

ENGL 200 Sherlock Holmes in Fiction and Film

Summer 2013

Final Exam Potential Essay Questions

NOTE: Dr. K will undoubtedly edit, rephrase, or adjust these, so don't expect to see them word-for-word on the test. Some will be adjusted for short -answer questions; others might be expanded, combined, or otherwise reworked for longer essay questions.

- How does the Watson character develop as the detective in the BBC *Hounds of Baskerville*? What happens when he is no longer just a looking glass into the world of Holmes?
- How are characters developed in Doyle's longer works as compared to in the individual short stories?
- Discuss the development of Sherlock and John's roles from *A Study in Pink* to *The Hounds of Baskerville*.
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- Compare and contrast the incorporation of narrative tropes in "A Scandal in Bohemia" and "A Scandal in Belgravia."
- Discuss the importance of the Gothic to plot, setting, and presentation in *The Hound of the Baskervilles*. How do the Gothic elements affect the mentality of the characters?
- How did Mark Gatiss modernize the Gothic for the BBC *Hounds of Baskerville*? What elements remain true to the Canon?
- Identify and discuss at least three of the Gothic elements in *Hound of the Baskervilles*. Which elements are typically carried over into modern versions of the novel?
- How do female characters advance the plots in modernized versions of the Doyle stories? In your answer you might want to focus on tropes and metonymies.
- Compare and contrast the Canonical Irene with Lara Pulver's portrayal of her in the BBC "A Scandal in Belgravia."
- What are the different ways Irene Adler has been portrayed? How does she differ from the Canonical Adler in the various film versions we've examined?
- Discuss the ways the role of gender has changed from the original Canon through modern adaptations.
- Based on clips from the television show *Elementary*, how does the manipulation of gender Americanize the Holmes Canon?
- Thinking about *Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows*, *Elementary*, *The Great Mouse Detective*, or even versions like *House* or *The Mentalist*, discuss how the Americanization of the Doyle originals affects the relationship of Holmes and Watson, and why that might be significant.
- Evaluate the role of justice in the BBC *Sherlock*.
- How does Doyle manipulate setting and class to drive his plots? And how do those elements transition into modern interpretations? How are characters developed in Doyle's longer works as compared to in the individual short stories?

- Comparing *Hound of the Baskervilles* in its written and filmed forms, discuss how the treatment of class affects readers' perceptions of the stories and the author's/filmmaker's intentions.
- Which aspects of a particular modernized version of the Holmes/Watson stories would A.C. Doyle have approved of? Which might he object to, and why?
- How does the trope of the Watson from the original stories through modern versions? Does John Watson remain the figure who plays the Watson in all the modern adaptations?
- How does Holmes as protagonist in the stories change from the Doyle stories up through modern versions? Does the trope of the Great Detective remain the same over time?
- What's different about the role antagonists play in the Sherlock stories over time? What does this say about how the audience perceives this story?
- We've seen at least four filmed version of "The Final Problem." How do filmmakers deal with this apparent end of the Holmes saga, and which seem most true to the original intent of the stories?