

The Hound of the Baskervilles — Sherlock Holmes Diary Entry Task

Your Task

You are Sherlock Holmes. You have just finished reading Dr. Mortimer's strange account of the Baskerville curse and the mysterious death of Sir Charles Baskerville. It is late at night in your rooms at 221B Baker Street. Watson has gone to bed, but you cannot sleep — your mind is racing with the facts of this peculiar case.

Write a diary entry as Sherlock Holmes, recording your private thoughts about the case so far. Chapter 1-3

Your Diary Entry Should:

- Be written as if you are Sherlock Holmes — use "I" throughout.
- Cover the events from Chapters 1–3 of The Hound of the Baskervilles.
- Include your observations about the clues (the walking stick, the manuscript, the legend of the hound, the death of Sir Charles).
- Reveal your inner thoughts and feelings — Holmes does not share everything with Watson. What are you privately thinking? Are you sceptical about the curse? Intrigued? Suspicious?
- Be 1–2 pages long (handwritten).
- Use informal, private language — this is a diary, not a formal report.

What to Include: Key Writing Features

First person: ("I") You are writing as Holmes about yourself "I examined the stick with great interest."

Past tense: The events have already happened "Mortimer arrived at Baker Street this morning."

Chronological order: Events told in the order they happened "First, Mortimer showed us the manuscript. Then he told us about Sir Charles's death."

Thoughts and feelings: What Holmes is thinking and feeling inside "I confess, the legend disturbs me more than I would admit to Watson."

Observations: (what you noticed) Details Holmes would spot "The stick bore the mark of a dog's teeth — a spaniel, I deduced."

Emotive language: Words that show your feelings "A chill ran down my spine as I read the old manuscript."

Rhetorical questions: Questions you ask yourself in your diary "Could a supernatural hound truly be responsible? I think not."

Informal tone: Chatty, private, like a real diary “Watson has finally stopped asking questions. Good.”

Planning Sheet (Complete This First)

Date of your diary entry: [Choose the evening after Chapters 1–3]

What happened today? (Bullet points in chronological order)

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What clues did I notice?

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-

What am I privately thinking?

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-

How am I feeling right now?

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Sentence Starters to Help You Begin

You may choose one of these to start your diary:

- “Dear Diary, I have encountered a case so peculiar that I scarcely know where to begin...”
- “Dear Diary, Today Dr. Mortimer brought me a problem that, I admit, has captured my full attention...”
- “Dear Diary, Watson believes in ghosts. I do not. Yet tonight, I find myself less certain than I would like...”

Note: Once you are ready write diary on your fiction note

Checklist — Before You Hand In

Read through your diary entry and tick each box.

- ☐ I wrote in first person (“I”).
- ☐ I used past tense for the events.
- ☐ I included the date at the top.
- ☐ I started with “Dear Diary” or similar.
- ☐ I wrote about events from Chapters 1–3.
- ☐ I included my observations (clues and details).
- ☐ I included my thoughts and feelings (not just facts).
- ☐ I used emotive language to show how I felt.
- ☐ I asked myself at least one rhetorical question.
- ☐ I used informal, private language (this is a diary, not a report).
- ☐ I signed it “Sherlock Holmes” at the end.
- ☐ I wrote 1–2 full pages.

Cambridge Writing Criteria — What Your Teacher Will Look For

Your writing will be assessed on these four areas:

1. Content and Purpose

- You have recounted the events of Chapters 1–3 accurately.
- You have written as Sherlock Holmes — the voice feels like him (clever, observant, slightly arrogant).
- You have included thoughts and feelings, not just a list of events.
- Your diary entry has a clear purpose: to record your private reflections on the case.

2. Structure and Organisation

- Your diary entry has a clear opening, middle, and closing.
- Events are in chronological order.
- You use paragraphs to separate different ideas (e.g., one paragraph for the walking stick, one for the manuscript, one for your suspicions).
- You use time connectives (first, then, next, later, finally).

3. Sentence Structure and Punctuation

- You use a range of sentence types (simple, compound, complex).
- You use correct punctuation (. , ? ! “ ” —).
- You use rhetorical questions correctly.
- You use emotive language effectively.

4. Vocabulary and Spelling

- You use ambitious vocabulary fit for Sherlock Holmes (deduce, investigate, peculiar, sinister).
- You use specific detective vocabulary (clue, evidence, observation, suspicion).
- Your spelling is accurate (check your work!).