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The Hound of the Baskervilles
BY SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE



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Name: _____

Date: _____

Pre-Reading**Research**

Objective: Anticipating events in the story
 Collecting well-known images and themes relevant to the story

Activity

The figure of Sherlock Holmes is universally known. Most people, children and adults alike, are familiar with the name of the famous detective and have some idea of Sherlock Holmes' character and his most famous cases. Several of Arthur Conan Doyle's popular Sherlock Holmes adventures have been turned into television films or big-screen movies.

Before you begin reading *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, collect your ideas on Sherlock Holmes and the story of *The Hound of the Baskervilles*. Ask yourself what you already know about the famous detective, about his character, his work, his environment, and his case involving *The Hound of the Baskervilles*. Can you determine or remember where your knowledge of Sherlock Holmes originated, where you heard the detective's name for the first time? Fill in the following **Pre-Reading Knowledge Chart** with all the details you know about Sherlock Holmes and the story of *The Hound of the Baskervilles*.

Consider the following hints as you recall what you already know about Sherlock Holmes:

- his character and physical appearance
- his assistant
- the time and place of his life and work
- his strategies
- his famous cases

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapter 4**Characterization****Objective:** Recognizing how character traits are revealed**Activity I**

Chapter 4, entitled "Sir Henry Baskerville," serves to introduce Sir Henry Baskerville to Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson, as well as to the reader. Much of the information that reveals Sir Henry's character can be found in this chapter. It is important to understand who Sir Henry Baskerville is in order to understand why Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson become very dedicated to his case.

Use the following chart to list information about Sir Henry Baskerville's physical appearance, background, personality, and goals in life.

A few answers have been provided for you.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapter 6

Figurative Language

Objective: Recognizing figurative language and understanding how it creates meaning in the text

Writers use figurative language in order to communicate complex, abstract ideas to the reader. Instead of describing an idea in abstract terms, writers employ concrete images and other literary devices that present ideas in ways most readers are familiar with. In chapter 6, the use of figurative language also helps to create mood and visually illustrates the setting of the story.

Familiarize yourself with the most common literary devices by studying the examples on the following list. You can also consult the **Terms and Definitions** section provided for better understanding.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapter 7

Writing and Performing Dialogue

Objective: Rewriting a scene from *The Hound of the Baskervilles* as dialogue from a play

Activity

In chapter 7, Dr. Watson wanders across the moor in hopes of gathering any information that might help him solve the mysterious murder case of Sir Charles Baskerville. Sherlock Holmes has ordered Dr. Watson to accompany Sir Henry to Devonshire and stay by his side to ensure the safety of the Baskerville heir. Since Holmes has encouraged Dr. Watson to explore the neighborhood, Watson is eager to meet some of the inhabitants of the surrounding houses.

Chapter 7 describes the encounter between Dr. Watson, Mr. Stapleton, and Mr. Stapleton's sister, Beryl Stapleton. Review the chapter, imagining the characters on a stage. Now rewrite the chapter as a scene from a play. As you rewrite, you have to decide what information to retain, and what information to leave out in your play. Be sure to include stage directions in your play. Also, pay close attention to any props that are necessary for acting the scene.

Below is an example that illustrates how you might begin your scene.

[It is a beautiful, fresh day. Dr. Watson takes a walk after breakfast. He walks along a gray, lonely road, lost in thought. The voice of a stranger interrupts his train of thought.]

STAPLETON: Hello! Dr. Watson! Excuse me for a moment!

ETC.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapter 9

Point of View

Tone

Objective: Recognizing point of view and tone of the narrative

The point of view from which a story is told determines how readers learn about events in the story. The identity, point of view, and tone of the narrator are responsible for **how** information is related to readers and **what kind** of and **how much** information is conveyed. In a first-person narrative, readers receive the impressions of only one of the characters, and that character's impressions will be influenced by his or her age, gender, beliefs, level of experience, etc. In a third-person narrative, the point of view may be limited or omniscient. In a third-person limited point of view narrative, the narrator relates the events of the story through the use of third person, but from the perspective of one particular character only. Third-person omniscient narrators tell about the events using third person and can see in and through the minds of all the characters in the text. First-person narratives are always limited to the point of view of the "I"-narrator.

The tone of a narrative voice adds to the credibility of the narrator and helps establish a story's setting and mood. A formal tone is usually characterized by correct grammar and sentence structure, while informal tone is often characterized by conversational or colloquial expressions, contractions, slang, etc.

In *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, Dr. Watson functions as the narrator. Read the following section from *The Hound of the Baskervilles* and compare it to the following passages from other texts provided below. Compare the texts and determine point of view (third-person limited, third-person omniscient, or first person) and tone.

Point of View and Tone Comparison - Text Selections:

1. Selection from *The Hound of the Baskervilles* by Arthur Conan Doyle

Our friend, Sir Henry, and the lady had halted on the path and were standing deeply absorbed in their conversation, when I was suddenly aware that I was not the only witness of their interview. A wisp of green floating in the air caught my eye, and another glance showed me that it was carried on a stick by a man who was moving among the broken ground. It was Stapleton with his butterfly-net. He was very much closer to the pair than I was, and he appeared to be moving in their direction. At this instance Sir Henry suddenly drew Miss Stapleton to his side. His arm was round her, but it seemed to me that she was straining away from him with her face averted. He stooped his head to hers, and she raised on hand as if in protest. Next moment I saw them spring apart and turn hurriedly round. Stapleton was the cause of the interruption. He was running wildly towards them, his absurd net dangling behind him. He gesticulated and almost danced with excitement in front of the lovers. What the scene meant I could not imagine, but it seemed to me that Stapleton was abusing Sir Henry, who offered explanations, which became more angry as the other refused to accept them. The lady stood by in haughty silence.