

Jane Cadwallader

Harriet Holmes

and the Portrait

Illustrated by
Gustavo Mazali

Young Readers



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Goal 5: Gender equality**

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Methody School for boys and girls was a large stone building on a hill near a wood. Before it was a school it was called Methody Hall and was the home of Lord Methody. Lord Methody was always angry with his sons and daughters. In fact, he was always angry with everyone! When he died, he left Methody Hall to become Methody School.



In the entrance hall of the school there was a portrait of Lord Methody. Lord Methody looked frightening and unfriendly! Above the portrait was the school motto, “Qui laborant pro” – *Those who work hard will succeed.*

QUI LABORANT PRO



- 3 One day, the children were all having dinner in the dining room. Harriet, the daughter of the famous detective, Sherlock Holmes, was with her friends, Violet and John. Everyone was excited because there were only two days before the school holidays. Suddenly, the head teacher came into the dining room and rang her bell. The maths teacher, Mr Blackthorn, was with her. They looked very serious. There was silence.



‘The portrait of Lord Methody has disappeared from the entrance hall. Everyone must stay at school until the thief returns the portrait,’ said the head teacher.



- 4 After dinner, Harriet was in the science lab with Ms Hilliard, the science teacher. ‘Why did someone take that portrait?’ asked Harriet thoughtfully. Ms Hilliard looked nervous. ‘I know why,’ she said. ‘I heard ...’ but just then the head teacher came into the room. ‘Ms Hilliard, I want you to go to the London Teachers Conference,’ she said. ‘But Mr Blackthorn, the maths teacher, is going,’ said Ms Hilliard, surprised. ‘No, he isn’t,’ said the head teacher. ‘He wants to stay here to look for the thief. You go, please.’



Ms Hilliard didn't want to go but she had to do what the head teacher said. She got into a taxi and went off to the conference in London. Harriet, John and Violet watched her go.





Activity Pages



1 Read and write the names.



Harriet



Violet



John



Ms Hilliard



Sniggins



Mr Blackthorn



Head
teacher



Sherlock
Holmes

- 1 He was the bad character in the story.

- 2 She told the children the portrait was missing.

- 3 He was a secret policeman. _____
- 4 She was Harriet's friend. She didn't like maths.

- 5 She knew the portrait had gold in it. She wanted to tell Harriet. _____
- 6 He hid under Ms Hilliard's desk in the science lab.

- 7 Harriet explained the whole story to him.

- 8 She discovered the thief by noticing a nose and a leaf. _____