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# Once upon a time...

When the characters in the book speak about the mysteries of the moor and of Baskerville Hall, they use the words **story**, **legend** and **fairy tale**. These are all different types of popular or folk stories that pass from one generation to the next. These stories usually have something unbelievable in them.

In the book, the murderer uses the legend of the hound of the Baskervilles to frighten the local people. They believe that the legend is the reason behind the murders. Sherlock Holmes however, does not believe in legends and he looks for a scientific reason to explain the facts.

## OVER TO YOU!



When you read the book, be a detective! Look for examples of both superstitious and scientific ways of seeing strange or scary events.





'SPIRIT PHOTOGRAPH OF ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE TAKEN BY THE 'SPIRIT PHOTOGRAPHER' ADA DEANE IN 1922.

## STRANGE BUT TRUE

*Arthur Conan Doyle really believes in the supernatural. He thinks that it is possible to communicate with the dead. In 1922 he writes the book **The Coming of the Fairies**, where he says that he believes in fairies. This is a problem for many fans of both Conan Doyle and Sherlock Holmes, as they love the way the famous detective solves mysterious crimes using scientific facts and observation.*

## LEGENDS, MYTHS AND FAIRY TALES

*A legend usually has some elements of fact, even if they are not always accurate\*. Legends teach people about values, such as being good, brave, strong, kind and courageous. A **myth** is a popular story usually about non-living things or supernatural\* beings, but it can also explain religious beliefs (the Greek myths, for example). It is usually in the past. **Fairy tales** contain fantastic elements, magic, and imaginary creatures. They always have a moral message.*



With a friend think of examples of legends, myths and fairy tales that you know.

### GLOSSARY

- **accurate:** precise; completely true
- **frighten:** scare; make afraid
- **folk:** traditional
- **murderer:** person who kills another person
- **supernatural:** things that science can't explain; magic
- **superstitious:** who believes that things can be lucky or unlucky
- **unbelievable:** too strange to believe

# The HOUND of the BASKERVILLES



Sherlock Holmes



Dr Watson



Sir Henry Baskerville



Stapleton





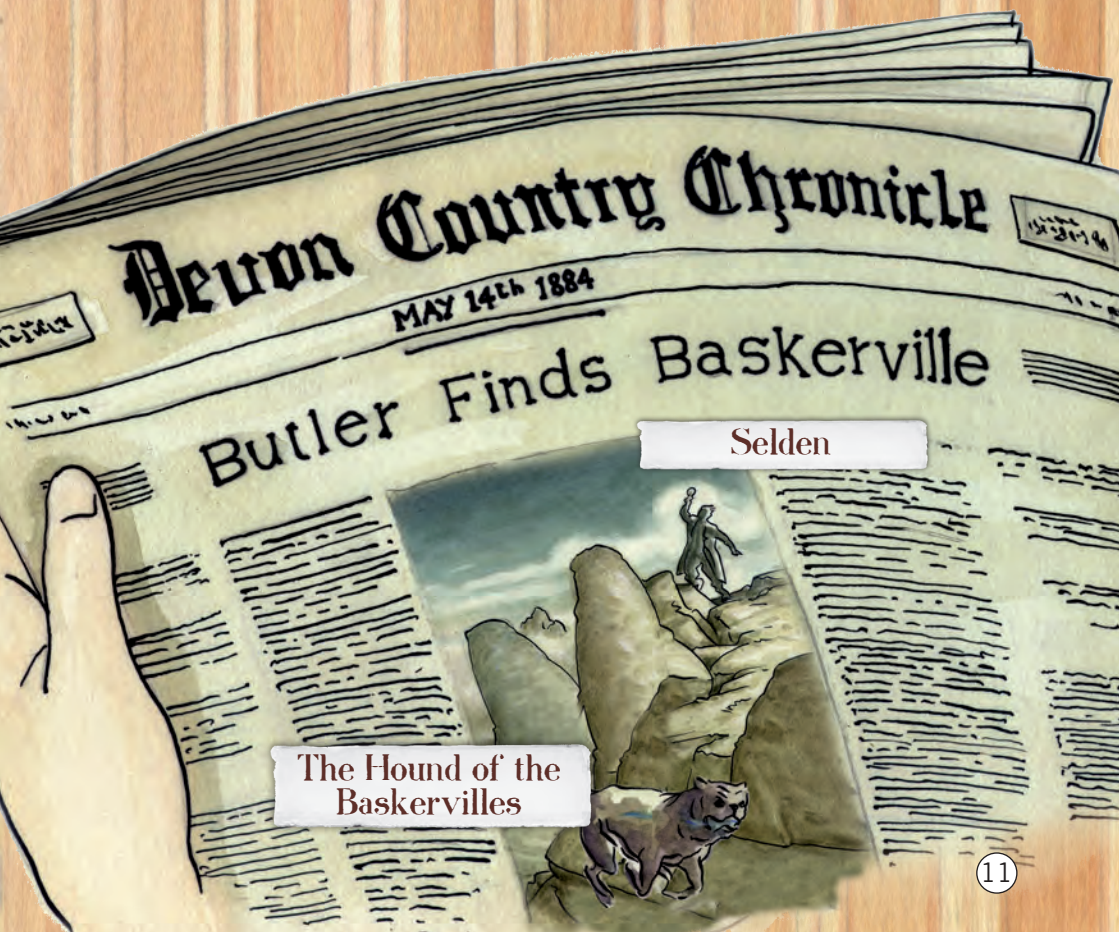
Barrymore



Mrs Barrymore



Beryl Stapleton




Selden

The Hound of the Baskervilles

## BEFORE READING

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1  What kind of story do you think Hound of the Baskervilles is? Why? Ask and answer with a partner.


- a  Love
- b  Detective
- c  Science-fiction
- d  Historical



2 How much do you know about the famous detective Sherlock Holmes? Do you know other Sherlock Holmes stories? Some of the stories are films or TV programmes, too. Which stories do you know? Say in your own words what happens.

3 Who or what are “the Baskervilles”? Tick (✓).

- a  A football team
- b  A family
- c  A place

4  What does a detective do? In groups, brainstorm words and phrases, then share with the class.





**5 Put the words in the sentences in the right order to find information about Sherlock Holmes.**

**a** Baker He lives Dr at 221B Watson with his Street friend.  
.....

**b** smokes Holmes a Sherlock pipe often.  
.....

**c** playing Sherlock enjoys the Holmes violin.  
.....

**d** London Sherlock lives in the Holmes 1890s in.  
.....

**6 Match the sentences in Exercise 5 with the pictures below.**

**a**

**b**

**c**

**d**










## MR SHERLOCK HOLMES, DETECTIVE

 I am Dr Watson, and I am a friend of the famous detective• Mr Sherlock Holmes. We are eating breakfast in our rooms at 221B Baker Street. Suddenly there is a knock• at the door.

‘Come in!’ calls Holmes.

Our visitor is a country doctor called Dr Mortimer. He is a very tall, thin man with glasses.

‘I came to you, Mr Holmes,’ says Dr Mortimer, ‘because I have a serious problem.’

‘Dr Mortimer, this is my friend Dr Watson. Please, tell us your problem,’ says Holmes.

Dr Mortimer takes an old yellow paper from his pocket. ‘My friend Sir Charles Baskerville died• suddenly three months ago. He gave• me this paper,’ he explains. ‘It is a legend of the Baskerville family.’

‘Why do you need my help?’ asks Holmes.

‘First,’ says Dr Mortimer, ‘I must read this story to you.’

### GLOSSARY

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- **detective:** policeman or woman
- **died:** (past simple) die; stop living
- **gave:** (past simple) give
- **knock:** sound when you hit a door, etc.

Dr Mortimer reads:

'The story of the Hound of the Baskervilles.

Baskerville Hall, 1742.

Sir Hugo Baskerville is lord of the manor of Baskerville. He is a cruel man. Hugo falls in love with the daughter of a local farmer. But she does not want to marry him. So Hugo, with five or six of his friends, kidnaps the girl, and takes her to Baskerville Hall. But the girl escapes and runs across the moor as fast as possible. Hugo is very angry. He follows her over the moor with his horses and hounds in the moonlight. His friends follow on their horses. Suddenly they see Hugo's horse, but Hugo is not on it. They stop and by the light of the moon they see the young woman, lying dead. Next to her, lies the dead body of Hugo. A horrible, black animal is standing over him. It is like a hound, but much, much bigger. And as they watch, it bites a hole in Hugo Baskerville's throat. There is blood everywhere. Hugo's friends scream and ride away on their horses across the moor. One of them dies that night from the shock. The others are never the same again.

'This is the story of the Hound of the Baskervilles. Many family members die of sudden and strange deaths. So my children, remember this: never, never go across the moor at night.'

Sherlock Holmes yawns as Dr Mortimer finishes reading. 'Is this a fairy tale?' he asks.

## GLOSSARY

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- **bites:** cuts with its teeth
- **follows:** goes after
- **kidnaps:** takes a person using force
- **manor:** large house
- **moor:** wide space of land
- **scream:** shout from fear
- **yawns:** opens his mouth (usually when tired or bored)



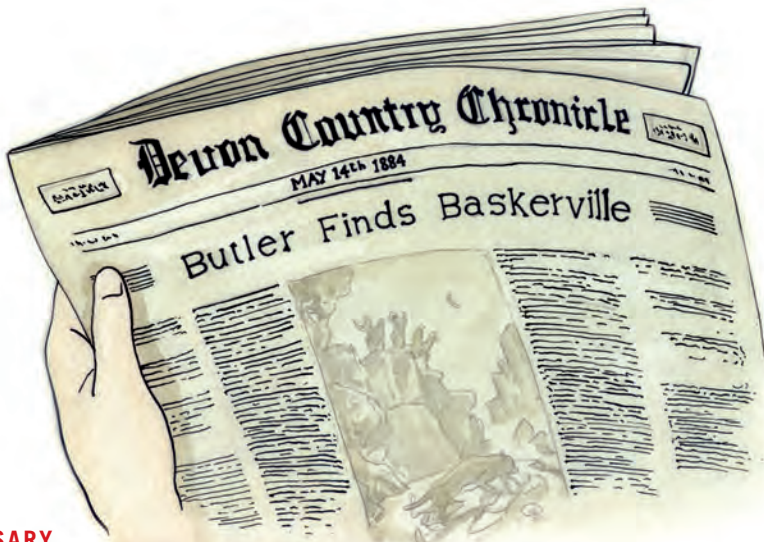


Dr Mortimer shows Holmes a newspaper. ‘Now, Mr Holmes. This newspaper is the Devon Country Chronicle of May 14th. It has a short report of the death of Sir Charles Baskerville.’

He reads: ‘On the night of the 4th of May, Sir Charles Baskerville goes out for a walk as usual. But he does not return. At twelve o’clock his butler Barrymore goes to look for Sir Charles. Barrymore finds the dead body of Sir Charles near a small gate which opens onto the moor. There are no signs of violence. Sir Charles’s closest relative is Mr Henry Baskerville, the son of Sir Charles Baskerville’s younger brother. Sir Henry lives in America.’

‘Thank you,’ says Sherlock Holmes. ‘Is that all?’

Dr Mortimer looks worried. ‘Listen, Mr Holmes. I have got a secret that nobody else knows.’



## GLOSSARY

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- **butler:** man servant
- **dead:** not alive
- **death:** end of someone’s life
- **relative:** family member
- **report:** (here) story
- **secret:** something nobody knows
- **signs:** marks
- **worried:** anxious and afraid



# SECRETS

Have you got any secrets?  
Do you know any secrets?  
Can you keep secrets?

‘Sir Charles was my friend, and he was very worried about the Hound of the Baskervilles. He was afraid to walk on the moor at night. He was sure there were strange noises on the moor at night.’

‘When Barrymore the butler finds Sir Charles’s body he calls me to Baskerville Hall. There are footprints on Sir Charles’s body.’

‘A man’s or a woman’s?’ asks Holmes.

Dr Mortimer looks strangely at us, and he answers:

‘Mr Holmes, they are the footprints of a giant hound!’



- **footprints:** marks left by a foot
- **giant:** very big

- **was:** (past simple) be
- **were:** (past simple) be


## AFTER READING VOCABULARY

### EXCLAMATIONS

"It is not Sir Henry **why**, it is the escaped prisoner, Selden!"

Stapleton looks at Holmes. **Why**, it is Mr Sherlock Holmes, the famous detective!

Look at the two examples from the text. Here **why** is used as an exclamation, NOT in a question. In both examples it expresses surprise, but it can also mean impatience.

 Find other exclamations in the text, say what they mean and practise them aloud with a partner.

#### 1 Match the adjectives in A with their opposites in B.

A	B
small    dead    silent	alive    large    noisy
dangerous    huge	safe    cheerful
weak    hard    sad	strong    tiny    soft

#### 2 Now complete the sentences below with the best adjective from B.

- a Baskerville Hall is a ..... country estate.
- b The cab disappears into the ..... London traffic.
- c The escaped prisoner looks for a ..... place to hide.
- d The mud in the moor is ..... wet earth.
- e Lestrade thinks that the moor is not a very ..... place.
- f Stapleton knows that Sir Charles's heart is not very .....
- g Miss Stapleton is tied up in a bedroom, but thankfully she is still .....
- h Butterflies are ..... animals.



## K A2 Key English Test Reading and Writing Part 4

1 Read the summary from the book. Choose the best word (A, B or C) for each space.

Sherlock Holmes and his assistant Dr Watson are waiting (1) ..... Dr Mortimer. Dr. Mortimer tells them the story of how Sir Charles Baskerville (2) ..... of a heart attack. He also tells them about the (3) ..... of the giant hound. Sherlock Holmes wants to investigate the (4) ..... but does not go to Baskerville Hall. He sends Dr Watson (5) ..... Sherlock Holmes asks Dr Watson to send him reports with facts (6) ..... the Baskerville case. When Sherlock Holmes decides to go to Devon, everyone thinks he (7) ..... in London. The detective soon (8) ..... to suspect Stapleton and discovers that he is one of the Baskerville family. Sherlock Holmes realizes that Stapleton has a plan to kill Sir Henry and decides to hide behind some rocks to protect him on his (9) ..... home. When the (10) ... appears, Holmes shoots it and discovers the murderer at last.

- |    |          |           |            |
|----|----------|-----------|------------|
| 1  | A for    | B with    | C at       |
| 2  | A is     | B dies    | C has      |
| 3  | A letter | B case    | C legend   |
| 4  | A case   | B story   | C murderer |
| 5  | A too    | B instead | C reports  |
| 6  | A about  | B around  | C with     |
| 7  | A be     | B hides   | C is       |
| 8  | A thinks | B begins  | C tries    |
| 9  | A travel | B way     | C place    |
| 10 | A gun    | B hound   | C prisoner |