

Hound Of The Baskervilles Study Guide

Chapter 1

1. Who is the narrator?
2. From what object did Watson and Holmes learn about James Mortimer? What clues did it provide?
3. What did Holmes deduce from the clues on the stick?
4. How did Mortimer inadvertently insult Holmes?

Chapter 2

1. What was Dr. Mortimer's relationship with Sir Charles Baskerville?
2. What did the manuscript dated 1742 say?
3. What were the circumstances of Sir Charles Baskerville's death?
4. Who was Charles Baskerville's next of kin?
5. What were the "private facts" Dr. Mortimer told Holmes?

Chapter 3

1. Why had no one else seen the footprints of the hound?
2. Describe the creature on the moor that several people had seen prior to Charles' death.
3. What did Dr. Mortimer want of Holmes?
4. Who were Charles' other kinsmen?
5. What advice did Holmes give Mortimer?
6. What was Holmes' theory about Charles' death?

Chapter 4

1. Henry Baskerville received a note at the Northumberland Hotel. What was the message?
2. What did Holmes deduce from the message?
3. What had Henry lost at the hotel?
4. Why did Holmes follow Henry Baskerville and Dr. Mortimer?
5. Who did Holmes see in the cab on Regent Street?

Chapter 5

1. Why did Holmes want to look at the hotel register, and what did he find?
2. Why was Holmes glad Sir Henry decided to go to Baskerville Hall?
3. Why did Holmes send a telegraph to Barrymore?
4. Who went to stay with Sir Henry at Baskerville Hall? Why?
5. What were the "three broken threads"?

Chapter 6

1. What people did Holmes want Watson especially to study?
2. Why was there a mounted soldier along the road by the moor?
3. Why did Mr. and Mrs. Barrymore want to leave Baskerville Hall?
4. What sound did Watson hear in the middle of the night?

Chapter 7

1. About what did Mr. Barrymore lie?
2. Why did Watson go to Grimpen? What did he find out there?
3. Who ran up behind Watson on the road from Grimpen to Baskerville Hall?
4. Identify Merripit House.
5. What bad place did Stapleton claim to be able to cross?
6. What strange sound did Watson hear in the moor while at Merripit House with Stapleton? What explanations did Stapleton give for the sound?
8. What warning did Stapleton's sister mistakenly give to Watson?

Chapter 8

1. Watson said his "popularity would soon suffer" if he were to carry out Holmes' orders to the letter. Why?
2. What did Watson tell Holmes about Frankland?
3. What strange event did Watson witness in the middle of the night?

Chapter 9

1. What did Watson discover about the window Barrymore had looked out? What conclusion did he draw?
2. What did Watson witness from the hill?
3. What explanation did Stapleton give for his behavior towards his sister and Henry?
4. What explanation did Mr. and Mrs. Barrymore give for Mr. Barrymore's late-night visits to the west window?
5. Why did Watson and Sir Henry venture out onto the moor?
6. What sound did Watson and Henry hear when they were out on the moor looking for Selden?

Chapter 10

1. Why did Sir Henry agree not to pursue Selden anymore?
2. What additional information did Barrymore give Mr. Watson?
3. Who was "LL"?
4. What useful information about the "other man on the moor" did Barrymore give Watson?

Chapter 11

1. How did Watson persuade Laura Lyons to answer his questions?
2. Why did Laura Lyons write to Sir Charles seeking a meeting?
3. Why didn't Laura keep her appointment with Sir Charles?
4. What good information did Watson get from Frankland on his day of celebration?
5. Who was the "Man on the Tor"?

Chapter 12

1. How did Holmes know Watson was inside the dwelling?
2. Who was Miss Stapleton?
3. Mrs. Stapleton deceived Henry (among others). Who did Mr. Stapleton deceive about his marital status?
4. Whose death did Holmes and Watson witness on the moor?

Chapter 13

1. Why didn't Watson and Holmes have Stapleton arrested after Selden's death?
2. Why did Holmes find the portrait of Hugo Baskerville so interesting?
3. What motive did Stapleton have for killing Charles and Henry?
4. How did Holmes get Laura Lyons to divulge all that she knew?

Chapter 14

1. Who did Watson see at Merripit House? Who was missing?
2. What unexpected problem caused trouble for Holmes' plan?
3. What surprised Holmes and Watson?
4. What happened to the "Hound of the Baskervilles"?
5. What made the hound appear to have a flaming mouth?
6. Who did Holmes and Watson find in the upper floor bedroom of Merripit House?
7. What help did Mrs. Stapleton offer?
8. What happened to Mr. Stapleton?
9. What did they find at the mine?

Chapter 15

What was disclosed in Chapter 15?

VOCABULARY

Erroneous	presume	circumspect
Agape	catastrophe	corroborated
luminous	spectral	executor
apparition	pugnacious	bourgeois
fiend	Vexation	Availed
Amid	Endeavor	Audacious
Injunctions	Austere	Melancholy
Equestrian	Commutation	Malignancy
Silhouetted	Balustrade	Mullioned
Dismay	Approbation	Furtive
Clandestine	Brusquely	Skein
Unmitigated	Vile	Indelibly
Deluge	Incessant	Abhor
Vigil	Induce	Incredulity
Solicitations	Ample	Tenacity
Connoisseur	Implicit	Inexorably
Inert	Finesse	heir

Interpretation

1. From what point of view is *Hound of the Baskervilles* written? What advantages did using that point of view give the author?
2. If you were to rewrite *Hound of the Baskervilles* as a play, where would you start and end each act? Explain why.
3. Where is the climax of the story? Explain your choice.

4. What are the main conflicts in the novel? Are they all resolved? If so, how? If not, why not?

Critical

5. What was the single most important piece of evidence uncovered by Watson and Holmes? Support your choice.

6. Are the characters' actions believably motivated? Explain why or why not.

7. Explain the importance of the setting in *Hound of the Baskervilles*. Could this story have been set in a different time and place and still have the same effect?

8. Characterize Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's style of writing. How does it contribute to the value of the novel?

9. Was the character of Laura Lyons necessary to the story? What did her character contribute?

10. Are the characters in *Hound of the Baskervilles* stereotypes? If so, explain why Sir Arthur Conan Doyle used stereotypes. If not, explain how the characters merit individuality.

11. What was Frankland's importance in the story?

12. How did Stapleton keep from being discovered for so long?

13. Why didn't Holmes tell Henry or Watson that he was at the moor?

14. Compare and contrast Watson and Holmes.

15. In what ways did Sir Arthur Conan Doyle attempt to make the story authentic? Do his devices work?

16. Explain why Watson is the best person to use as a narrator for this story.

17. What kind of a man was Sir Henry Baskerville? Describe his character.

18. Explain the relationships between these people: Laura Lyons/ Mr. Stapleton, Sir Henry/ Mr. Stapleton, Hugo/ Sir Henry, Sir Henry/ Beryl, Sir Charles/ Sir Henry, Sir Charles/ Mr. Stapleton, and the Barrymores/ Selden.

19. What was Dr. Mortimer's function as a character in the story?

20. Who in the story believed the legend, and who did not?

21. Compare Laura Lyons, Beryl Stapleton and Mrs. Barrymore.

22. What elements of gothic fiction are present in *The Hound of the Baskervilles*?

23. What important events occur on the moor itself? Why?

24. What is the purpose of chapter 15? Does it add anything to the story? Does it add anything to the structure of the story?

25. Give a brief overview of the structure of the story.

Personal Response

26. What are "supernatural powers"? Do you believe in them? If you were Sir Henry, would you have gone to Baskerville Hall and the moor?

27. What makes *The Hound of the Baskervilles* a great detective/ mystery novel?

28. Did you enjoy reading this story? Why or why not?

29. Have you read other detective fiction or mysteries? If so, how do they compare to *Hound*?

30. Would you like to be a detective? Why or why not?

Composition

Frederick Busch said, "For this is the single Sherlock Holmes adventure in which Holmes does not dominate—central though he may be. This is the story, and landscape, in which Holmes becomes part of the tale. In *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, it is the tale's turn to wag the detective." Explain Mr. Busch's statement using examples from the book.

Choose three clues you think were the most important to Holmes in solving the Baskerville case, and explain why each was important.

VOCABULARY WORD SEARCH

All words in this list are associated with *Hound of the Baskervilles* with an emphasis on the vocabulary words chosen for study in the text. The words are placed backwards, forward, diagonally, up and down. The included words are listed below.

P E P F V M H S N B S A M R P R E W Z A A B V Y
I D M T I L P G H P E X G E B G O L P M M H R G
I N D U C E Q U E S T R I A N O I T I R A P P A
J P D R S A N C N E U C R I P I R D U V O R L Q
L N I E F E T D N M C O E O M E T F E C C H X E
F E O H L R R A I E I K N P N A V S U L E G B P
H F M I A I C P S M S T C I S E L E E R U X B A
G J G L T I B S E T P U I O M M O I X D T G E R
R I K I T A E L F N R L O G N U U U G A N I E F
V Y B Y N N B Y Y Y D O I I A N L C S N T A V S
X B Z A I J N O L A H E P C C T O L R J A I L E
A Z O F L P U O R B V J A H I A E I I I W N O C
Q U W U X U H N R P A A C V E T N D S O C T C N
N Q S D R C S U C D P R I L O J N G F S N J N Y
P Z F T N G S T N T I A O L M R B C U V E E Y X
W J Q A E Q E G R Z I S N X E Q X Z Q P H U D D
B D L R U R L O J A L O M P E D M S H G R G R K
Z E T E R C E W I Y D X N A I N C E S S A N T Q
M S L R V V S Z V S T E D S Y F I P N D Z T Z B
G Y S I L H O U E T T E D I N C R E D U L I T Y

ABHOR	CIRCUMSPECT	HEIR	MULLIONED
AGAPE	CLANDESTINE	IMPLICIT	PRESUME
AMID	CONNOISSEUR	INCESSANT	PUGNACIOUS
AMPLE	DELUGE	INCREDULITY	SILHOUETTED
APPARITION	DISMAY	INDELIBLY	SKEIN
APPROBATION	ENDEAVOR	INDUCE	SPECTRAL
AUSTERE	EQUESTRIAN	INERT	TENACITY
AVAILED	ERRONEOUS	INEXORABLY	UNMITIGATED
BALUSTRADED	EXECUTOR	INJUNCTIONS	VEXATION
BOURGEOIS	FIEND	LUMINOUS	VIGIL
BRUSQUELY	FINESSE	MALIGNANCY	VILE
CATASTROPHE	FURTIVE	MELANCHOLY	