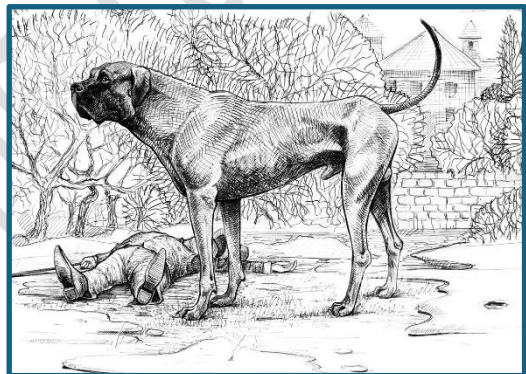


Elite Comprehension: Sherlock Holmes and The Hound of Baskervilles

In 1889 London, Dr. James Mortimer approached Sherlock Holmes, the renowned detective, seeking his help with a troubling case. Dr. Mortimer began by recounting a dark legend that had plagued the Baskerville family for centuries. The story dated back to the time of the English Civil War, when Sir Hugo Baskerville, a notoriously wicked man, kidnapped a farmer's daughter. After she managed to escape, Hugo, in a fit of rage, swore a curse upon himself and chased her across the moors. His companions later found her dead from fear and Hugo lying lifeless, having been killed by a monstrous hound. Since then, the hound was said to haunt the moors, bringing death to many members of the Baskerville lineage.

Dr. Mortimer explained that his close friend, Sir Charles Baskerville, had taken the legend to heart. Sir Charles, who had a fragile heart, had retired to his ancestral home, Baskerville Hall, after making a fortune in South Africa. However, his life ended under mysterious circumstances when his body was found in a yew alley with a look of sheer terror frozen on his face. While the official cause of death was



ruled as a heart attack, Dr. Mortimer noticed something odd: large canine paw prints near the body. This discovery led him to fear for the safety of Sir Charles's heir, Sir Henry Baskerville, who was soon to arrive from Canada.

Although Holmes initially dismissed the legend as mere superstition, the strange circumstances surrounding Sir Charles's death intrigued him. He agreed to meet Sir Henry, who had just arrived in London. Soon after his arrival, Sir Henry began experiencing unsettling events. One of his boots went missing, he received an anonymous letter warning him to stay away from the moor, and he was followed by a mysterious figure in a hansom cab. Realizing the potential danger, Holmes decided that Sir Henry needed protection. He sent his trusted companion, Dr. Watson, to accompany Sir Henry to Baskerville Hall and to investigate the strange happenings in Dartmoor.

Upon their arrival, Watson, Mortimer, and Sir Henry learned that a convicted murderer, Selden, had escaped from a nearby prison and was hiding on the moor.

Baskerville Hall, with its gloomy atmosphere, was overseen by the loyal but secretive Barrymores, a married couple serving as butler and housekeeper. Watson began his investigation by observing the residents. Among them were the Stapleton siblings, Jack and Beryl. Jack was overly friendly, dropping hints about the hound and warning Watson about the dangerous Grimpen Mire. Meanwhile, Beryl, without her brother's knowledge, repeatedly urged Sir Henry to leave Dartmoor and return to London.

As Watson delved deeper into the mystery, he noticed suspicious behaviour from the Barrymores. Late one night, he and Sir Henry followed John Barrymore and discovered that he was signalling someone on the moor with a candle. They soon found out that Barrymore and his wife were secretly aiding Selden, who was Mrs. Barrymore's younger brother. During an unsuccessful attempt to capture Selden, Watson spotted a mysterious figure standing on a distant tor, further deepening the mystery.

Determined to uncover the truth, Watson investigated the man on the tor and was shocked to discover that it was Holmes himself. Holmes had been secretly conducting his own investigation, suspecting that the legend of the hound was being used to cover up more nefarious human activities. Holmes revealed that Jack Stapleton was, in fact, Rodger Baskerville II, a hidden member of the Baskerville family. Driven by greed, Stapleton had been eliminating his relatives one by one to claim the family fortune for himself.

Stapleton's plan involved the use of a fierce hound, which he had painted with phosphorus to make it glow and appear demonic. The hound was intended to frighten Sir Charles to death, and Stapleton planned to use it again on Sir Henry. However, Holmes had anticipated Stapleton's moves. He devised a plan to lure Stapleton into a trap by using Sir Henry as bait. Holmes instructed Sir Henry to visit Stapleton's house in the evening and then walk back across the moor alone. As expected, Stapleton released the hound to attack Sir Henry, but Holmes, Watson, and Inspector Lestrade, who had secretly been lying in wait, managed to kill the beast before it could do any harm.

With his plan foiled, Stapleton fled into the treacherous Grimpen Mire, where he presumably met his end. Afterward, Holmes explained to Watson that Stapleton had been living under a false identity and had been the mastermind behind the deaths in the Baskerville family. With the case solved, Sir Henry and Dr. Mortimer left for a restorative sea voyage, while Holmes returned to London, having once again unravelled a mystery that skilfully blended superstition with cold, calculated crime.

1. What can be inferred about Sir Charles Baskerville's personality based on his reaction to the Baskerville legend?
 - A. He was a sceptical man who dismissed superstition.
 - B. He was a man easily frightened by tales and rumours.
 - C. He was a cautious man who believed in preparing for all eventualities.
 - D. He was indifferent to the family legend but worried about his health.

2. Why does Holmes initially dismiss the legend of the hound?
 - A. He believes all supernatural stories are mere fabrications.
 - B. He does not see any connection between the legend and Sir Charles's death.
 - C. He wants to reassure Dr. Mortimer and Sir Henry.
 - D. He suspects the legend is being used to mask more human motives.

3. What does the theft of Sir Henry's boot suggest about the nature of the threat he faces?
 - A. The threat is purely coincidental and unrelated to the curse.
 - B. The threat is tangible and linked to someone familiar with Sir Henry.
 - C. The threat is supernatural in origin, targeting Sir Henry's personal belongings.
 - D. The threat is psychological, intended to destabilize Sir Henry's mental state.

4. Based on Watson's discovery of Holmes secretly investigating on the moor, what can be inferred about Holmes's approach to solving cases?
 - A. Holmes prefers to work alone without involving others in his investigations.
 - B. Holmes believes in gathering information without alerting others to his presence.
 - C. Holmes does not trust Watson to conduct investigations independently.
 - D. Holmes is only interested in high-profile cases that involve serious threats.

5. What can be inferred about Jack Stapleton's character from his interactions with Sir Henry and Watson?
 - A. He is genuinely concerned for Sir Henry's well-being.
 - B. He is manipulative and hides his true intentions behind a friendly facade.
 - C. He is unaware of the dangers of the moor.
 - D. He is conflicted about his feelings toward the Baskerville family.

6. What might be the reason for Beryl Stapleton's repeated warnings to Sir Henry to leave Dartmoor?
 - A. She wants to protect Sir Henry from her brother's dangerous plan.
 - B. She is afraid of the hound and wants to avoid any confrontation.
 - C. She dislikes Sir Henry and wants him to leave.
 - D. She is jealous of Sir Henry's affection for her.

7. Why does Holmes decide to use Sir Henry as bait in his plan to capture Stapleton?
- A. Holmes wants to test Sir Henry's courage.
 - B. Holmes believes that direct confrontation is the only way to catch Stapleton.
 - C. Holmes thinks that Sir Henry can handle the situation on his own.
 - D. Holmes knows that Stapleton will reveal himself if he believes Sir Henry is unprotected.
8. What can be inferred about the relationship between the Barrymores and Selden?
- A. The Barrymores are indifferent to Selden's fate.
 - B. The Barrymores are complicit in Selden's criminal activities.
 - C. The Barrymores feel a strong familial obligation to help Selden.
 - D. The Barrymores are unaware of Selden's presence on the moor.
9. What does the existence of the paw prints near Sir Charles's body suggest about the cause of his death?
- A. Sir Charles was attacked by a wild animal.
 - B. Sir Charles died from natural causes unrelated to the hound.
 - C. The hound may have been used as a tool to frighten Sir Charles to death.
 - D. The paw prints were placed there to mislead investigators.
10. How does Holmes's discovery of the phosphorus-painted hound change the direction of the investigation?
- A. It confirms that the hound is supernatural.
 - B. It reveals the hound as part of a calculated plot by Stapleton.
 - C. It suggests that Sir Henry is in no real danger.
 - D. It shows that the legend was true after all.
11. What can be inferred about Dr. Mortimer's character based on his actions?
- A. He is sceptical of Holmes's abilities.
 - B. He is deeply concerned for Sir Henry's safety.
 - C. He is primarily motivated by his own interest in the Baskerville fortune.
 - D. He does not believe the legend but feels obliged to follow Sir Charles's wishes.

12. Why does Holmes choose not to reveal his presence on the moor to Watson immediately?
- A. Holmes doubts Watson's loyalty.
 - B. Holmes wants to protect Watson from unnecessary danger.
 - C. Holmes needs to operate in secret to catch the culprit off guard.
 - D. Holmes fears that Watson might inadvertently alert the criminal.
13. What might be the reason Stapleton objects to Sir Henry's interest in Beryl?
- A. Stapleton is protective of his sister and doesn't want her involved with anyone.
 - B. Stapleton fears that Beryl might reveal their true relationship.
 - C. Stapleton is planning to use Beryl in his scheme against Sir Henry.
 - D. Stapleton is jealous of Sir Henry's wealth and status.
14. What does Holmes's plan to trap Stapleton by using Sir Henry as bait reveal about his view of Stapleton?
- A. Holmes sees Stapleton as a coward who will avoid direct confrontation.
 - B. Holmes believes Stapleton is predictable and will act rashly when given the chance.
 - C. Holmes thinks Stapleton is a skilled adversary who must be outwitted.
 - D. Holmes underestimates Stapleton's cunning.
15. What does the fog that complicates Holmes's final plan symbolize in the context of the story?
- A. The uncertainty and danger surrounding the Baskerville curse.
 - B. The inevitability of nature interfering with human plans.
 - C. The moral ambiguity of Holmes's methods.
 - D. The looming threat of the hound.
16. What is the most likely reason Sir Henry and Dr. Mortimer choose to depart on a sea voyage after the case is resolved?
- A. They want to escape the dangers of Dartmoor permanently.
 - B. They wish to leave England to avoid any further legal complications.
 - C. They need time away to recover from the emotional and psychological toll of the events.
 - D. They plan to start a new life elsewhere with Sir Henry's inheritance.

17. What can be inferred about Beryl Stapleton's feelings toward her brother, given her actions in the story?
- A. She is loyal to her brother and supports his plans.
 - B. She resents her brother's control and tries to undermine his schemes.
 - C. She is afraid of her brother but too intimidated to act against him.
 - D. She is indifferent to her brother's actions and focuses on her own survival.
18. What might be inferred about the Grimpen Mire, considering its role in the story's conclusion?
- A. It symbolises the moral decay and treachery of those who seek the Baskerville fortune.
 - B. It represents the inescapable nature of the Baskerville curse.
 - C. It serves as a natural deterrent, keeping people away from the truth.
 - D. It functions as a trap for those who are not familiar with the moor.
19. What is the meaning of "yew alley" as used in the context of Sir Charles's death?
- A. A pathway lined with yew trees.
 - B. A narrow street in a town.
 - C. A hidden passage in the Baskerville Hall.
 - D. A trench dug for protection.
20. What does the word "tor" refer to in the sentence "Watson sees a strange man standing on a tor"?
- A. A type of animal.
 - B. A high rock or hill.
 - C. A castle or fortress.
 - D. A low valley.
21. The term "Grimpen Mire" most likely refers to which of the following?
- A. A dense forest.
 - B. A dangerous bog or marshland.
 - C. A deep cave.
 - D. A steep cliff.

22. Which of the following sentences is grammatically correct?
- A. Watson and Sir Henry discovered that Barrymore were signalling someone on the moor.
 - B. Holmes, Watson, and Lestrade had manage to kill the hound before it could attack Sir Henry.
 - C. The detective devised a plan, using Sir Henry as bait, and ultimately captured Stapleton.
 - D. Neither the detective or Watson were aware of Stapleton's true identity at first.
23. Identify the sentence with correct subject-verb agreement:
- A. The legend of the hound, along with the eerie atmosphere of the moor, create a sense of dread.
 - B. The eerie atmosphere of the moor and the legend of the hound creates a sense of dread.
 - C. The eerie atmosphere of the moor, combined with the legend of the hound, creates a sense of dread.
 - D. The eerie atmosphere of the moor, combined with the legend of the hound, create a sense of dread.

Hounds of Baskervilles

answers

1. C
2. D
3. B
4. B
5. B
6. A
7. D
8. C
9. C
10. B
11. B
12. C
13. B
14. B
15. A
16. C
17. B
18. A
19. A
20. B
21. B
22. C
23. C

Life Changing Tuition

1. C: Sir Charles took the legend seriously, indicating he was cautious and perhaps believed in preparing for all eventualities, especially given his weak heart and the family history.
2. D: Holmes suspects the legend is being used to mask a more human and rational motive, which aligns with his tendency to look for logical explanations.
3. B: The theft of Sir Henry's boot suggests that the threat is tangible and comes from someone who has direct access to his belongings, indicating a calculated human threat rather than a supernatural one.
4. B: Holmes's secret investigation approach reflects his preference for gathering information discreetly, allowing him to observe without influencing events or alarming the suspects.
5. B: Jack Stapleton's overly friendly behaviour and subtle hints suggest he is manipulative, hiding his true intentions behind a facade of friendliness.
6. A: Beryl's warnings to Sir Henry are motivated by her desire to protect him from her brother's dangerous plans, as she knows the true nature of Jack Stapleton's intentions.
7. D: Holmes uses Sir Henry as bait because he anticipates that Stapleton will act if he believes Sir Henry is vulnerable, thereby revealing himself.
8. C: The Barrymores' actions show a strong sense of familial obligation, as they risk their positions to help Selden, Mrs. Barrymore's brother, despite knowing his criminal background.
9. C: The presence of paw prints near Sir Charles's body suggests that the hound was used as a deliberate tool to frighten him, contributing to his death, rather than being a mere coincidence.
10. B: The discovery of the phosphorus-painted hound reveals that the hound was part of a deliberate and calculated plot by Stapleton, changing the investigation from supernatural to criminal.
11. B: Dr. Mortimer's concern for Sir Henry's safety, despite his initial belief in the legend, shows that he is genuinely worried about the well-being of his friend's heir.
12. C: Holmes does not reveal his presence to Watson immediately because he needs to operate in secret to avoid tipping off the criminal, which could jeopardize the investigation.

13. B: Stapleton's objection to Sir Henry's interest in Beryl is likely because he fears she might reveal their true relationship, which would unravel his carefully constructed identity and plan.
14. B: Holmes's plan to use Sir Henry as bait indicates that he believes Stapleton will act predictably when he thinks Sir Henry is alone, thus providing an opportunity to catch him in the act.
15. A: The fog in the final scene symbolizes the uncertainty and danger that has surrounded the Baskerville curse, obscuring the truth until the very end.
16. C: After the traumatic events, Sir Henry and Dr. Mortimer likely need time away to recover from the emotional and psychological toll, making a sea voyage an appropriate choice.
17. B: Beryl's actions, particularly her warnings to Sir Henry, suggest she resents her brother's control and is attempting to undermine his schemes, despite the risks to herself.
18. A: The Grimpen Mire, which ultimately traps Stapleton, symbolizes the moral decay and treachery of those who seek the Baskerville fortune, reflecting the mire's inescapable and deadly nature.
19. A: A "yew alley" refers to a pathway lined with yew trees, commonly found on estates like Baskerville Hall.
B: A "tor" is a high rock or hill, fitting the description of where the mysterious figure was seen.
20. B: "Grimpen Mire" refers to a dangerous bog or marshland, which plays a crucial role in the story's climax.
21. C: The sentence is grammatically correct, with proper subject-verb agreement and clear structure.
22. C: This sentence correctly matches the singular subject ("atmosphere") with the singular verb ("creates"), ensuring proper subject-verb agreement.