

The Hound of the Baskervilles by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (Published in 1902)

Approved for use in English IV

Summary of the Work:

The Hound of the Baskervilles begins with a mystery—Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson speculate on the identity of the owner of a cane that has been left in their office by an unknown visitor. Impressing Watson with his incredible powers of observation, Holmes predicts the appearance of James Mortimer, owner of the found object and a convenient entrée into the baffling curse of the Baskervilles.

Mortimer recounts the myth of the lecherous Hugo Baskerville. Hugo captured and imprisoned a young girl at his estate, only to fall victim to a marauding hound of hell as he pursued her along the moors late one night. Ever since, the Baskerville line has been plagued by a mysterious and supernatural black hound. The recent death of Sir Charles Baskerville has again stirred up suspicions and fears. The next of kin has arrived in London to take up his post at Baskerville Hall, but he has already been intimidated by an anonymous note of warning.

Sherlock Holmes is called upon to solve the mystery, and the story builds to a climax when the hound attacks.

Rationale:

English IV, M*A*S*H, mystery, adventure, suspense and horror, is a section of the required English IV course. This course emphasizes the analysis of non-fiction and novels. Students should have an appreciation for and love of reading.

The Hound of the Baskervilles takes on the Gothic tradition, a brand of storytelling that highlights the bizarre and unexplained.

Professional Reviews and/or Critical Essays:

- Wilson's Senior High School 10/01/07

* Print resources are available from the library media center and libraries in the district. Contact any library media specialist to view the scholarly sources.

* Scholarly reviews are also available online through Books in Print and Gale. Contact the library media specialist to obtain username and password information to access the subscription database of full-text reviews.

Noted Distinction:

- See Titlewave for Awards.

Readability:

- Lexile Score: 1090
- Readability Level: 7.5

Learning Resources Guidelines:

- The novel meets the Learning Resources Guidelines.

Standard Alignment: ([link](#))

Approval:

Submitted to Committee:

Approved for Adoption:

Notes on the Text:

(The best way to evaluate and understand a novel is to personally read the book in its entirety.)

Connection to the Curriculum:

- Concept of the Red Herring
- Themes of good and evil; natural and supernatural; truth and fantasy; classism, hierarchy, and entitlement
- Deductive / inductive reasoning

Additional Connections:

(AP, Honors, Essential/Applied, Dramas, Films, etc.)

The Hound of the Baskervilles (1939) starring Basil Rathbone directed by Sidney Lanfield,

The Hound of the Baskervilles (1972) made for television movie directed by Barry Crane

The Hound of the Baskervilles (2003) Masterpiece Theater PBS