The Hound Of The Baskervilles

By

Arthur Conan Doyle

A Novel Study
By Nat and Joel Reed

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Suggestions and Expectations

This curriculum unit can be used in a variety of ways. Each chapter of the novel study focuses on one or two chapters of ***The Hound Of The Baskervilles*** and is comprised of these activities:

1. Before You Read
2. Vocabulary Building
3. Comprehension Questions
4. Language and Extension Activities

A **portfolio cover** (p.7) as well as a **Checklist** (p.6) are included so that students may track of their completed work.

Every activity need not be completed by all students.

Links with the Common Core Standards (U.S.)

Many of the activities included in this curriculum unit are supported by the Common Core Standards. For instance the *Reading Standards for Literature*, *Grade 5*, makes reference to the following:

a) determining the meaning of words and phrases. . . including figurative language;
b) explaining how a series of chapters fits together to provide the overall structure;
c) compare and contrast two characters;
d) determine how characters … respond to challenges;
e) drawing inferences from the text;
f) determining a theme of a story . . . **and many others.**

Themes and **topics** which may be taught in conjunction with the novel include mysteries and detective stories, the moors of England, rationalism versus superstition, perseverance, facts versus assumptions, loyalty and courage.

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List of Skills

Vocabulary Development

1. Locating descriptive words/phrases
2. Listing synonyms/homophones
3. Identifying / creating *alliteration*
4. Use of capitals and punctuation
5. Identifying syllables
6. Identify *anagrams*
7. Identify *personification*
8. Use of singular / plural nouns
9. Listing compound words
10. Identifying parts of speech
11. Determining alphabetical order
12. Identification of root words
13. Identify/create *similes*
14. Identification of a *cliffhanger*

Setting Activities

1. Summarize the details of a setting

Plot Activities

1. Complete a *time line* of events
2. Identify conflict in the story
3. Identify the climax of the novel
4. Five W's Chart

Character Activities

1. Determine character traits
2. Protagonists/antagonists
3. Relating personal experiences
4. Comparing two Characters

Creative and Critical Thinking

1. Research
2. Write a newspaper story
3. Write a letter to a friend
4. Complete an Observation Chart
5. Conduct an interview
6. Write a description of personal feelings
7. Write a book review
8. Complete a KWS Chart

Art Activities

1. A Storyboard
2. Create a collage
3. Design a cover for the novel
4. Design an Information Card

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Synopsis

When Sir Charles Baskerville is found suspiciously dead, his friend, Dr. James Mortimer asks Sherlock Holmes to look into the death. While the cause of death is determined to be a heart attack, Mortimer suspects foul play and fears that Sir Charles's nephew and sole heir, Sir Henry Baskerville, may be in danger next. At the center of the investigation is the curse of the Baskervilles, which dates back to the time of the English Civil War. Supposedly the family's ancestor, Hugo Baskerville, sold his soul to the devil, and the family has been haunted by a large spectral hound ever since. Because Sir Charles was found with a look of horror on his face when he died, appeared to be running away from something, and large paw prints had been found near his body, there is reason to believe that the "Hound" may have returned. The details of the case spark the interest of Sherlock and he agrees to take up the case. "The Hound Of The Baskervilles," is widely regarded as one of Doyle's best. (Courtesy of the publisher)

Author Biography

Arthur Conan Doyle

Sir Arthur Ignatius Conan Doyle, a British writer and physician, was born in Edinburgh, Scotland. He created the character Sherlock Holmes in 1887 for *A Study in Scarlet*, the first of four novels and fifty-six short stories about Holmes and Dr. Watson. The Sherlock Holmes stories are milestones in the field of crime fiction. Doyle was a prolific writer; other than the Holmes stories, his works include fantasy and science fiction stories about Professor Challenger and humorous stories about the Napoleonic soldier Brigadier Gerard, as well as plays, romances, poetry, non-fiction, and historical novels. He also had many other interests including sports and architecture. Doyle passed away in 1930 at the age of 71. (Adapted from Wikipedia)

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Student Checklist

Student Name _____

Assignment	Grade / Level	Comments

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Name: _____

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Chapters 1-2

Before you read the chapter:

The **protagonist** in most novels features the main character or "good guy". The protagonist of ***The Hound on the Baskervilles*** is Sherlock Holmes, probably the most famous fictional detective of all time. What characteristics do you think would be valuable for a detective to possess in order to be successful at solving crimes?

Vocabulary:

Choose a word from the list to complete each sentence.

practitioner	fallacy	justification	incredulous
corroborate	resignation	gainsaid	discreet

1. He placed his finger-tips together, and closed his eyes, with an air of _____.
2. He had his medical license, but hadn't been a _____ for many years.
3. This Manor was held by Hugo, nor can it be _____ that he was a wild man.
4. "I find your description to be absolutely _____," Paul said with a smirk.
5. I will only tell you my age if you promise to be _____.
6. "It is complete _____ to think he would be true to his word," the mayor said.
7. Do you think William would be willing to _____ the convict's alibi?
8. There is certainly no _____ for Sarah to act the way she did at the party.

Questions

1. What is the **setting** of the novel at the beginning of Chapter One?

2. Match each name with the proper description:

1	Sherlock Holmes		A	In possession of an old manuscript.
2	Doctor Watson		B	A wild, profane and godless man.
3	Sir Charles Baskerville		C	Heir to the Baskerville estate.
4	Dr. James Mortimer		D	Butler.
5	Hugo Baskerville		E	Frequently up all night.
6	Barrymore		F	A naturalist.
7	Mr. Henry Baskerville		G	Sherlock's friend and confidant.
8	Mr. Stapleton		H	Appears to have died of a heart attack.

3. What did Sherlock mean when he told Watson that he was a *conductor of light*?

4. What did the **C.C.H.** on the cane stand for?

5. Of all of the deductions Sherlock made about Dr. Mortimer in Chapter One, which impressed you the most? Why?

6. In your own words write a brief summation of the fate of Hugo Baskerville and the events that led to it.

7. According to legend, what did this event mean to the family and descendants of Hugo, and with what cautionary note did the legend end?

8. Describe Sherlock's opinion of the legend Mortimer shared with him. Did this opinion surprise you? Why or why not?

9. Describe what made the death of Charles Baskerville suspicious.

10. Describe how the author concludes Chapter Two with a cliffhanger.

Language Activities

A. What Do You Know About Hounds?

As you might have guessed from the title of this novel, a "hound-like" dog plays an important part in the book's plot. But what do you know about hounds? Did you know that there are over a hundred different hounds, ranging in size from the great Irish wolfhound to the very small dachshund. Using resources in your school library or on the Internet, research three fascinating facts about the hound of your choice and record this information below.

Type of Hound:	
1	
2	
3	

B. Personification is giving human qualities to something that is not human. In Chapter One the author writes, ***But the manuscript is short and is intimately connected with the affair.***

a) Why is the above statement an example of this literary device?

b) Create your own example of personification.

c) Why do you think this literary device continues to be popular with writers?

C. Anagrams

An **anagram** is a word that is formed by changing the order of the letters of another word. For example, the letters in the word **PAN** can also form the word **NAP**. Follow these directions to form the anagrams:

a) read the clue in the right-hand column.

b) Using the word in the left-hand column move the letters around in any order, but you must use all the letters.

Each of the words in the left-hand column are found in this section of our novel.

Word	Anagram	Clue
point		A piebald horse.
traces		Responds in a particular way.
several		Departs a place or position.
article		Performance
horses		Beaches.
worse		Scatterer.

D. A **simile** is a comparison using the words "like" or "as". We find an example of this in Chapter One: *The was a very tall, thin man, with a long nose like a beak.*

In this example what two things are being compared?

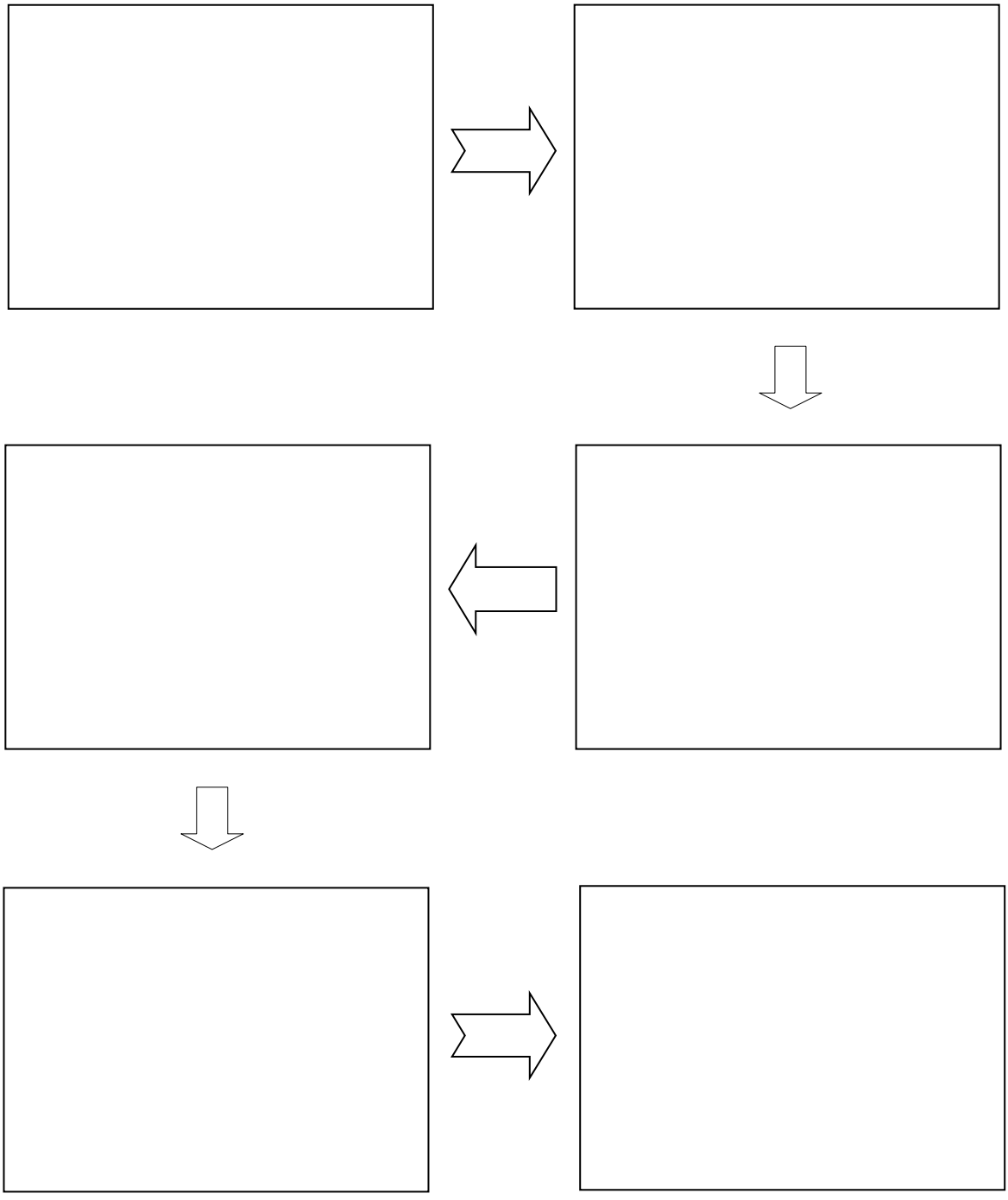
Invent your own **similes** comparing the following items with something from your imagination:

a) The sound of a vicious dog.

b) your own example

E. Sequence Chart

Choose what you consider to be the six most important events in these chapters. In each of the six boxes below list the six events that you have chosen, describing what happened and telling why you consider this to be an essential part of the story.



Extension Activity

Storyboard

A storyboard is a series of pictures that tell about an important event in a story. A storyboard can tell the story of only one scene – or the entire novel.

Complete the storyboard below illustrating the events described in the first two chapters of our novel. You may wish to practice your drawings on a separate piece of paper.

1	2
3	4
5	6