



INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR

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| Class: VI | Department: ENGLISH | Date of submission: February 2021 |
| STUDY NOTES | Topic: THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLE | Note: : For Reference |

STUDY NOTES

Written in 1902, *The Hound of the Baskervilles* is one of the best-known tales of Sherlock Holmes. As in all Sherlock Holmes stories, the solution to the mystery is found through Holmes's observation of tiny details. As Holmes says to Watson, 'The world is full of clear things which nobody notices.'

Author: Sir Arthur Conan Doyle Conan Doyle is most famous as the inventor of Sherlock Holmes, but he had a varied career as a writer, journalist and public figure.

Sherlock Holmes made his first appearance in 'A Study of Scarlet', published in 'Beeton's Christmas Annual' in 1887. Its success encouraged Conan Doyle to write more stories involving Holmes but, in 1893, Conan Doyle killed off Holmes, hoping to concentrate on more serious writing. A public outcry later made him resurrect Holmes.

The Hound of the Baskervilles is one of Conan Doyle's most famous mysteries featuring the detective, Sherlock Holmes, and his friend, Dr. Watson. The eerie mists of Dartmoor form the setting to the sinister events at Baskerville Hall. When Sir Charles Baskerville is found dead, the people living in the neighbouring area are sure that he didn't die from natural causes. Strange sightings of a giant fire-breathing hound and stories from the past have convinced them of this.

The new heir to the property, Sir Henry Baskerville, arrives from Canada determined not to let the stories frighten him away from his new home. He braves the loneliness of the moors takes pleasure in getting to know his neighbours, and is careful to follow the advice and guidance of the great detective, Holmes. Holmes and Watson slowly unravel a tangle of mystery as the case takes them deep into the heart of the Baskerville family.

CHARACTER SKETCH

SHERLOCK HOLMES

The novel's protagonist. Holmes is the famed 221b Baker Street detective with a keen eye, hawked nose, and the trademark hat and pipe. Holmes is observation and intuition personified, and though he takes a bit of a back seat to Watson in this story, we always feel his presence. It takes his legendary powers to decipher the mystifying threads of the case.

DR. WATSON

The novel's other protagonist and narrator. Dr. Watson is the stout sidekick to Holmes and longtime chronicler of the detective's adventures. In *Hound*, Watson tries his hand at Holmes' game, expressing his eagerness to please and impress the master by solving such a baffling case. As sidekick and apprentice to Holmes, Watson acts as a foil for Holmes' genius and as a stand-in for us, the awestruck audience.

The good doctor plays the sidekick to Holmes' self-obsessed hero figure. Watson is a lowly apprentice and live-in friend, who spends most of the book trying to solve a difficult case in his master's stead. Always on hand to stroke Holmes' ego, Watson is nonetheless intent on proving his own mettle by applying Holmes' techniques.