

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES



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Book brief

- 1 *The Hound of the Baskervilles* is Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's third novel about his famous detective, Sherlock Holmes.
- 2 This novel is different from the other Sherlock Holmes stories which are usually set in 19th century London, as most of it is set in the dark countryside of Dartmoor.
- 3 Sherlock Holmes and his good friend, Watson, must discover who killed Sir Charles Baskerville.
- 4 Holmes and Watson must also discover if there's anything true about the legend of the 'hound' - the ghost dog of Dartmoor that follows the Baskerville family.
- 5 Main themes include mystery and adventure and every chapter has a surprise for the reader.

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

The Hound of the Baskervilles

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Main Characters

VOLUME XV—NUMBER 4

*The world-famous detective of
221b Baker Street, London.*



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PLACE -
DREN

No The Hound of the Baskervilles

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nard, an
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that ther

think of him only as the rescuer of
in the snow, rather than the gr
have made of him in these
thru him s green

Sherlock Holmes

Dr Watson



*He tells the story and is
Holmes' best friend.*



*Baskerville Hall is his
after his uncle, Sir Charles
Baskerville, dies.*

Sir Henry Baskerville



*A young country doctor who
asks Sherlock Holmes for help.*

Dr Mortimer

nd dignity. Junior nas certainly tor-



*He works at Baskerville Hall
with his wife Eliza.*

Mr John Barrymore



*She works at Baskerville Hall
with her husband John.*

Mrs Eliza Barrymore



*He says he studies
animals and plants.*

Selden Mr Jack Stapleton



*A bad man who doesn't
want to change.*



Miss Beryl Stapleton

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THE BIG, GOOD-NAM

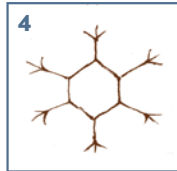
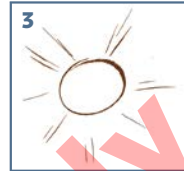
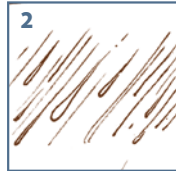
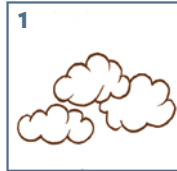
HILD

*This beautiful woman
says she's Stapleton's
sister but it isn't true.*

Vocabulary and Speaking

1 A Weather Words. Match the weather symbols with the adjectives.

- a ☐ cloudy
- b ☐ foggy
- c ☐ wet
- d ☐ sunny
- e ☐ cold
- f ☐ windy



1 B Talk in pairs. 21st Century Skills

- What's the weather like today?
- What was the weather like yesterday?
- Do you prefer spring, summer, autumn or winter? Why?

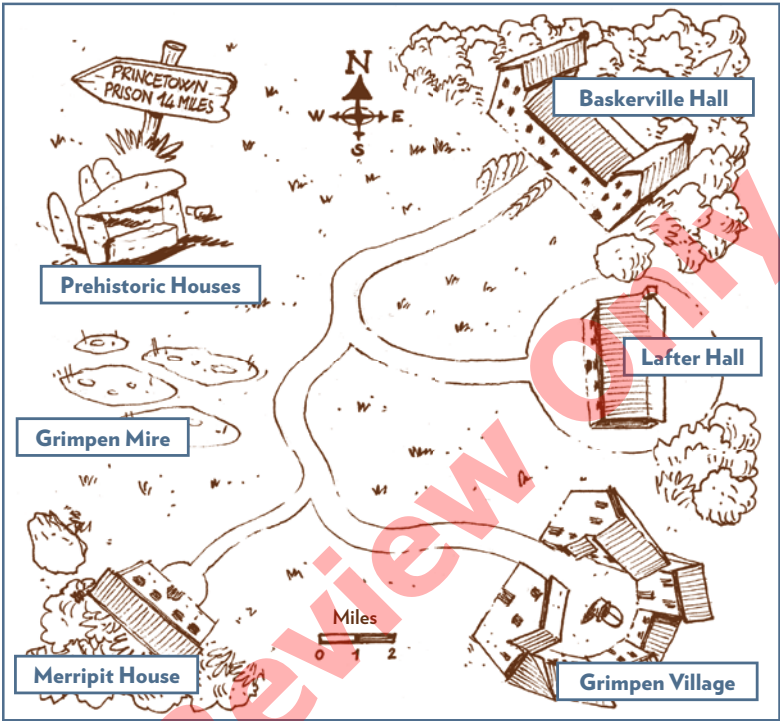
2 Match the words to their definitions. Use a dictionary to help you.

- 1 ☐ **mire** /maɪə/
- 2 ☐ **hound** /haʊnd/
- 3 ☐ **moor** /mɔː/
- 4 ☐ **curse** /kɜːs/
- 5 ☐ **butler** /'bʌtlə/
- 6 ☐ **footprint** /'fʊt,prɪnt/

- a A man who's head of the people who clean and cook in a rich man's house.
- b Something bad that people think can hurt them.
- c What your foot or shoe makes on wet ground.
- d A kind of dog people use to catch other animals.
- e A very dangerous place in the countryside where the ground is wet.
- f A part of the countryside where there are no people or buildings, only purple plants like grass.

Reading Comprehension

3 Look at the map. Are the sentences true (T) or false (F)? Correct the false sentences.



- | | T | F |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 The Grimpen Mire is north of Merripit House. | ☐ | ☐ |
| 2 Lafter Hall is in Grimpen Village. | ☐ | ☐ |
| 3 There is nothing near Merripit House. | ☐ | ☐ |
| 4 Princetown Prison is east of Baskerville Hall. | ☐ | ☐ |
| 5 Grimpen Village is north of Baskerville Hall. | ☐ | ☐ |
| 6 Baskerville Hall is a very big house. | ☐ | ☐ |

James Mortimer Comes to Baker Street

- 2 Mr Sherlock Holmes was at the breakfast table. I was by the fire*. I had a walking stick* in my hand. It was a stranger's* stick. Yesterday, a stranger came to the house when Holmes and I were out. The stranger left his stick. There was some writing on it: *To James Mortimer, M.R.C.S., from his friends of the C.C.H., 1884.*

‘Whose is the stick, Watson?’

‘But you can’t see me. How do you know what I’m doing?’

‘I can see your reflection* in the window,’ said Holmes, ‘but, tell me, Watson. What do you think of our visitor? We didn’t meet him, so his stick is an important clue* for us. What do you think?’

‘I think,’ I said, ‘that Mortimer is a doctor. I know that from the letters M.R.C.S.. Only a doctor can use those letters. He’s probably* old and a country doctor. He walks a lot, because I can see that Dr Mortimer uses this stick a lot.’

‘Very good,’ said Holmes.

‘Then we have *friends of the C.C.H.* A club, I think. Perhaps* he helped them and they gave him the stick.’

‘Well done, Watson. However,’ Holmes said, ‘I’m sorry, but most of your ideas are wrong.’

‘Wrong?’

fire see page 13, the dog is near the fire

walking stick 

stranger a person you don’t know

reflection you can see your reflection in a mirror

clue something that helps you to understand
probably we say this when we think we know that something is right

perhaps we say this when we don’t know if something is right or not

In the 1880s, there were more than 400 clubs in London. Here, gentlemen could meet to talk, play games or eat something.

The Hound of the Baskervilles

‘Well, he’s a country doctor and he walks a lot, you’re right. But I think the C.C.H. is probably Charing Cross Hospital, not a club. I also think he’s a young doctor. He left the hospital and went to work in the country. The stick was a present when he left the hospital. Then, of course, he has a dog. Look at the stick. His dog carries it.’

Charing Cross Hospital first opened in 1818 to help the poor and at that time it was called The Royal West London Infirmary.

I laughed. I looked in my Medical Directory. ‘Here he is! Mortimer, James, M.R.C.S., 1882, Grimpen, Dartmoor, Devon. Doctor, from 1882 to 1884, at Charing Cross Hospital.’

‘See, Watson. A hospital not a club. But, you’re right. He’s a country doctor.’

‘And the dog?’

‘The dog is black and white.’

‘But Holmes, please! How can you know that?’

‘Well, I can see the dog outside the window. And here’s Dr Mortimer now. But what does he want? Come in!’

Our visitor was tall and thin with a long nose. He wore glasses. He was very happy to see us and very happy to see his stick.

‘Thank you,’ he said as Holmes gave him his stick, ‘This was a present when I left Charing Cross Hospital. Are you Mr Sherlock Holmes?’

‘Yes, and this is my friend, Dr Watson.’

‘I’m very pleased to meet you. You’re very interesting. You have a very beautiful skull*. You have an excellent* dolichocephalic skull.’

‘Dolichocephalic? That’s a very interesting word! You know a lot about skulls. You clearly* love your work,’ said Holmes. ‘Please sit down. So, why did you come here yesterday? Why are you here again today? You didn’t come to look at my skull, I’m sure*.’



skull

excellent very good

clearly I can see very well that ...

sure we say we’re sure about something if we think we’re right

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

‘No. I have an interesting problem and I need your help. I’ve got a document* here.’

‘I saw it when you came in,’ said Holmes. ‘It’s an old one. Probably about 1730.’

‘But how do you know that?’

‘You love your work and I love mine. All good detectives* can look at a document and give it a date. Am I right, to ten or fifteen years?’

‘Yes, the date on the document is 1742. It’s a Baskerville family document. My friend, Charles Baskerville, gave it to me before he died. He wanted me to be very careful with it. This document was very important to him. He was very superstitious*. It’s about the curse of the Baskerville family. Can I read it to you?’

Holmes sat back in his chair and closed his eyes. He looked bored. Dr Mortimer began.

‘Baskerville Hall, 1742. To all Baskervilles. Read this story carefully. Do what it says.

‘This is about 1647, when Hugo Baskerville lived at Baskerville Hall. He was a very bad man. One day, he kidnapped a young girl from her home. He took her to a room upstairs, but she got out of the room. She ran out of the house and ran and ran across the moor. Hugo was very angry. He ran after her with his dogs. His friends went too, but Hugo was very fast. When Hugo’s friends found the girl, she was dead*. They saw Hugo’s dogs and they saw Hugo’s body. He was dead too. His friends also saw a large black animal in the distance*. It was the killer*. It was a dog, but it wasn’t a pet dog. It was a strange* and terrible hound.’*

document something important in writing

detective someone who helps the police catch bad people

superstitious people who think things like the number 13 are bad, are superstitious

kidnap take someone and hide him/her, usually to get money from the family

dead (adj) not living (noun death)

in the distance not near

killer (verb kill) someone who makes another person die

strange not what you usually see or hear

Dr Mortimer is telling Sherlock Holmes and Dr Watson about the curse of the Baskerville family.



Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

'Many of our family die in strange and terrible ways. This hound follows the Baskerville family. This is why I'm writing this story. I must tell you. Never go out on the moor at night.'*

Dr Mortimer finished the story. Then Dr Mortimer took out a newspaper. Holmes looked bored again.

'Now, Mr Holmes, here's something from the Dartmoor Chronicle of May 14th this year. It's about Charles Baskerville and the story of how he died.'

'Sir Charles Baskerville, from Baskerville Hall died on May 4th. He only lived here for two years but people liked him very much. He worked in South Africa, made a lot of money and then he came back to Devon. He helped a lot of people here.'

'People are talking about the Curse of the Baskervilles and the story of the hound, but the facts are simple*. His servants*, Mr and Mrs Barrymore, and his doctor, Dr James Mortimer, all say that he had a bad heart. The post mortem showed that this was true.'*

'Barrymore told our newspaper about the night of May 4th. "Sir Charles wanted to go to London on the morning of May 5th. After dinner, he went for a walk. He always went out before bed to smoke. He didn't come back. At 12 o'clock, I was worried, so I went to look for Sir Charles. I followed his footprints. There were a lot of footprints by the gate to the moor. Then the footprints went to the end of the path*."*

'There's one strange fact from Barrymore's story. After the moor gate, the footprints were different; Sir Charles walked on tiptoe.'*

'Sir Charles's relative, Mr Henry Baskerville, is in Canada. All of us at the Dartmoor Chronicle hope to see him here soon. We hope he can do Sir Charles's good work.'*

follow go after

fact something true

simple easy to understand

servant a person who does jobs like cooking or cleaning for a rich person

gate a door in a garden

path a place to walk in a garden, like a road

on tiptoe on your 

relative someone in your family

The Hound of the Baskervilles

Dr Mortimer put the newspaper down. ‘Everyone knows these facts, Mr Holmes, but there are other things to think about too. Not many people live on the moor, so there aren't many houses there. The only educated* men are Mr Frankland of Lafter Hall and Mr Stapleton; he's a naturalist*. The people who live near each other stay together a lot. I spent a lot of time with Sir Charles. His stories about South Africa were very interesting. I was also his doctor. He believed in* the Curse of the Hound of the Baskervilles. He was terrified* of it. He often heard the howl* of a dog at night. One evening, I went to his house. When I got there, I saw him at the door. His face was white. He looked terrified. I followed his eyes and saw a large black animal. It was as big as a small cow. I saw it clearly. It was something bad, something supernatural*. Sir Charles's fear* of the family curse was bad for him. I told him to go on a very long visit to London. He needed a holiday.’

‘On the night of Sir Charles's death, Barrymore called me. I also followed the footprints down the path. I saw Barrymore's footprints too. Then, near the body, I saw other footprints. Barrymore didn't see them, but I did.’

‘Were they a man's footprints or a woman's?’ said Holmes.

Dr Mortimer spoke very quietly. ‘Mr Holmes, they were the footprints of a gigantic* hound!’

‘Why didn't Barrymore see the footprints?’

‘They weren't near the body.’

‘What was the weather like that night?’

‘It was cold, but it didn't rain.’

‘What's the path like?’

educated (here) who went to school or university

naturalist a scientist who studies animals and plants

believe (in) think something is true

terrified very, very afraid

howl a cry of a dog or a wolf

supernatural not normal, not natural

fear being afraid of something

gigantic very, very big

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

‘There are trees on each side. There’s a gate on the left of the path. It goes out to the moor.’

‘So, can you only get to the path from the house or from the gate?’

‘Yes.’

‘I see. Were the footprints on the left of the path too?’

‘Yes, they were.’

‘Very interesting. And was the gate closed? And is it very high*?’

‘Yes. It was closed and locked*. But it’s not very high. It’s easy to climb over it.’

‘Did you see any footprints by the gate?’

‘I’m not sure. I think I only saw Sir Charles’s footprints. There were a lot of them. I know he was there for about ten minutes.’

‘How do you know that?’

‘There was a match* and part of a cigarette. He smoked a cigarette there.’

‘Excellent. Well done! You’re a detective too! So, you want me to investigate* Sir Charles’s death.’

‘Not really. I think Sir Charles died of fright*. My problem is with Sir Henry Baskerville. He arrives* at Waterloo Station at one o’clock today. He’s the only heir* to Baskerville Hall. I think he wants to go to the Hall. But I don’t think the Hall is safe for him. I don’t know what to do.’

‘Go to Waterloo Station. Meet Henry Baskerville and take him to his hotel. I need time to think about this. Come here tomorrow at ten o’clock. Bring Sir Henry with you. But, before you go, one more question. Before Sir Charles’s death, how many people saw this hound on the moor?’

‘Three people saw it.’

high tall

locked closed with a key

match 

investigate get more information

fright fear, terror

arrive get to

heir the person who gets money after someone dies

The Hound of the Baskervilles

‘Did anyone see it after Sir Charles died?’

‘No.’

‘Thank you, Dr Mortimer. Good morning.’

Holmes returned to his chair. He looked pleased* about this new case*. ‘I need time alone*. I need to think, Watson. Can you go out until this evening? Then we can talk about this case together.’

I stayed all day at my club. I returned at about nine o’clock.

‘So, you went to your club for the day.’

‘Yes, but how ...?’

He laughed. ‘Elementary*, Watson. It rained all morning and all afternoon. You’re completely dry. Look, your hat and your shoes are dry. So it’s clear that you were inside all day. As for me, I studied this map of Dartmoor all afternoon.’

He put the map on the table and showed me. ‘This is Baskerville Hall. Can you see the trees around it? And this is the path where Sir Charles died. This is the village of Grimpen. That’s where Dr Mortimer lives. Here’s Lafter Hall. Mr Frankland lives there. And this is probably Mr Stapleton’s house. You can see that they aren’t near each other. Over here, there are some farmhouses. Then here, fourteen miles* away, is Princetown prison*. All around there’s the moor.’

‘It’s a lonely* place. Do you think Dr Mortimer is right, Holmes? Do you think the hound is a supernatural animal?’

‘Dr Mortimer thinks that it’s supernatural. He believes the family curse. I believe in facts, Watson, not stories. Our first job is to look for the facts. Did Sir Charles die because of his heart? Or did someone kill him?’



pleased happy

case a job for the police or a detective

alone not with anyone

elementary easy, simple

miles 5 miles = 8 kilometres

prison where they put people who are bad, like killers

lonely sad with nothing around it

Reading Comprehension

1 Are the sentences true (T) or false (F)?

	T	F
1 James Mortimer is a doctor.	☐	☐
2 Hugo Baskerville died in 1947.	☐	☐
3 Sir Charles's surname was Baskerville.	☐	☐
4 Sir Charles's servants were called Barrymore.	☐	☐
5 Sir Charles died in May.	☐	☐
6 James Mortimer saw a big black animal outside Baskerville Hall.	☐	☐
7 Sir Charles was a very young man.	☐	☐
8 James Mortimer told Sir Charles to go to London.	☐	☐
9 Barrymore smoked a cigarette by the gate.	☐	☐
10 James Mortimer thinks the hound is supernatural.	☐	☐

Vocabulary

2 Label the clothes in the picture. Use your dictionary to help you.



1



2



3



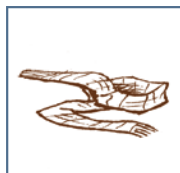
4



5



6



7

Reading **A1 MOVERS**

- 3 Choose the right words (A, B or C) to complete the text about Chapter One.**

Dr Mortimer~~goes~~..... to see Sherlock Holmes and his friend Dr Watson in London. He shows them a **(1)** old document about the curse of the Baskerville family that his friend, Charles Baskerville, gave him. The document **(2)** that a terrible hound follows the Baskerville family and that many of **(3)** die in a strange way. Then Dr Mortimer reads the story of Charles Baskerville's death that **(4)** in the newspaper. People think that he died because of the curse. Now there's only one heir to Baskerville left. His name is Sir Henry Baskerville and Dr Mortimer **(5)** think the Hall is safe for him to stay in.

- | | | | |
|----------|-----------------|--------------------------|----------------|
| | A visits | B goes | C finds |
| 1 | A very | B too | C much |
| 2 | A tells | B speaks | C says |
| 3 | A their | B them | C they |
| 4 | A was | B were | C are |
| 5 | A can | B doesn't | C do |

Pre-Reading Activity • Chapter Two

Speaking

- 4 Three of the following things happen in the next chapter. Which three? Tell your partner your ideas.**

- Sir Henry gets a strange letter.
- Dr Watson gets very angry.
- Sherlock Holmes finds the answer to the case.
- Someone takes one of Sir Henry's shoes.
- Someone follows Sir Henry.
- Sir Henry buys a knife.