

ghost
writer™



FUN

AND



PUZZLES

DONNA'S JOURNAL



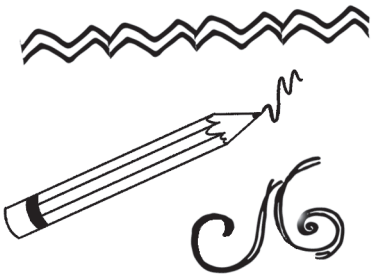
Fun Facts about Sherlock Holmes...
and Dr. Watson too!

Sherlock Holmes, who some think of as the world's greatest fictional detective, was created by Scottish author Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. In the original stories, Sherlock Holmes was a man, but in this book, Sherlock is a woman—and so is Dr. Watson. Two ladies teaming up to solve mysteries is a supercool twist!

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle worked as an eye doctor, but because he didn't have many patients, he wrote a ton of stories in his free time.



The character Sherlock Holmes was inspired by a doctor named Joseph Bell. Bell was famous for his amazing powers of observation. One look at the blisters on a man's hand and he'd know the kind of work he did. Conan Doyle created a detective who, just like Bell, used little observations to solve big mysteries.



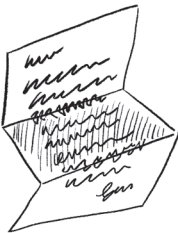


In the stories, Sherlock Holmes lives at 221B Baker Street in London, England. If you travel there today, you can visit the Sherlock Holmes Museum. Every day, mail gets delivered there for the great detective, asking for help on cases. Which reminds me: I haven't seen my sequined cardigan for a few weeks. Maybe I should write a letter...

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle had tons of famous friends. He hung out with Harry Houdini (magician), J. M. Barrie (author of *Peter Pan*), Bram Stoker (author of *Dracula*), and Robert Louis Stevenson (author of *Treasure Island*).



Have you ever heard the famous quote "Elementary, my dear Watson"? Everyone thinks Sherlock Holmes said it, but they're wrong. Holmes did say "Elementary" and he did say "my dear Watson," but he said them at different times—never together. I'd hate someone mixing up my words more than a hundred years later!



Ruben Sees All



In another famous story, *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, Sherlock Holmes said, “The world is full of obvious things which nobody by any chance ever observes.”

A good detective notices the tiniest details about objects, places, and people.

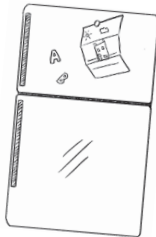
How do you think your observation skills stack up?

Don't move from where you're sitting now and don't flip the book over or turn the pages. Now see if you can answer these questions:

- What color is the title on the front cover of this book?
- Does your refrigerator open from the left or the right?
- What color eyes does your best friend have?
- How many dresser drawers are in the room where you sleep?

- How many people are pictured on the front cover of this book?
- How many dogs live on your block or in your apartment building?
- How many stories are in this book?
- How does the letter at the beginning of the book begin?
Dear _____?

How'd you do? Are you ready to join Shirl and Watson on their next adventure?



Chevon Deduces Definitions



Ruben, Donna, Curtis, and I are trying to figure out who the ghost is that has been haunting the bookshop. I'm not saying Shirl and Watson's cases aren't tricky, but they never had to chase down clues from characters who magically appear out of the pages of books!

Detectives use a lot of specific words. Can you match the word with the correct definition?

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| 1. motive | a. object or piece of information that helps solve a mystery |
| 2. witness | b. using logical reasoning to figure out information |
| 3. sleuth | c. object or fact that proves something really happened or is true |
| 4. deduce | d. reason someone does something or acts in a certain way |
| 5. evidence | e. person who might've committed the crime |
| 6. clue | f. another name for a detective |
| 7. suspect | g. someone who saw the crime being committed and can give some information |

Answers on page 116.

Ruben's Reading List



If you like mysteries, here's a list of books you might enjoy. (Okay, okay, I'm going to fess up. My grandpa helped me with this list. He owns Village Books, and he's a total book expert.)

- *The Parker Inheritance* by Varian Johnson
- *Three Times Lucky* by Sheila Turnage
- *Chasing Vermeer* by Blue Balliett
- *From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler*
by E. L. Konigsburg
- *Me, Frida, and the Secret of the Peacock Ring*
by Angela Cervantes
- *A Properly Unhaunted Place* by William Alexander
- *Case Closed: Mystery in the Mansion* by Lauren
Magaziner
- *Platypus Police Squad* series by Jarrett J. Krosoczka
- The Enola Holmes Mysteries series by Nancy Springer
- The Great Shelby Holmes series by Elizabeth Eulberg

Curtis Clues In



Sir Arthur Doyle dreamed up tons of detective techniques to use in his stories before they were ever used by police in real life. Check it out: Sherlock Holmes used fingerprints to solve a case in 1890, and the first recorded case of the police using fingerprints was in Argentina in 1892! The guy was way ahead of his time.

Here are some fingerprint facts:

- Fingerprints are the most commonly used evidence—or proof—in criminal cases.
- No two people have the exact same fingerprint—not even identical twins!
- Your fingerprint pattern stays the same throughout your entire life. But the print can change because of scars.

Fingerprints are divided into three ridge patterns:

Loop



Whorl



Arch



Examine Your Fingerprints

Color the tip of your right pointer finger with a dark-colored washable marker. Then press your finger onto a piece of plain paper. Make sure to roll your finger to get a good print!

What kind of patterns do you have? Did you know that loops make up 60 percent of all fingerprint patterns, while 35 percent are whorls and 5 percent are arches?

If you want, try using a different color marker for each of your fingers. You can even make a fingerprint card for every member of your family and your friends.

Dusting for Prints

Detectives look for fingerprints to help solve mysteries. If someone had dirty fingers, the fingerprints they leave behind can be seen easily. But some fingerprints can't be seen right away. These are called *latent prints*. They're left by the sweat and oils that are always on your fingers. But you can find them by one easy trick: dusting!

Dusting for Latent Prints

What you need:

- clear drinking glass



- baby powder



- small soft paintbrush (make sure it is clean and dry)



- clear cellophane tape



- black construction paper

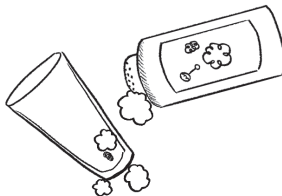


What to do:

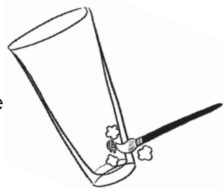
1. Make a latent fingerprint by pressing your right thumb on a clear drinking glass. You will get a better print if your fingers are sweaty or sticky.



2. Gently shake some baby powder over your thumbprint.



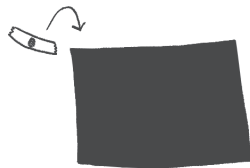
3. Use the paintbrush to gently brush off the extra powder, so you can see the fingerprint.



4. Smooth the sticky side of a piece of clear tape over your thumbprint. Then peel it off carefully.

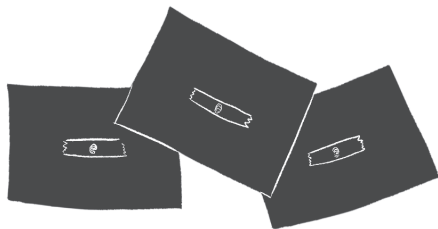


5. Stick the tape with your fingerprint onto a piece of black construction paper.



Comparing Prints

You'll need to take out your fingerprint cards. Now compare the latent print you lifted with all the fingerprints. Examine the patterns closely. Can you find a match?



Chevon's Logic Game



I love how Shir's mind works! The detective always uses logic to solve even the trickiest cases. Use the clues below to find each of our favorite colors. Fill out the chart to help you.

1. Donna does NOT like orange.
2. Ruben likes the color that starts with the same letter as his name.
3. Chevon likes the color of the sky.

	Purple	Red	Orange	Blue
Chevon				
Curtis				
Donna				
Ruben				

Use the clues below to find each of our favorite animals. Fill out the chart to help you.

1. Chevon's animal has fur.
2. Curtis's animal swims.
3. Donna's animal barks.

	Eagle	Cat	Dog	Dolphin
Chevon				
Curtis				
Donna				
Ruben				

Answers on page 116.

Donna's Detective Game



I created a game I call Detective, but it's kind of a treasure hunt too. You can play this game with friends at a sleepover or with your family. You can make it as specific to the people you're playing with as you want. (When I play with my brother, Curtis, I make it super tricky so he has to run all over our apartment!)

How to play:

1. Decide what your mystery will be. My favorite is when something is missing or has been stolen. You can use a stuffed animal, granola bar, lucky pencil, baseball—anything. I'll use a banana to show you how to play.
2. Have your friends or family wait in another room and close the door. (Even better, set this all up before they arrive.)
3. Now hide your clues. Each clue needs to lead to another clue. Think it out so they all link together. (Once you read how the game is played, you'll see how to set up the clues.)

4. The game: announce the mystery to your friends and family. For example, if you're using a banana, you can say: "The wizard's magical banana has been stolen. The thief left behind this clue." You hand them the first clue. Then say, "Follow the trail of clues."

5. Your first clue can be a square of toilet paper, which will lead them to the bathroom, where—if they look inside the toilet paper roll—they'll find a fork. The fork will lead them to the kitchen, where they'll find a chess piece. The chess piece will lead them to the chessboard, where they'll find a toothbrush. The toothbrush will lead them to the bathroom sink, where they'll find a piece of paper ripped into four pieces. When they put the paper together, they'll find a drawing you made of a plant. And when they go to the plant, they'll find the "stolen banana" inside the plant's pot. Case solved! Makes sense, right? The game can be as long or as short as you want, depending upon how many clues you hide. And the game will be different every time you play it if you use different clues.

The Curtis Challenge



Test your sleuth skills with these tricky riddles. Can you figure out the answer?



Riddle 1

A priceless vase was stolen from a mansion on a Sunday morning. The police questioned the four people who were there.

Sue said she was getting the mail.

Jordan said he was doing laundry.

Shaniqua said she was cooking.

Kay said she was reading a book.

Who took the vase and how did the police know who to arrest?

Riddle 2

Dipti asked Scott: "The ten-dollar bill that was on my desk is missing. Is that ten-dollar bill you're holding mine?"

Scott said: "No, it isn't your money. I found this ten-dollar bill between pages three and four of *The Mysteries of Sherlock Holmes*."

Dipti said: "You're lying, and I can prove it." How does she know?

Riddle 3

One snowy night, Briana was reading a book in her house. All of a sudden, a snowball crashed through her window, breaking it. Briana looked out the window and saw three neighborhood kids, who were brothers, running away. The brothers' names were Henry Merian, Mark Merian, and Derek Merian. The next day, Briana found a note in her mailbox that read: *? Merian. He broke your window.*

Which of the three Merian brothers should Briana question about the window?

Answers on page 117.



Ghostwriter's Secret Message

Ruben, Chevon, Donna, and Curtis are trying to solve my mystery, but they're a little stuck and need some help. They need you in their _____.

To find the mystery word, complete this word ladder. As you go down the ladder, change **one letter** to create a new word. The final word is the answer.

For example, here's how a CAT gets turned into a DOG:

CAT

COT (A → O)

DOT (C → D)

DOG (T → G)



Now you try! Since my clues always start with a BOOK, that's where this puzzle will start. (I've left some hints to help you out.)

BOOK

- _ _ _ _ [to make a meal]
- _ _ _ _ [home for chickens]
- _ _ _ _ [what farmers harvest]
- _ _ _ _ [black bird]
- _ _ _ _ [They need you in their _ _ _ _.]







Answer on page 117.








Answers

Chevon Deduces Definitions: 1. d, 2. g, 3. f, 4. b, 5. c,
6. a, 7. e

Chevon's Logic Game:

	Purple	Red	Orange	Blue
Chevon	x	x	x	
Curtis	x	x		x
Donna		x	x	x
Ruben	x		x	x

	Eagle	Cat	Dog	Dolphin
Chevon	x		x	x
Curtis	x	x	x	
Donna		x		x
Ruben		x	x	x

The Curtis Challenge:

Riddle 1: Sue stole the vase. There is no mail delivery on Sundays.

Riddle 2: All books have odd-numbered pages on the right side. Take a look and you'll see that pages 3 and 4 are the front and back of a single page, and nothing could've been found between them.

Riddle 3: She should question Mark Merian. The ? is a question MARK, so the note on the door reads: Question Mark Merian. He broke your window.

Ghostwriter's Secret Message: CREW