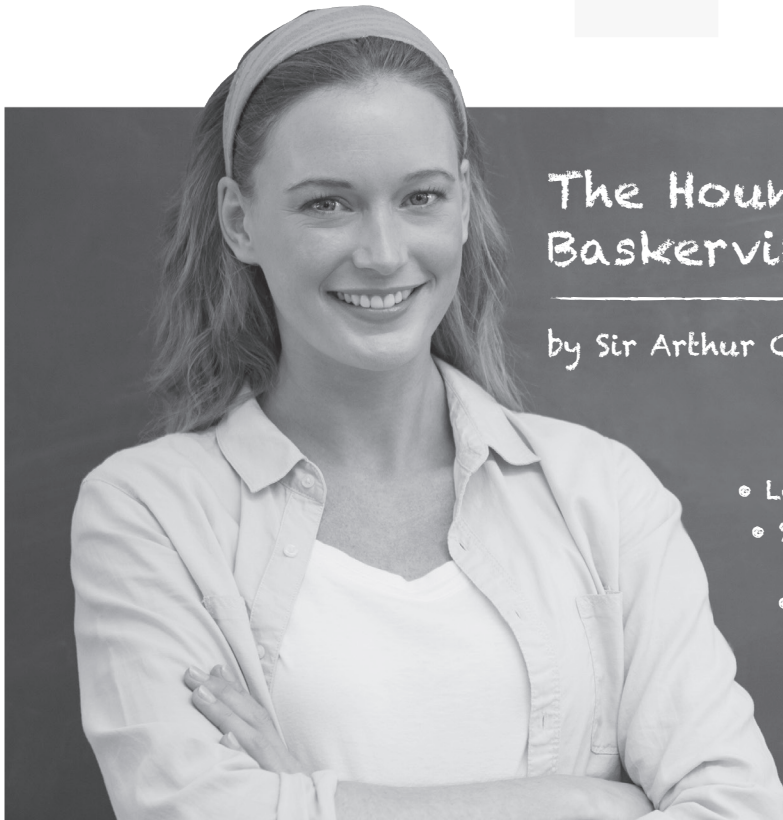
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Objectives

By the end of this Unit, the student will be able to:

1. describe the difference between tone, mood, and setting and discuss how the author uses each to make the novel more interesting.
2. discuss what elements of the novel make it one of the few classic mystery novels.
3. explain why Dr. Watson is considered a foil in the novel.
4. explain the difference between flat and round characters and determine to which classification the characters in this work belong.
5. describe the scientific method Sherlock Holmes uses to solve the mystery.
6. list the major incidents in the plot and identify:
 - exposition
 - rising action
 - climax
 - falling action
 - denouement
7. discuss the advantages that the author achieves by having Dr. Watson narrate the story.
8. define the following literary terms:
 - simile
 - metaphor
 - pun
 - foil
 - cliché
 - point of view
 - flat or round character
9. evaluate the attitude toward superstition and legend expressed in the work.
10. discuss the author's treatment of class issues.
11. define all of the vocabulary words listed in the study guide.
12. explain what features of the mystery novel distinguish it from other types of fiction.

Questions for Essay and Discussion

1. How does Doyle use mood, setting, and tone to make the novel more interesting?
2. Explain in what way Watson could be considered a foil in the work.
3. Are the characters in *The Hound of the Baskervilles* round or flat? Give examples to support your argument.
4. The tone of the book changes as the characters approach Baskerville Hall. Describe the change and find a passage that represents the attitude that the characters have toward Baskerville Hall.
5. Why does Doyle choose to have the story narrated by Dr. Watson?
6. Using examples from the story, describe how Sherlock Holmes uses his scientific method to solve the mystery.
7. What is the social class of the characters in this story? What can you tell about Doyle's attitude toward the social class issues of his day?
8. Write a character analysis essay comparing and contrasting the two main characters in the novel, Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson.
9. Explain why Doyle's series of mystery novels featuring Sherlock Holmes stand out from all other mystery novels and have become classic works of literature.
10. What is the theme of novel?
11. Discuss how Sherlock Holmes' manner of solving problems has become a literary cliché.
12. How is Doyle's attitude toward superstition and legend demonstrated through the characters and events in the novel?

The Hound of the Baskervilles

All references come from the Prestwick House Literary Touchstone Classic edition of The Hound of the Baskervilles, copyright 2006.

Chapter 1

VOCABULARY

amiable – likeable
anthropological – related to the study of humans
asperity – severity
astutely – keenly, shrewdly
benevolence – kindness
bulbous-headed – round-tipped
convex – outwardly curved
dabbler – a casual worker
dexterity – skill
dolichocephalic – long
erroneous – wrong
fallacies – incorrect assumptions
ferrule – a cane end, tip
fulsome – offensive
hypothesis – a theory
incredulously – unbelievable
inferences – conclusions
luminous – brilliant
mastiff – a breed of dog
piqued – offended
reversion – a reversal to a previous condition
settee – a small couch
supraorbital – above the eyes; the forehead

1. What does the discussion of the walking stick reveal about the relationship between Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson?

3. What is Sir Henry's reaction to hearing the legend of the Hound of the Baskervilles?

4. What is Sir Henry's reaction to the idea of not going to Baskerville Hall?

5. Why do Holmes and Watson follow Dr. Mortimer and Sir Henry? What happens on the street?

3. In his reports, what key piece of information does Watson relate regarding Stapleton?

4. What other information does Holmes disclose to Watson in regard to Stapleton?

5. Why do Watson and Holmes initially assume that Selden's body is that of Sir Henry?

6. What does Stapleton say brought him out on the moor?
