

## Characters

### THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES

- a Sherlock Holmes story

**Sherlock Holmes:** the ultimate sleuth, whose razor-sharp brain is always at work. Holmes describes himself as the world's only consulting detective, and has developed the science of deduction to an extraordinary degree. He is tall and thin, with dark hair and eyebrows, grey eyes, thin lips and a thin, hawk-like nose. He is dedicated to his work, but does allow himself certain leisure pursuits. These include playing the violin and smoking pipes of shag tobacco. He was once addicted to cocaine, but later broke the habit thanks to the good advice of his friend Doctor Watson. He is the world's greatest fictional detective, and is also quite possibly the best-known fictional character in English literature.

**Dr. John Watson:** Holmes's trusty friend. Army Doctor and veteran of the war in Afghanistan. Doctor Watson is well known as the biographer of his best friend, the celebrated detective Sherlock Holmes. Watson is a "middle-sized, strongly-built man" possessing a square jaw, a thick neck and a modest moustache.

**Mrs Hudson:** Landlady to Sherlock Holmes and Doctor Watson throughout the adventures of Sherlock Holmes. She has a lot to put up with from her unusual tenant (Holmes keeps unusual hours and does chemical experiments on her premises) but she is fond of Holmes and stands in the deepest awe of him. As well she might – he pays her a "princely" rent. In *A Study in Scarlet*, Watson claims that Mrs Hudson has a "stately tread".

**Sir Henry Baskerville:** (30) Nephew and heir of Sir Charles Baskerville. Canadian. Alert, sincere and enterprising.

**Dr. James Mortimer:** (50s/60s) Friend and doctor to Sir Charles Baskerville. A competent country doctor who was made the executor of Sir Charles' will. Reliable, concerned guide to Watson.

**Mr. Barrymore:** (50s/60s) The Baskerville's butler, part of a husband and wife team. The loyal domestic help of the Baskerville clan serves as a kind of red herring for the detectives, in league with their convict brother but ultimately no more suspicious than Sir Henry.

**Mrs. Barrymore:** (50s/60s) The Baskerville's maid, part of a husband and wife team. Earnest, portly and eager to please.

**Jack Stapleton:** (40s) A neighbour and butterfly collector. A bookish former schoolmaster, Stapleton chases butterflies on the moors and pursues antiquarian interests. Outwardly a polite gentleman, he inwardly possesses a hot temper which reveals itself at key moments. It transpires that Stapleton—in reality a long-lost relative of Sir Henry's who stands to inherit the Baskerville fortune—is a scheming, manipulative and money-hungry criminal that Holmes and Watson come to respect and fear.

**Beryl Stapleton:** (30s) Allegedly Stapleton's sister, this beauty turns out to be his wife. Eager to prevent another death but terrified of her violent spouse; she provides enigmatic warnings to Sir Henry and Watson.

**Seldon:** (50s) An escaped killer.

**Train guard:** One of the salt-of-the-earth men of Victorian England, who ensure that the trains run on time.