

Study Guide prepared by
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Barter Playwright-in-Residence

The Hound of the Baskervilles

Adapted by Richard Rose from the novel by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

*Especially for Grades 7-12

Barter Theatre Main Stage – Fall, 2014

(NOTE: standards listed below are for reading *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, seeing a performance of the play, and completing the study guide.)

Virginia SOLs

English – 7.1, 7.4, 7.5, 7.7, 7.9, 8.2, 8.4, 8.5, 8.7, 8.9, 9.1, 9.3, 9.4, 9.6, 9.8, 10.3, 10.4, 10.6, 10.8, 11.3, 11.6, 11.8, 12.1, 12.3, 12.4, 12.6

Theatre Arts – 7.6, 7.18, 7.20, 8.5, 8.12, 8.18, 8.22, TI.10, TI.13, TI.17, TII.6, TII.9, TII.12, TII.15, TII.17, TIII.11, TIII.12, TIV.12, TIV.13

Tennessee Standards

Common Core State Standards

English Language Arts – Reading Literacy: 7.1, 7.4, 7.7, 7.10, 8.1, 8.4, 8.6, 8.7, 8.10, 9-10.1, 9-10.4, 9-10.6, 9-10.9, 9-10.10, 11-12.1, 11-12.4, 11-12.7, 11-12.10

English Language Arts – Writing: 7.1, 7.7, 7.8, 7.9, 8.1, 8.7, 8.8, 8.9, 9-10.1, 9-10.7, 9-10.8, 9-10.9, 11-12.1, 11-12.7, 11-12.8, 11-12.9

Tennessee State Standards

Theatre 6-8 – 6.1, 6.2, 7.1, 7.2 **Theatre 9-12** – 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 7.1, 7.2

North Carolina Standards

Common Core State Standards

English Language Arts – Reading Literacy: 7.1, 7.4, 7.7, 7.10, 8.1, 8.4, 8.6, 8.7, 8.10, 9-10.1, 9-10.4, 9-10.6, 9-10.9, 9-10.10, 11-12.1, 11-12.4, 11-12.7, 11-12.10

English Language Arts – Writing: 7.1, 7.7, 7.8, 7.9, 8.1, 8.7, 8.8, 8.9, 9-10.1, 9-10.7, 9-10.8, 9-10.9, 11-12.1, 11-12.7, 11-12.8, 11-12.9

North Carolina Essential Standards

Theatre Arts – 7.A.1, 7.AE.1, 7.CU.1, 8.A.1, 8.AE.1, 8.CU.1, 8.CU.2, B.C.1, B.C.2, B.A.1, B.AE.1, B.CU.1, B.CU.2, I.A.1, I.AE.1, I.CU.2, P.C.1, P.A.1, P.AE.1, A.C.2, A.A.1, A.AE.1

Setting

Baskerville Hall and the surrounding moor, Devonshire, England– 1890's



Characters

Sherlock Holmes – the world’s most famous detective, master of logic and deduction

Dr. Watson – a physician and Holmes’ assistant

Sir Hugo Baskerville – a spoiled and brutal aristocrat, lived in the 17th century

The Maiden – the farm girl Sir Hugo brutalized

Dr. Mortimer – a country physician

Barrymore – the butler at Baskerville Hall

Mrs. Barrymore – his wife and the housekeeper

Sir Henry Baskerville – the current heir to Baskerville Hall

Mr. Frankland – Sir Henry’s neighbor, believes in the law above all things

Professor Moriarty – criminal mastermind extraordinaire

Beryl Stapleton – Sir Henry’s very attractive neighbor

Jack Stapleton – her brother, a botanist

Seldon – an escaped convict

Laura Lyons – a mysterious friend of the late Sir Charles Baskerville

Vocabulary Words

curse

origin

descendent

profane

moor

discern

deceptive

presume

esteem

amiable

testimonial

mastiff

dolichocephalic

parietal

convulse

yew

impenetrable

realm

supernatural

inquest

spectral

heir

infirm

moor

culprit

motive

fiend

provision

legacy

bias

diabolical

baronet

mire

desolate

epidemic

zoology

chagrin

conspiracy

scaffold

grievance

fortnight

defile

blackguard

nefarious

bumbershoot

surmise

conjecture

cavalier

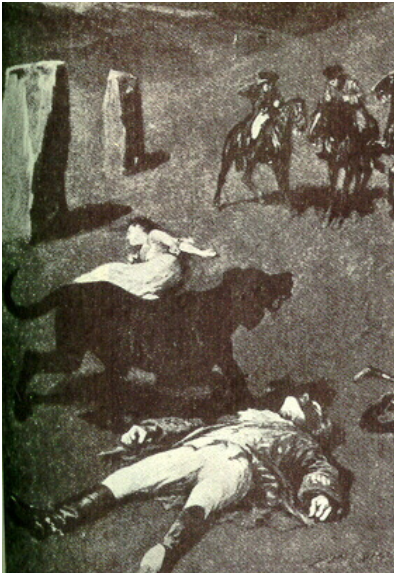
mastiff

phosphorous

unsubstantiated

Synopsis

The famous detective, Sherlock Holmes, and his trusted assistant Dr. Watson have been called to Baskerville Hall in Devonshire to solve the mysterious death of Sir Charles Baskerville. There



they meet Dr. Mortimer, Sir Charles' executor, who explains that Sir Charles' had been literally "frightened to death" near the garden gate. Dr. Mortimer attributes the cause to the legendary Hound of the Baskervilles, a ghostly beast who had been haunting the family over two hundred years. Mortimer relates the legend to Homes and Watson as follows: In 1649, Sir Hugo Baskerville, a profane and godless man, kidnapped a farmer's daughter with the intention of ravishing her. When the maiden escaped his clutches, Hugo made this pact with the Devil – Hugo's soul in return for the maiden's capture. Hugo then unleashed his hounds to find the girl, but a shepherd who witnessed the events claims to have seen another Hound – a giant, unearthly fiend – chasing Hugo. Later, the maiden is found dead on the moor, beaten to death by Hugo's hand. Hugo's body lies nearby, his throat ripped apart by the Hound.

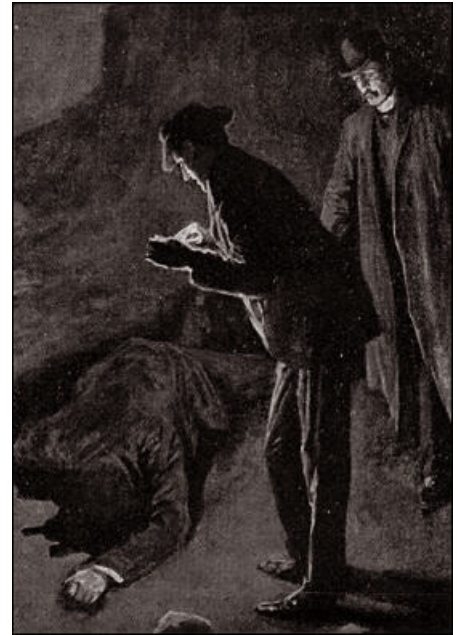
Mortimer fears the family curse may now fall upon the latest Baskerville heir, Sir Henry, who is arriving from America the next morning. Mortimer begs Holmes to dissuade Sir Henry from living in Baskerville Hall. Instead, Holmes decides to solve the mystery of Sir Charles' death. The next morning, news arrives that a convict, Seldon, has escaped from a nearby prison. Dr. Mortimer arrives with Sir Henry, who has just received a note warning him to leave Baskerville Hall. Sir Henry refuses. Holmes tells the assembly that he has been called back to London; he leaves Watson in charge, advising him to protect Sir Henry. In walking about the moor, Watson meets several people including Jack Stapleton, a zoologist in pursuit of butterflies, and his sister Beryl who secretly warns Watson of the danger surrounding Sir Henry. When Sir Henry meets Beryl, he falls in love with her, much to the chagrin of her brother. Jack Stapleton is also an expert at maneuvering the Grimpen Mire, a deadly swamp-like area of the moor where rare butterflies are found.

Watson also meets Frankland, a neighbor determined to thwart Dr. Mortimer's current hobby – excavating a prehistoric burial site. Meanwhile, Watson and Sir Henry catch the butler, Barrymore, signalling to someone out the window. Barrymore finally admits that he and his wife are feeding and clothing the escaped convict, Seldon, who happens to be Mrs Barrymore's younger brother. Moved to pity, Sir Henry donates his cloak to the cause. Grateful, Barrymore returns the favor by revealing a clue: on the day of his death, Sir Charles received a letter from a woman with the initials "L.L." Watson discovers that she is Frankland's daughter, Laura Lyons, and he visits her at her home in Coombe Tracy. Laura admits to writing Sir Charles in order to obtain money for a divorce but insists she never met him the night of his death.



Synopsis (cont.)

Watson is on his way back to Baskerville Hall when he is confronted by a stranger, who turns out to be Holmes in disguise. Holmes has been hiding in a cave on the moor in order to move about freely and gain evidence. He and Watson compare notes. Holmes tells Watson that Beryl is really Stapleton's wife – not his sister – and that Stapleton is using Beryl as bait to draw Sir Henry into his trap. He has also discovered that Stapleton has been on intimate footing with Laura Lyons. Suddenly, a howl is heard and a man dressed like Sir Henry enters, running for his life. More howling, and the man falls to his death off a rocky ledge. But he is not Sir Henry – he is Seldon the convict, wearing Sir Henry's cloak. Someone had put the Hound onto Sir Henry's scent. Moments later, Stapleton wanders onto the scene as if by coincidence. He seems surprised when he sees that it was Seldon, and not Sir Henry, who lies dead on the moor.

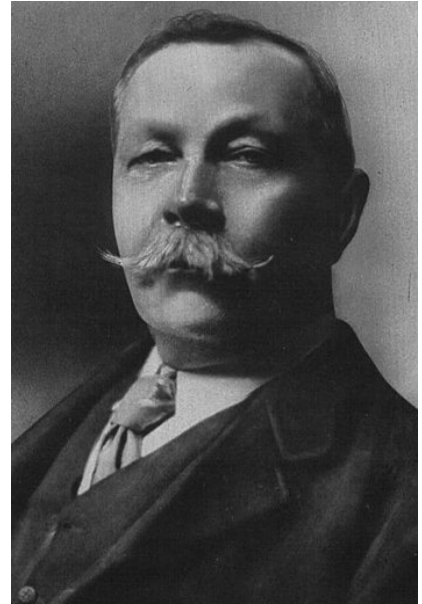


Convinced that Stapleton is the killer, Holmes and Watson return to Baskerville Hall and find proof in the form of Sir Hugo's portrait – his face is the spitting image of Stapleton's. Stapleton is an unknown Baskerville who stands to inherit upon Sir Henry's death. Holmes and Watson make another visit to Laura Lyons to inform her that Stapleton is a married man. Laura, who thought he was single, admits that she was planning to marry Stapleton after her divorce and that Stapleton was the one who insisted she write the letter to Sir Charles asking him to meet her at the gate that night. Holmes and Watson set a trap for Stapleton that night using Sir Henry, who is chased and almost killed by the Hound before Dr. Mortimer shoots the beast dead. They discover that the "ghost" is in fact a very real dog covered in glowing phosphorous. Once more Stapleton "happens" upon the scene and Holmes tricks him into confessing to the murder, but Stapleton escapes, only to plummet to his death in a mineshaft cave-in. Watson and Mortimer rush to Stapleton's house to find Beryl beaten and tied up for threatening to warn Sir Henry of Stapleton's plan. She also admits that she has fallen in love with Sir Henry. They all return to Baskerville Hall as Holmes wonders what other case may be waiting for him.



Biography of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, creator of Sherlock Holmes

Arthur Conan Doyle, physician and writer, was born May 22, 1859 in Edinburgh Scotland, one of ten children born to Charles and Mary Doyle. He studied medicine at the University of Edinburgh and while there, began writing short stories. After completion of his term, he served as a ship's doctor on a voyage to the West Indies then returned to England to set up a private practice in Portsmouth. Business was slow at first, and in between patients he began to write again. His story *A Study in Scarlet*, published in Beeton's Christmas Annual (1887) introduced detective Sherlock Holmes to the world. Holmes was partially modeled after Dr. Joseph Bell, his former professor, who used his powers of inference and deduction in the diagnosis of his patients. His Sherlock Holmes detective stories rocketed Doyle to fame, taking time from the historical novels Doyle would rather write, so in 1893 Doyle "killed off" Sherlock Holmes in *The Final Problem*. His public, however, was outraged, so much so that in 1901, Doyle resurrected Sherlock Holmes in *The Hound of the Baskervilles*. Holmes ultimately was featured in a total of fifty-six short series and four novels by Doyle. Arthur Conan Doyle was knighted in 1902. He died July 7, 1930.



Biography of Richard Rose, Playwright

Serving in his 22nd season as only the third Artistic Director in Barter's illustrious history, Richard Rose has quadrupled Barter's annual attendance to over 163,000 and expanded Barter's touring with both its Player Company and its national tours to reach over 350,000 people annually around the United States. Artistically, Rick has brought Barter into the international spotlight through an international exchange with Russia, New York productions, the premieres of new works and the founding of Barter's Appalachian Festival of Plays and Playwrights. Barter's audiences know Rick particularly as a director and author from his work on over 100 productions during his tenure here at Barter including *The Wizard of Oz*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, and *Death of a Salesman*. His original adaptations include *It's a Wonderful Life*, *A Modern Christmas Carol*, *Dracula!*, *Wuthering Heights*, *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, and *Frankenstein*. Rick has his M.F.A in Theatre Directing and Design from the University of California at Davis and has done post-graduate work at New York University and has worked for the prestigious Juilliard School in New York City.





A Brief History

Barter Theatre was founded during the Great Depression by Robert Porterfield, an enterprising young actor. He and his fellow actors found themselves out of work and hungry in New York City. Porterfield contrasted that to the abundance of food, but lack of live theatre, around his home region in Southwest Virginia. He returned to Washington County with an extraordinary proposition: bartering produce from the farms and gardens of the area to gain admission to see a play.

Barter Theatre opened its doors on June 10, 1933 proclaiming, "With vegetables you cannot sell, you can buy a good laugh." The price of admission was 40 cents or the equivalent in produce, the concept of trading "ham for Hamlet" caught on quickly. At the end of the first season, the Barter Company cleared \$4.35 in cash, two barrels of jelly and enjoyed a collective weight gain of over 300 pounds.

Playwrights including Noel Coward, Tennessee Williams and Thornton Wilder accepted Virginia ham as payment for royalties. An exception was George Bernard Shaw, a vegetarian, who bartered the rights to his plays for spinach.

Today, Barter Theatre has a reputation as a theatre where many actors performed before going on to achieve fame and fortune. The most recognized of these alumni include Gregory Peck, Patricia Neal, Ernest Borgnine, Hume Cronyn, Ned Beatty, Gary Collins, Larry Linville and Frances Fisher. The list also included James Burrows, creator of *Cheers*, Barry Corbin, and the late Jim Varney

Robert Porterfield passed away in 1971. His successor, Rex Partington, had been at Barter in the 1950s as an actor and in the 1970s as stage manager. Rex returned as chief administrator from 1972 until his retirement in 1992. In March 2006, he passed away.

Richard Rose was named the producing artistic director in October 1992. In that time, attendance has grown from 42,000 annual patrons to more than 163,000 annual patrons. Significant capital improvements have also been made. Including maintenance to both theatres, and in 2006, the addition of The Barter Café at Stage II and dramatic improvements to Porterfield Square.

Barter represents three distinct venues of live theatre: Barter Theatre Main Stage, Barter Theatre Stage II and The Barter Players. Barter Theatre, with over 500 seats, features traditional theatre in a luxurious setting. Barter Stage II, across the street from Barter Main Stage and beyond Porterfield Square, offers seating for 167 around a thrust stage in an intimate setting and is perfect for more adventurous productions. The Barter Players is a talented ensemble of actors, producing plays for young audiences throughout the year.

History is always in the making at Barter Theatre, building on legends of the past; Barter looks forward to the challenge of growth in the future.

Sherlock Holmes Fun Facts!

- The phrase ‘Elementary my dear Watson’ was never mentioned in the Sherlock Holmes books.
- “Sherlock” means blonde, but the main characters are all dark haired.
- Holmes is modeled after the Scottish physician Joseph Bell.
- Holmes’ famous deerstalker cap was not created by Doyle, but by the illustrator, Sidney Paget.
- “When you have eliminated the impossible, whatever remains, however improbable, must be the truth” is the most famous true quote written by Conan Doyle.
- The only woman to have beaten Holmes was Irene Adler.
- Sherlock Holmes believed in Spiritualism, fairies and ghosts, just like his creator and author.
- There are more than 260 movies, 2 musicals and a ballet based on the book.
- In 1964, Sherlock Holmes books were the best sellers second only to the Bible.
- Sherlock abused cocaine and morphine in “The Sign of Four.”



Word Search

Find the following words in the puzzle below: **detective, hound, Sherlock Holmes, Baskerville, curse, Beryl Stapleton, convict, Grimpen Mire, moor, Sir Hugo, Dr. Watson, fog, howl, mystery, supernatural, Cyclopedes, Dr. Mortimer, walking stick, Seldon, Devonshire, Mrs. Barrymore, Conan Doyle, clue, portrait**

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

True and False

Write **T** if the statement is **True** and **F** if the statement is **False**.

1. ____ The character *Sherlock Holmes* was created by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.
2. ____ Baskerville Hall is located in Devonshire, England.
3. ____ Sir Henry Baskerville was responsible for the curse placed on his family.
4. ____ Laura Lyons supports herself by running a typewriting business.
5. ____ Frankland is an avid collector of butterflies.
6. ____ Sherlock Holmes' trusty assistant was a physician known as Dr. Mortimer.
7. ____ The character of Sherlock Holmes is based on a real-life doctor.
8. ____ The Hound in this story is not a real dog, but Stapleton in a dog suit.
9. ____ Beryl Stapleton is in reality Jack Stapleton's sister.
10. ____ Seldon, the convict, is Mr. Barrymore's younger brother.
11. ____ Dr. Watson shot and killed the Hound.
12. ____ Jack Stapleton's face closely resembles that of Sir Hugo Baskerville.
13. ____ Frankland is determined to stop Dr. Mortimer from excavating a prehistoric burial site.
14. ____ Watson catches Mrs. Barrymore signaling with a lantern.
15. ____ Sir Henry falls in love with Beryl Stapleton.

Matching

Match the person/place in the 1st column with the corresponding description in the 2nd.

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| 1. Sherlock Holmes | a. catches butterflies |
| 2. Jack Stapleton | b. Sherlock Holmes' assistant |
| 3. Baskerville Hall | c. Frankland's daughter |
| 4. Dr. Mortimer | d. made a pact with the devil |
| 5. Coombe Tracy | e. an estate in Devonshire |
| 6. Seldon | f. a dangerous, swamp-like place on the moor |
| 7. Dr. Watson | g. the executor for Sir Charles' estate |
| 8. Laura Lyons | h. detective; master of logic and deduction |
| 9. Hugo Baskerville | i. an escaped convict |
| 10. Grimpen Mire | j. where Laura Lyons lives |

Questions/Activities

1. Read *The Hound of the Baskervilles* by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle then attend a performance of Barter's production. How are they similar? How are they different?

Write a paper that compares and contrasts the book with Barter's production!

2. In this play, Jack Stapleton spots a rare sort of butterfly referred to as a Cyclopides. Using the internet, **research the Cyclopides**. How many different types are there? What do they have in common? What do they look like? Where are they found? **Present your findings to the class.**



3. This set uses “sliders” that bring on different set pieces in order to create different locations for various scenes. How effectively do you think this worked? Pick a scene from your favorite Sherlock Holmes detective story and design a set for it that would work in your school's auditorium. Some things to keep in mind: the number of people in the scene, blocking (how people are to move about the set) and sightlines (the ability of the audience to see the action on stage from any seat in the house.) **Create a rendering and model of your set and present it to your class, explaining your design.**



4. The Hound of the Baskervilles is a legend (in this case, a curse) that was passed down from generation to generation in the Baskerville family. Does your family have any stories that have been passed down through the years? How important are family legends to the identity of a family? **Discuss.**

“All writers - all people - have their stores of private and family legends which lie like a collection of half-forgotten, often violent toys on the floor of memory...” V.S. Pritchett

Select your favorite character from the play, pick an important day in their life that influences this play then write a journal entry about that day as that character. For example, you might pick the character of Laura Lyons and write about the day you met Stapleton, or you might pick the character of Sir Henry and write about the day you met Beryl Stapleton. Be as specific as possible and write as that character would.



5. Using pictures from magazines or newspapers, construct a collage representing one of the characters from *The Hound of the Baskervilles*. Display the collages around the room and see if the other students are able to match the collage to the character.



Write a critique of Barter Theatre’s production of *The Hound of the Baskervilles*. Be sure to include what you liked, didn’t like and what you would have done differently.

6. Where is the county of Devonshire (Devon) located in England? How far away is it from London? **Using the Internet, plot a course from the town of Buckfastleigh to London and research the various modes of transportation one would use to get there** (assume you don’t have a car). How does this compare to the transportation options available to Sherlock Holmes in the 1890’s? **Discuss.**



Comedy vs. Tragedy



comedy: a dramatic work that is light and often humorous or satirical in tone and that usually contains a happy resolution of the thematic conflict.

tragedy: A drama or literary work in which the main character is brought to ruin or suffers extreme sorrow, especially as a consequence of a tragic flaw, moral weakness, or inability to cope with unfavorable circumstances.

Given these definitions, would you categorize *The Hound of the Baskervilles* as a comedy or a tragedy? **Cite three samples from the play to support your position.** Does a character’s point-of-view influence your findings? **Discuss.**

7. The fictional Grimpen Mire in *The Hound of the Baskervilles* is supposedly based on the Fox Tor Mires in Dartmoor, England. Research this area. Geologically speaking, how were the Fox Tor Mires created? What sort of wildlife lives there? Have humans ever been able to create any industry there? If so, what? **Present your findings to the class.**

8. Laura Lyons owns a small typewriting business. When was the typewriter invented? Who invented it and why? What changes did it make on the business world? How did it affect women's place in society? **Discuss.**



9. Research the divorce laws in England in the 1890's to explain why Laura Lyons would have difficulty divorcing her husband. How are they different than the laws today? **Discuss.**

10. Sherlock Holmes used the power of observation to solve crimes. How observant are you? Take the following quiz and test your powers of observation:

- a) On a standard traffic light, is the green on the top or the bottom?
- b) In which hand is the Statue of Liberty's torch?
- c) When you walk, does your left arm swing with your right or left leg?
- d) On the United States flag, is the top stripe red or white?
- e) Which way does water go down the drain, clockwise or counterclockwise?
- f) On which side of a women's blouse are the buttons?
- g) Which way do fans rotate?
- h) How many sides does a stop sign have?
- i) Do books have even-numbered pages on the right or left side?
- j) How many sides are there on a standard pencil?
- k) How many curves are there on a standard paper clip?

Correct answers to Observation Quiz:

a)bottom b)right c)right leg d)red e)clockwise f)left g)clockwise h)8 i)left j)6 k)3

Suggested Further Reading/Links

The Hound of the Baskervilles - Hunting the Dartmoor Legend by Philip Weller

Books by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle:

Sherlock Holmes Novels:

A Study in Scarlet
The Sign of Four
The Valley of Fear

Sherlock Holmes Short Story Collections

The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes
The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes
The Return of Sherlock Holmes
His Last Bow
The Case-Book of Sherlock Holmes
The Complete Sherlock Holmes Short Stories

Books written about Sir Arthur Conan Doyle:

The Man Who Created Sherlock Holmes: The Life and Times of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle
by Andrew Lycett
The Essential Sir Arthur Conan Doyle by Arthur Conan Doyle, David Timson, Tim
Pigott-Smith, and Carl Rigg
Conversations with Arthur Conan Doyle: In His Own Words by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle,
Simon Parke, and Andy Harrison

To find out more about Sherlock Holmes, check out the links below:

Sherlock Holmes Museum Virtual Tour – the video tour of Sherlock Holmes' residence at
221-B Baker Street, London

<http://www.sherlock-holmes.co.uk/video.html>

Sherlock Holmes – the Official Website – for more on Sherlock Holmes

<http://www.sherlockholmes.com/>

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle Quotes – quotes from the creator of Sherlock Holmes

http://www.quotationspage.com/quotes/Sir_Arthur_Conan_Doyle