



Sherlock Holmes: A Sleuth's Legacy in a Modern World

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Tuesday, June 10, 2025 - 6:30 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. ET

Primary Sources

Arthur Conan Doyle

- Doyle, Arthur Conan. A Study in Scarlet. 1887.
- Doyle, Arthur Conan. The Sign of Four. 1890.

Oscar Wilde

- Wilde, Oscar. The Picture of Dorian Gray. 1890.

Contemporary Medical/Legal Sources

- Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5-TR). 5th ed., text revision. American Psychiatric Association, 2022.
- Criminal Law Amendment Act of 1885 (UK)
- Dangerous Drugs Act of 1920 (UK)

Fan Community Sources (Primary)

- Reddit communities: r/autism, r/SherlockHolmes, r/elementary
- Social media posts and comments from neurodivergent communities (2020 - 2024)
- Fan forums and discussion boards analyzing Holmes' neurodivergent traits

Secondary Sources

Historical Sources

- Sturgis, Matthew. Oscar: A Life. Head of Zeus, 2018.
- "Opium in Victorian Britain." Historic UK, August 13, 2024. <https://www.historic-uk.com/HistoryUK/HistoryofBritain/Opium-in-Victorian-Britain/>
- "Sherlock Holmes and Cocaine: The Seven-Per-Cent Solution." History Today. <https://www.historytoday.com/archive/history-matters/seven-cent-solution>
- "The Addictive History of Medicine: The Curious Case of The 7 Percent Solution." Science Museum Blog. <https://blog.sciencemuseum.org.uk/>
- Lawrence v. Texas, 539 U.S. 558 (2003)
- Sexual Offences Act 1967 (UK)
- American Psychiatric Association. Decision to remove homosexuality from DSM, 1973.
- World Health Organization. Removal from ICD-10, 1992.

Neurodivergence and Cultural Studies

- deBoer, Freddie. "The Gentrification of Disability." May 23, 2022.
- "Sherlock does not have Asperger's or Autism, Thanks - From 4 Psychiatrists." [Fan community response to medical professionals entering diagnostic debates]

Literary Meetings and Influences

- Rutigliano, Olivia. "Arthur Conan Doyle's The Sign of the Four and Oscar Wilde's The Picture of Dorian Gray Were Commissioned at the Same Dinner Party." CrimeReads, May 2, 2021.
- "The Golden Evening." Historical Society of Pennsylvania. <https://hsp.org/blogs/fondly-pennsylvania/golden-evening>
- "Arthur Conan Doyle's Darker Mystery." The Gay & Lesbian Review, July 1, 2020.

Sherlock Holmes Studies

- "Sherlock Holmes's Addictions." The Victorian Web. <https://www.victorianweb.org/authors/doyle/addiction.html>
- "It's Elementary: The Addictions of Sherlock Holmes." Hektoen International, May 28, 2024.

Adaptations of Sherlock Holmes

Classic Film Era

- Basil Rathbone Series (1939 - 1946) – Fourteen films starring Basil Rathbone as Holmes and Nigel Bruce as Watson, starting with The Hound of the Baskervilles and launching what many consider the definitive Holmes portrayal of its era
- Arthur Wontner Series (1931 - 1937) - Five British films featuring Arthur Wontner as Holmes

Television Landmarks

- Jeremy Brett Series (1984 - 1994) - Granada Television's The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes with Jeremy Brett, widely considered one of the most faithful adaptations. All but 18 of the Conan Doyle stories were filmed before Brett's death in 1995
- Douglas Wilmer/Peter Cushing (1965 - 1968) - BBC television series with Douglas Wilmer then Peter Cushing as Holmes and Nigel Stock as Watson

Modern Television

- BBC Sherlock (2010 - 2017) - Created by Mark Gatiss and Steven Moffat, starring Benedict Cumberbatch and Martin Freeman, setting Holmes in modern-day London as a "high-functioning sociopath"
- Elementary (2012 - 2019) - CBS series with Jonny Lee Miller as Holmes and Lucy Liu as a female Dr. Watson, set in contemporary New York. Miller became the actor who played Holmes in the most episodes across TV and film

Recent Films

- Guy Ritchie Films (2009, 2011) - Two action-oriented films starring Robert Downey Jr. as Holmes and Jude Law as Watson, emphasizing Holmes' fighting abilities alongside his deductive skills
- Mr. Holmes (2015) - Ian McKellen stars as a 93-year-old retired Holmes struggling with memory loss, based on Mitch Cullin's novel "A Slight Trick of the Mind"
- Enola Holmes Series (2020, 2022) - Netflix films starring Millie Bobby Brown as Sherlock's sister, with Henry Cavill as Holmes. The sequel topped Netflix's viewing charts in around 93 countries

Notable Horror/Gothic Adaptations

- The Hound of the Baskervilles (1959) - Hammer Horror production starring Peter Cushing and Christopher Lee, the first Holmes film in color, emphasizing gothic and horror elements
- Murder by Decree (1979) - Christopher Plummer as Holmes investigating Jack the Ripper in this original spin on the character

Unique/Alternative Adaptations

- The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes (1970) - Billy Wilder's comedic, satirical take starring Robert Stephens, focusing on Holmes' private life and considered by many the best Holmes film
- The Seven-Per-Cent Solution (1976) - Nicol Williamson stars in this adaptation of Nicholas Meyer's novel, which imagines Holmes meeting Sigmund Freud.
- Young Sherlock Holmes (1985) - Film showing Holmes and Watson meeting as classmates, solving murders at their school
- The Great Mouse Detective (1986) - Disney animated adaptation featuring anthropomorphic animals, kick-started the Disney Renaissance of the 1990s.
- Sherlock Holmes in the 22nd Century (1999 - 2001) - Animated series bringing Holmes into the future through science
- The Irregulars (2021) - Netflix series focusing on a group of Victorian teenagers working for Watson to find the missing Holmes

International Adaptations

- Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson (Soviet, 1979-1986) - Vasily Livanov and Vitaly Solomin as Holmes and Watson, considered one of the greatest Holmes adaptations ever made (and a personal favorite of Dr. Mecholsky's)
- Sherlock Hound (1984 - 1985) - Japanese animated series featuring anthropomorphic dogs, with several episodes directed by Hayao Miyazaki