Before Reading

BEFORE READING ACTIVITIES (PAGE 92)

ACTIVITY 1 BEFORE READING

Dartmoor is a real place in England. It is easy to lose your way on this wild, wet moor, and there are dangerous marshes covered in green plants, which hide the soft earth underneath. The weather can change very suddenly, from a clear sky to a thick mist. Once, a huge hound lived there – a dog from hell, that brought a horrible death to all who saw it. Only the great detective, Sherlock Holmes, could solve the mystery of this hound.

ACTIVITY 2 BEFORE READING

Encourage students to guess, but do not tell them if their guesses are right. They will find out as they read that the answers are 1a, 1d, 2a, 2b and 3a.

While Reading

Encourage students, throughout the reading of this classic detective story, to decide what are facts, for which there is proof that cannot be argued about, and what is supposition, which might or might not turn out to be true.

CHAPTERS 1 TO 4 WHILE READING

1 A guess. The official report said there was ‘no question of murder’, but there are a number of strange facts which make murder a possibility.
2 A fact. The change in his footprints – from the whole foot to the toe – is the proof for this.
3 A fact, proved by his cigar ash on the ground by the gate.
4 A guess. We don’t know yet if this is true or not.
5 A fact. Dr Mortimer saw its footprints on the path.
6 A fact. He was known to have a weak heart, and there were no marks on the body to suggest murder.
7 A guess. It is quite possible that it was fear that caused Sir Henry to run, and the footprints prove that there was a dog there, but the two things are not necessarily connected.

CHAPTERS 5 TO 8 WHILE READING

1 One of his new shoes was stolen; he received a warning letter from an unknown person; he was followed by a man with a large black beard; a second, old shoe was stolen; and the new shoe re-appeared in his hotel room.
2 Sir Charles Baskerville, who had died at Baskerville Hall three months before, and Roger Baskerville, a criminal, who had gone to South America and died of a fever.
3 He was a dangerous criminal, a murderer, who had escaped from prison and was somewhere on the moor.
4 Because Barrymore had said that it wasn’t his wife crying in the night, Dr Watson could see from Mrs Barrymore’s face that she had been crying.
5 Because the boy from Grimpen post office had given the telegram to Mrs Barrymore, and not to Barrymore himself. Mrs Barrymore said that her husband was on the roof, but perhaps she was lying and in fact Barrymore was in London, following Sir Henry.
6 Dr Watson heard a strange, low cry coming over the moor; and Miss Stapleton, thinking Dr Watson was Sir Henry, warned him that his life was in danger on the moor and that he should return to London immediately.

BEFORE READING CHAPTER 9

Encourage students to discuss the evidence and clues so far, but do not confirm if their guesses are correct. Reasons for agreeing or disagreeing might be these:

1 Dr Watson has heard a cry which might be that of a hound.
2 It is more probable that a person wants to kill Sir Henry, but a hound – if there is a hound – might have a part to play in this.
3 We know that Barrymore is hiding something because he lied about his wife’s crying, but that might not have anything to do with Sir Henry.
4 We don’t know enough about them yet. Stapleton seems to be just a friendly neighbour, but why does Miss Stapleton send a warning to Sir Henry, and lie to her brother?

CHAPTERS 9 TO 11 WHILE READING

1 Sir Henry had fallen in love with Miss Stapleton.
2 Selden was Mrs Barrymore’s brother, and Barrymore had been leaving food and clothes for him on the moor. Selden was planning to catch a boat for South America in a few days’ time.
3 On the night he died, Sir Charles was waiting for a woman, Mrs Laura Lyons, who had written to him, asking him to meet her at ten o’clock.
4 According to Selden, he looked like a gentleman, and was living in an old stone hut on the moor. A boy brought him all the food and things he needed.
5 She arranged to meet Sir Charles in order to ask him for money to pay for her divorce (he had given her money before to help start her typewriting business) but she didn’t go to the meeting because she got help from someone else.

BEFORE READING CHAPTER 12

It is, of course, Sherlock Holmes himself.

CHAPTERS 12 TO 14 WHILE READING

Dr Watson learnt from Holmes that Miss Stapleton was not Stapleton's sister, but his wife. Stapleton was also very friendly with Laura Lyons, who hoped to marry him. Holmes planned to tell Laura Lyons that Stapleton was married, in the hope that she would help them.

When Holmes and Watson found the body on the moor, at first they thought it was Sir Henry. Then they realized that it was Selden, wearing Sir Henry’s clothes, which had been given to him by Barrymore.

The hound had been hunting Selden because of the scent on Sir Henry's clothes. Then Stapleton arrived, and was clearly disappointed that the dead man was not Sir Henry.

CHAPTERS 15 AND 16 WHILE READING

1 Holmes to Watson, about the picture of Sir Hugo Baskerville, when Holmes covered the hat and the hair with his hands.

2 Sir Henry to Holmes, about walking alone across the moor at night.

3 Laura Lyons to Holmes, about Stapleton and the letter she had written to Sir Charles.

4 Holmes to Watson, about the Stapletons and Sir Henry in Stapleton's house.

5 Holmes to Watson, about the fog which was creeping up to cover the path Sir Henry would take.

6 Holmes to Watson, about the hound, which was about to run out of the fog towards them.

BEFORE READING CHAPTER 17

Encourage students to guess, but do not confirm their guesses (numbers 2 and 4 are correct).

CHAPTERS 17 AND 18 WHILE READING

1 Because he was the son of Roger Baskerville (the younger brother of Sir Charles), and if both Sir Charles and Sir Henry were dead, he would inherit the Baskerville title, fortune, and land.

2 The phosphorus made the dog shine in the dark, and look like the supernatural hell-hound in the story. He used Sir Henry’s old shoe to give the hound Sir Henry’s scent (and put the new shoe back because it had no scent on it).

3 He made his wife pretend to be his sister, because he thought she would be more useful to him as a free woman. He made Laura Lyons arrange a meeting with Sir Charles outside the Hall at night, so that he could take the hound there and frighten Sir Charles to death.

4 He tried to escape across the Great Grimpen Marsh but lost his way and sank in the marsh. His body was not found.

After Reading

ACTIVITY 1 AFTER READING

1+14   2+17   3+12   4+21   5+16   6+22   7+13   8+18
9+15   10+20   11+19

Dear Holmes,

We arrived late yesterday evening at Baskerville Hall, which is a most grim, unwelcoming building. On the drive from the station we heard about the escape of a prisoner, whose name is Selden – you’ll remember the case. At the Hall we were met by the butler, Barrymore, who has a black beard just like the man in the taxi. So I decided to check at the local post office that your telegram had been given to Barrymore himself. It hadn’t. The stupid boy had given it to Barrymore’s wife, so perhaps the man in the taxi was Barrymore after all.

Another thing – I heard a woman crying in the night, and this morning we asked Barrymore to explain this. Barrymore lied when he said that it wasn’t his wife, because she clearly had been crying – I saw her red eyes!

Today I met the Stapletons, a brother and sister, who have been living near the Hall for two years. There was nothing very strange about Stapleton himself, but his sister warned me that Sir Henry was in danger. And the last thing – while I was talking to Stapleton, I heard a strange, deep cry coming over the moor. Stapleton told me it was the Hound of the Baskervilles, but I know you won’t believe that, my dear Holmes!

Regards, Watson

ACTIVITY 2 AFTER READING

Acceptable answers are any suitable words that fit both the meaning and the grammar of the passage. Some alternatives are given below, but more may be possible.

MISS STAPLETON’S DIARY: written on the day when Stapleton tried to murder Sir Henry on his way home after dinner

How can I prevent him from killing (murdering) poor Sir Henry? He has already brought that horrible hound to the hut beside (by) the house, and put the phosphorus paint on it, ready for tonight. It has had nothing to eat, so it will be very hungry. It will tear Sir Henry’s throat out . . . What can I do? I am sure he will beat me again, but I’m going to argue with him one last time . . .

LAURA LYONS’ DIARY: written just after Sherlock Holmes and Watson had been to see her

I have just learnt that he is a married man. The
woman who calls herself his sister is in fact his wife. At first I couldn’t believe it, but then Sherlock Holmes showed me some (the) papers which proved it. How unlucky I am – I never seem to choose the right man. I thought this man loved me, but he has lied to me, again and again. And he is suspected (accused) of murdering poor Sir Charles, who was so kind to me. Well, I have told his secrets now, and I hope he will be punished.

**ACTIVITY 3 AFTER READING**

Barrymore and wife:
1. both inherited £500 from Sir Charles
2. easy life when living alone at the Hall

Mr Stapleton:
3. looks very like Sir Hugo – must be a Baskerville?
4. would inherit Baskerville fortune before James
5. Desmond
6. Miss Stapleton:
7. wife, but pretends to be sister
8. trying to prevent Stapleton killing Sir Henry?
9. Laura Lyons:
10. in love with and hopes to marry Stapleton
11. helped Stapleton to kill Sir Charles?

**ACTIVITY 4 AFTER READING**

Students can complete these how they like. Possible answers might be:
1. The warning letter sent to Sir Henry in London smelt of perfume, so it probably came from a woman.
2. Two of Sir Henry’s shoes were stolen from the hotel, but the new, unworn one was put back because it had no smell, and Sir Henry’s scent was needed for the dog to follow.
3. When the stolen shoes were changed, I knew that the hound was a real creature, and not a supernatural one.
4. The man following Sir Henry in London had a thick black beard. A beard makes someone very recognizable, so it was probably a false one.
5. I shall go down to the moor and hide somewhere, in order to make sure that Watson and Sir Henry are safe. I shan’t tell Watson about this plan because he would want to bring me food and news, and so the enemy would guess I was here.
6. Stapleton used to live in the north of England, but before that he came from South America, where Roger Baskerville had been living.
7. There is no proof for either the murder or the attempted murder, so I shall have to try and trap him, although this will be dangerous for Sir Henry.

**ACTIVITY 5 AFTER READING**

Open answers.

**ACTIVITY 6 AFTER READING**

Open answer. Encourage students to think of imaginative ways in which Stapleton could plan to get round these difficulties.