

Individual Learning Packet

Teaching Unit

The Hound of the Baskervilles

by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

written by Nancy Frame

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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?

Chapter 5

VOCABULARY

audacious – bold
besmirched – smeared
dogged – followed
entailed – required
foil – a sword fighting maneuver; counteraction
imprudent – shrewd
inexplicable – unexplainable
invalid – injured or bedridden due to an illness
residue – the remainder
toff – a gentleman, dandy
venerable – elderly, patriarchal

1. How does Holmes determine that the spy is not staying at the same hotel as Sir Henry?

2. Why is Sir Henry angry when Holmes and Watson arrive at the hotel?

3. Why does Frankland invite Watson to celebrate with him?

4. What information does Frankland say he is withholding from the authorities?

5. Describe what Frankland sees on the moor that convinces him that the convict is still out there. Why does this interest Watson?

6. What surprising discovery does Watson make about the man on the moor?

Chapter 15

VOCABULARY

atrocious – horrible, evil
audacity – boldness
barrister – lawyer
bogie – not real, an imaginary evil
consumptive – having tuberculosis
elucidate – to explain
finesse – skill
grotesque – fantastic
infamy – ignominy
ingenious – clever, inventive
inkling – an idea
purloined – stolen
specious – false
waning – decreasing
water-mark – a pressure design

1. Who was Stapleton? Why did no one know that he was a Baskerville?

2. Who was the spy with the black beard that Holmes and Watson saw in London?
