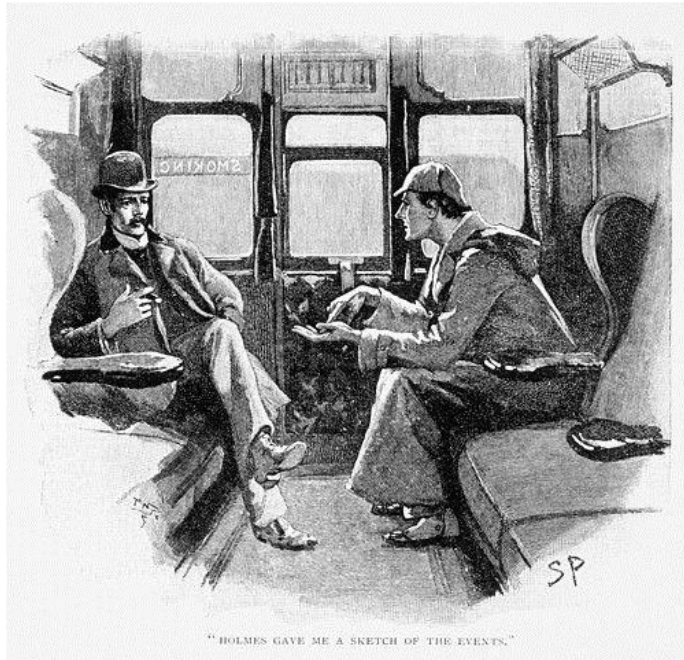


Sherlock Syllabus



"A yellow fog swirls past the window-pane
As night descends upon this fabled street:
A lonely hansom splashes through the rain,
The ghostly gas lamps fail at twenty feet.
Here, though the world explode, these two survive,
And it is always eighteen ninety-five."

— from "221b" by Vincent Starrett

The world of Arthur Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes, for all its malice and criminal mischief, is also a world of comfort for his readers. The greatest detective, the most faithful sidekick, the most nefarious criminals all face off in a

gaslit Victorian world of hansom cabs, telegrams, steam trains and street children. Of all Doyle's literary creations, his Sherlock Holmes stories are his longest lasting success. We'll read two of his four Sherlockian novellas, *The Sign of the Four* (or *The Sign of Four*, as it is sometimes published) and *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, as well as a selection of stories. We'll also take a look at Edgar Allan Poe's first detective story, "The Murders in the Rue Morgue," written and first published in Philadelphia, to ascertain the influence it had on Doyle's iconic detective. Finally, we'll take an in-depth look at the items in our current exhibition, *Clever Criminals and Daring Detectives*. Put on your deerstalker, the game's afoot!

Week 1 April 9

The Sign of the Four

Week 2 Apr 23

Sherlock Holmes stories:

"A Scandal in Bohemia"

"The Man with the Twisted Lip"

"The Speckled Band"

"The Final Problem"

"The Empty House"

Week 3 Apr 30

The Hound of the Baskervilles

Week 4 May 7

"Murders in the Rue Morgue" by Poe
more Sherlock stories TBD

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