

## THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (adapted)



5 The September sun was shining brightly into the windows of 221B Baker Street, and London was enjoying a beautiful late summer. I had finished my breakfast and I was reading the newspaper. As usual, Holmes had got up late, and was still eating. We were expecting a visitor at half-past ten. Holmes was reading a letter he had received three days ago. It was from Dr James Mortimer, who asked for an appointment with Holmes.

At exactly half-past ten there was a knock on our front door. We stood up as our visitor was brought into the room.

10 “Good morning, gentlemen,” he said. “I’m Dr James Mortimer, and I think you must be Mr Sherlock Holmes.” “How do you do, Dr Mortimer?” said Holmes, “May I introduce my good friend, Dr John Watson, who helps me with **the cases**.”

Dr Mortimer turned to me and shook hands. He was very tall and thin. He had a long thin nose. His grey eyes were bright, and he wore gold glasses. His coat and trousers were old and worn. His face was young, but his shoulders were **bent** like an old man’s and his head was pushed forward.

15 “Mr Holmes, I need your help and advice. The story is about the Baskerville family. I think that something terrible is going to happen in the next twenty-four hours. But you can’t help me unless you know the story.”

20 Mortimer began to read the Baskerville papers : a hundred years ago, the head of the Baskerville family was Sir Hugo Baskerville. He was cruel and enjoyed hurting people. Sir Hugo fell in love with the daughter of a farmer. The young woman was afraid of the evil Hugo, and avoided him. One day, he rode to her father’s farm with five or six of his friends. They made the girl go back to Baskerville Hall with them, and locked her in a room upstairs. She was very frightened and felt desperate. She opened the window, climbed out of the room and down **the ivy** on the wall. Then she started to run across **the moor** towards her home.

25 When Sir Hugo found an empty room, he ran from the house, unlocked **the hounds** and jumped on to his black horse. Hugo’s friends followed him. After a mile, they asked an old farmer if he had seen Sir Hugo and the hounds. He said that he had seen the girl and the hounds running behind her, Sir Hugo had been riding behind the hounds. “But I have seen more than that,” the old man said.” Behind Sir Hugo I saw a huge and terrible hound running silently.

30 Hugo’s friends laughed at the old man and rode on. They stopped in a valley. The moon was shining brightly on the great stones, and between them, lay the girl. She had fallen there, dead of fear and exhaustion. Sir Hugo’s body was lying near her. A huge animal was standing over Sir Hugo. Its teeth were at his throat. Its eyes were burning brightly. Its body shone with a strange light. Blood ran from its mouth.

35 The men screamed and rode back up the valley as fast as they could. Later that night one died from the horror he had seen. The other two were mad for the rest of their lives.

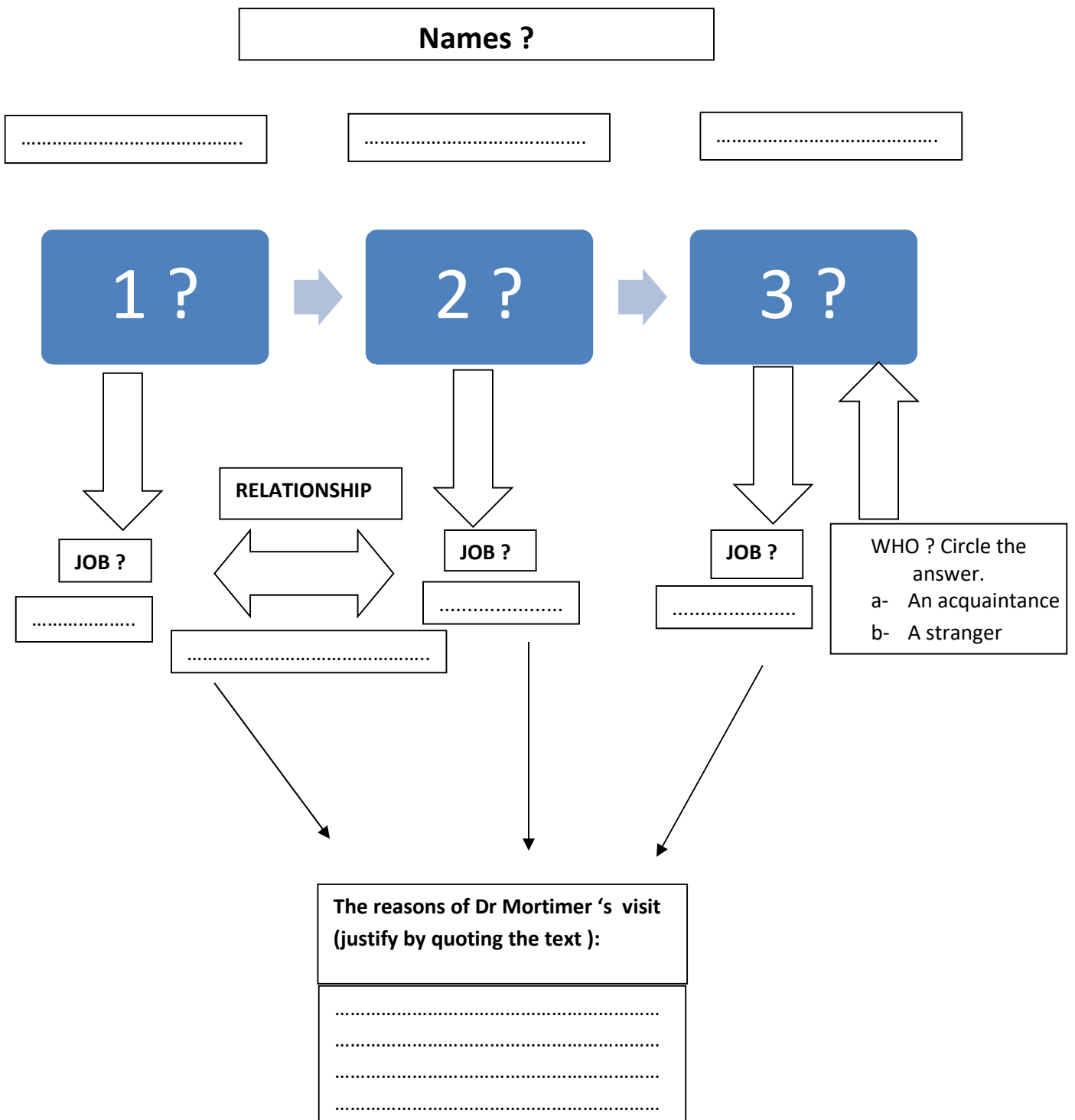
Words box :

The cases : les affaires criminelles ; Bent : courbées ; The ivy : le lierre ; The moor : la lande ; A hound : un chien de chasse

COMPREHENSION ECRITE

1) Fill in the missing information :

The characters at 221B Baker Street ( lines 1 to 16 ) :





2) Who could be Dr Mortimer ? Choose a picture and justify by quoting the text

3) Correct the mistakes in the sentences about Sir Hugo Baskerville ( lines 17 to 23 ) :

- a) Sir Hugo Baskerville was the son of a farmer.
- b) Sir Hugo was a very good and kind man.
- c) He was in love with a girl who loved her too.
- d) He invited her for dinner and they drank together.
- e) The young girl couldn't escape Baskerville Hall.

f) Reorder the pictures in the correct in order to find the story (lines 23 to 35) :

**Discriminated competence : match the sentences and the pictures :**

- a) When Sir Hugo found an empty room, he ran from the house and jumped on his horse.
- b) Hugo's friends followed him.
- c) They asked an old farmer if he had seen Sir Hugo.
- d) He said : " Behind Sir Hugo I saw a huge and terrible hound running silently".
- e) The moon was shining brightly.
- f) The girl was dead of fear and exhaustion.
- g) Sir Hugo's body was lying near her.
- h) The animal's eyes were burning brightly.



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Discriminated competence :

**Fill in the gaps using the words below :**

Wild enormous dog exciting adventures place wet lands detective rocks

The Hound of the Baskerville is perhaps the most famous ..... story in the world. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle created Sherlock Holmes more than 100 years ago, but his ..... still seem ..... today.

Dartmoor is a real ..... In the South West of England. It is a ..... place of ..... and ..... And it is the place where there was the most ..... - The Hound of the Baskerville.