

In Search of Sherlock or: The Night Game

Storyline Objectives:

Official Aim: to find out what happened to Sherlock Holmes.

Real Aim: to find out that Sir William is the illegitimate child of the Queen and Higglebottom

Timing:

20:00: PCs meet at Baker Street.

20:00 – 20:30: PCs are divided into groups (pre-grouped) and the game is explained.

Lestrade is promoted to Chief Constable by the Queen, so that we have enough ranking leeway for the PCs.

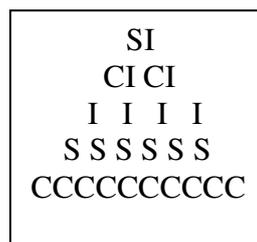
21:45 – PCs reconvene at Baker Street; showdown.

Procedure:

The aim of the game is to get promoted as high as possible in the police force, thus gaining access to the most important clues.

1. Each group receives a **Clue Code Log (CCL)**. This is an official record of which clues they have seen, stamped and signed by a) the teamer guarding the clue and b) Lestrade.
2. Their task is to find the clues (hidden about the castle) with help from the **Clue Location Riddles (CLR)** which direct them to the right **Clue Locations (CL)**.
3. The clues are divided into 5 categories: Constable, Sergeant, Inspector, Chief Inspector and Superintendent. The PCs must attain the relevant rank in the police force in order to see the clue.
4. The PCs use their **Police Identity Pass (PIP)** to prove their attained rank. When Lestrade has stamped their CCL after they have correctly reported a clue, they are given a new rank by Chief Constable Brown (Daniel). Then they can view a clue in the next category up.
5. All **10** Clue Locations (CLs) accommodate a clue in the **Constable** category (C). **6** Locations house a clue in the **Sergeant** category (S), **4** in the **Inspector** category (I), **2** in the **Chief Inspector** category (CI) and the final (most significant) clue is for the **Superintendents (SI) – the birth certificate**. The CLs housing more than one clue are divided into sections: a Constable Section, a Sergeant section, and so on. This is so that the PCs see that they have to come back to the same place later, and to stop them wasting time looking in the wrong place too much. (A little wasted time is okay 😊)

Diagram:



- 6 Each clue has a code. When the group views a clue, the teamer guarding the clue enters the **Clue Code (CC)** onto the groups's **Clue Code Log (CCL)**. The teamer stamps and signs the code. (This is to prevent the PCs from comparing results – rank promotions are only given when the code is stamped and signed by a teamer and also by Lestrade on the group's CCL. They are free to exchange "intelligence", but will not get any points for it.)
- 7 The ranking of the PCs will be visible for all on a beamer.
- 8 As the PCs climb the promotion ladder, the clues become more and more interesting and useful. At the beginning, at Constable level, most of the clues are useless or lead in the wrong direction. Only later will the PCs know which of these clues were relevant and which were only "red herrings" (irrelevant distractions).
- 9 At 21:45, a whistle will sound. The PCs are to reconvene at Baker Street. The first group to arrive at Superintendent Level will explain to the others what they found (i.e. that Sir William is the illegitimate child of the Queen and Higglebottom).
- 10 While the group is explaining this, the Queen and Higglebottom exchange panicked glances – at the end, the Queen, most upset, leaves the room with her maid, stating that she will not be treated like this, how dare they, etc. etc. Higglebottom stays a bit longer, saying "absolute rubbish", "I never heard anything so ridiculous in all my life", "what absolute codswallop", etc. etc. before giving up in disgust and leaving the room in a bad temper, together with Sir William, who looks very uncomfortable and shocked.
- 11 The conclusion of the evening: - a) the winning group gets a reward (a certificate and b) Niko and Watson discuss the results of the game and are very interested in the finding that Sir William is the son of the Queen, but are not sure what it has to do with Holmes' disappearance. "But what happened to Sherlock Holmes?" is the last line of the evening.

Rules:

1. The PCs must stay in their groups. The groups are not allowed to divide into smaller ones.
2. They only receive a rank promotion when their CCL has been stamped and signed by the teamer at the CL and Lestrade.

Clues:

Superintendent Clue (1):

1. Sir William's birth certificate

Chief Inspector Clues (2):

1. A letter from the Queen to her (dumb) maid, in which she talks about the painful experience of giving birth in secret and having to hide her child.
2. Cheque of a large sum of money issued by Henry Higglebottom to the University of Oxford (Institute of Engineering).

Inspector Clues (4):

1. Sherlock Holmes' "to-do" list, written 2 days before he disappeared, in which it says "purchase 'An Introduction to Engineering' by A.W. Heel".
2. A letter from the midwife to her best friend, describing the experience of helping the Queen give birth in secret.
3. Cheque of a large sum of money issued by Henry Higglebottom to the University of Oxford (Institute of Engineering) where Sir Nicolas studied.
4. Sir William's degree certificate from the University of Oxford

Sergeant Clues (6)

- 1) A diagram of the human brain with Sir Williams initials in the corner
- 2) A letter from Sir William to his university Professor in Oxford, telling him about the latest developments with his new machine (without saying explicitly what the machine does): "I have thought about our conversation of last week regarding my new machine, and am very grateful for your advice. Do you consider that the Blogue Theory should be applied in this case? ..." etc. etc.
- 3) Letter from Mary Brown (the Queen's maid) to Sir William in the monastery when he was young ("I send you many warm greetings from your Mother and also from your Father – as you understand, because of the important posts that both your parents hold, only I can write you a letter such as this...")
- 4) A restaurant bill for Holmes and Watson a few days before Holmes disappeared. The bill contains information on what they ate and how much it cost.
- 5) A behaviour report on Sir Nicolas from the monastery when he was a child. (Introverted behaviour, no friends, but excellent at maths and physics)
- 6) Cheque of a large sum of money issued by Henry Higglebottom to the monastery where Sir Nicolas was brought up (each time for a different year).

Constable Clues (10)

1. A shopping list made by Holmes' landlady (Mrs Hudson) 2 days before he disappeared. It contains, alongside the usual items, 3 packets of violin strings and 100 candles.
2. Cheque of a large sum of money issued by Henry Higglebottom to the monastery where Sir Nicolas was brought up (each time for a different year).
5. A pipe, found near Waterloo, with mud/sand/chalk on it
6. A letter from Holmes to Watson: "I am working on a case of utmost importance. It is an extremely sensitive issue, and so I cannot possibly tell you about it in this letter. I do not know whether I will come back alive, although of course I sincerely hope so – please remember to feed my goldfish and do find a new employer for Mrs Hudson" etc. etc.
7. A letter from Sir William to his first sweetheart, in which he says that he grew up in a monastery
8. A newspaper article about the election of Henry Higglebottom to Mayor, in which it says that there were rumours of his having an illegitimate child, probably a son, but the rumours were never proved to be true
9. A footprint, alleged to be of Holmes' shoe, found on the banks of the Thames
10. A drawing of the Brain-Exchanger
11. A drawing of another, completely irrelevant machine

12. A packet of tobacco (with mud/sand/chalk on it)

The experince of the game:

-you need a lot less clues, otherwise the time is not enough, and the game will take days☺

-consider how much time they need from one Clue Location to the other, plus the time they spend at it

- it is very funny if in the end the different groups can present their stories

-it is practical, if there are more Police Constables, and the groups do not have to queue.