

SHERLOCK STORIES: Seminar Presentations

Your group's seminar presentation should be a coherent discussion that helps your classmates *appreciate* your chosen Sherlock story. Provide an extensive handout in note format, which will serve as a kind of "mini-Cliff Note," giving information needed for a thorough understanding of the story. Include all the topics on this assignment sheet in reproducible form (typed or printed in black ink). The very best handouts will be more than thorough -- perhaps even provocative. Your presentation should take from 20 to 30 minutes, but it should not be a mechanical rendering of information already on the handout. (*Remember that as teachers, you will also be expected to evaluate your lesson and assess your classmates' learning!*)

1. **Summary:** Do not tell everything, but rather prepare a seductive and intriguing teaser for the story. You could treat this as a trailer for the mystery.
2. **The Doyle Canon:** Is this work typical? Are the themes in your story consistent with themes in other works by Doyle? Sift through your information, interpreting and emphasizing what is truly relevant. Show us the connections.
3. **Technical Details about the Short Story:**
 - A. **Setting:** Describe the *setting*, as to both time and place. Is the setting *integral* to the story or *independent*? Analyze whether a change in setting would significantly alter the story.
 - B. **Major Characters:** List and analyze the major characters. Discuss *dominant traits* and *significant actions*. Are they *flat* or *round*, *static* or *dynamic*? Examine whether character is revealed *directly* or *indirectly*. Explore character relationships. Identify *protagonist* and *antagonist*. Note any *foils* or *doubles*.
 - C. **Minor Characters:** List and analyze the minor characters. Talk the talk necessary for analysis. Explore character relationships. What function do minor characters serve?
 - D. **Point of View:** How does Watson's narration influence the reader?
 - E. **Plot Structure:** List and analyze the elements of plot (*narrative hook*, *exposition*, *rising action*, *climax* or *turning point*, *falling action*, and *resolution*). Does the story fit Freytag's pyramid, or is it organized differently? Are the conflicts *internal* or *external*? Specifically, who vs. whom? Are the conflicts resolved?
 - E. **Theme:** List several possible themes offered by your story rather than committing your group to one and one alone. Indicate whether theme is *stated* or *implied*. Remember theme must be a statement; no questions allowed!
4. **The Clues:** List the most important clues in order.
5. **Significant Quotations:** Cite sentences and/or passages which seem significant or which illustrate Doyle's *style*. Include the page number and be prepared to discuss what each quotation means, why you chose it, and how it is important to the story. Remember that *dialogue* and *quotation* are not the same thing.
6. **Special Topics:** What special line of inquiry interests your group? You might consider additional technical aspects, such as *irony*, *satire*, *figurative language*, or *symbolism*. Does this story take a stand about family relationships, sexual attitudes, racial discrimination, economics, politics, or religion? Might the *Seven Deadly Sins* or the *Seven Cardinal Virtues* be relevant? Or a discussion of *sins of omission* vs. *sins of commission*?

You could discuss plot patterns, such as *rite of passage*, *initiation*, *fall from innocence*, or *quest*. Or examine *motifs*, such as death and rebirth or cycles of nature. You might apply *Northrop Frye's heroic types* or *Joseph Campbell's plot paradigm*. Or Sigmund Freud's *id*, *ego*, and *superego*? Or Carl Jung's *archetypes*? Perhaps there are contrasts that produce tension within the story: Reason vs. Emotion, Knowledge vs. Ignorance, Realism vs. Romanticism, Civilization vs. Savagery, Age vs. Youth, Male vs. Female? And on and on and on...

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Students _____ Block _____ Date _____

Short Story _____

Handout (_____ pages)

- _____ 1. Summary (5)
- _____ 2. The Doyle Canon (5)
- _____ 3. Setting (10)
- _____ 4. Major Characters (10)
- _____ 5. Minor Characters (10)
- _____ 6. Point of View (10)
- _____ 7. Plot Structure (10)
- _____ 8. Theme (10)
- _____ 9. The Clues (10)
- _____ 10. Quotes (10)
- Special Topic: (10)

POINTS POSSIBLE (100)

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Oral Presentation

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- _____ 1. Lesson Plan & Organization (10)
- _____ 2. Speaking Voice(s) (10)
- _____ 3. Teaches Story (15)
- _____ 4. Knowledge of Story (30)
- _____ 5. Answering Questions (10)
- _____ 6. Your Turn to Grade: (25)

POINTS POSSIBLE (100)

- _____ Handout On Time
- _____ Reproducible
- _____ Note Format
- _____ Spelling OK
- _____ Punctuation OK

Oral Presentation _____ points

+ **Handout** _____ points

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TOTAL _____ points

Letter Grade _____ %

Comments: _____
