



The Hound of the Baskervilles

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle



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1. What nationality was Conan Doyle?
2. What was his first job?
3. How old was he when he began writing?
4. Why did he go to South Africa (Southsea)?
5. Where were Conan Doyle's short stories about Sherlock Holmes first published?
6. What other types of books did Conan Doyle write?
7. How did the death of his son affect him?
8. When did Conan Doyle die? How old was he?



Chapters 1-3

1. On the first page of the book, Holmes says to Watson, “Now is the moment of fate, Watson, when you hear on the stairs a step which is walking into your life, whether for good or for evil.” How does this sentence set the mood (atmosphere) of the book?
2. Write down all the things in these chapters that seem to be unusual or unnatural. Can you think of a way to explain any of these events?
3. Why were the Baskervilles warned never to cross the moor during the hours of darkness (1742 statement)?

Chapters 1-3, continued

4. What did Sir Charles do to win the respect of all who had any dealings with him?
5. Who stated that Sir Charles's health had been bad for some time?
6. Why didn't Dr Mortimer recognize Sir Charles at first?
7. Why does Holmes suppose that Sir Charles ran down the Avenue?
8. Dr Mortimer thinks that Sir Charles's mind was prepared for such a death as he suffered. Why does he say so? In what ways was he prepared?

Chapters 4-6

1. Before reading: What will happen to Sir Henry in London? And at Baskerville Hall?
2. What clues does Holmes follow to explain who wrote the letter Sir Henry found at his hotel?
3. Speculate why Holmes believes that the new brown missing boot is a useless thing to steal and why he considers that it will soon be found.
4. Have you learned anything in these chapters that may help solve the mystery? Note at least two.
5. Imagine you are Watson. After dinner, you go into your bedroom and write an entry in your diary about your first evening at Baskerville Hall. Please write at least 5 sentences in paragraph format.

Chapters 7-9

1. Predict what will happen next. Who do you think was crying in the middle of the night? Why was the person crying?
2. Do you like the book so far? Why or why not?
3. Pretend you are Watson writing a new entry in his diary. This time write about Mr. and Miss Stapleton. 5 sentences long.
4. Sir Henry tells Watson: "The whole neighbourhood seems to have watched!" Reflect upon the following questions: Why does Sir Henry say so? How does he feel about what happened in the moor?

Chapters 7-9, continued

5. Why did a false step in the Mire mean death at that time of the year?
6. Who did Miss Stapleton think Dr Watson was when she first met him?
7. What made life happy in the moor to Mr Stapleton?
8. Why did Sir Henry want to go out alone?
9. Why did Sir Henry think Mr Stapleton appeared to be mad?
10. Why did Dr Watson and Sir Henry hear footsteps in the passage?

Chapters 7-9, continued

11. Why did Mrs Barrymore take Selden, the prisoner, in and feed him?

12. How did Sir Henry and Dr Watson reach the place where the prisoner was hiding?

13. Describe the prisoner.

14. Why was Sir Henry upset by the mysterious cry he heard the night he and Dr Watson went out to catch the prisoner?

Chapter 10-12

1. Watson has requested that Holmes join him at Baskerville Hall. Do you believe Holmes will go? Why?
2. Watson writes to Holmes: "I have a feeling of danger all the time – a danger all the more terrible because I cannot describe it." What reasons does Watson have for feeling this?
3. Who do the initials L.L. belong to? Describe what you learn about her.
4. Guess who the man in the moor could be.
5. Find a way of proving Holmes' beliefs.

Chapters 13-15

1. Before reading: Read the titles of the final chapters and try to anticipate the end of the novel.
2. Think of ways in which Lestrade can help solve the case - write down one.
3. Holmes said “The stranger and more meaningless an event seems, the more closely it should be considered.” Consider a crime (a murder, for example). What are some strange and meaningless thing that may happen that may show the person is guilty.
4. Write down as many facts as you remember about the events that Holmes discovered.

Chapters 13-15, continued

5. Which of the characters was the most helpful to solve the case? Why?
6. Which is more important to solve a case: guesses or facts? Why?
7. Why are the moors so relevant to this story? Could it have taken place anywhere else? Why?