

personal english



Character #15

Sherlock Holmes

Sherlock Holmes is a **fictional private detective** created by British author **Sir Arthur Conan Doyle**. Holmes is renowned for his piercing observation, insightfulness and logical reasoning employed when investigating cases for a wide range of clients, including Scotland Yard. He first appeared in print in the **1887** novel ***A Study in Scarlet***, but the character's popularity became widespread with the first series of short stories published in ***The Strand Magazine*** starting with "**A Scandal in Bohemia**" in **1891**. Other **55 short stories** and **3 novels** would later follow until **1927**. Holmes's adventures are all set between about 1880 to 1914 and most of them are narrated by the character of Holmes's friend and biographer **Dr. Watson**, who usually accompanies Holmes during his investigations. Among the features that make the character of Holmes so compelling and true-to-life are some quirks such as his **bohemian untidiness**, **overconfidence in his intellectual abilities**, **avoidance of social company**, **drug abuse** and **unrepentant bachelorhood**.

Though not the first fictional literary detective ever – **Auguste Dupin** by Edgar Allan Poe (*The Murders in the Rue Morgue*, 1841) and **Sergeant Cuff** by Wilkie Collins (*The Moonstone*, 1868) had preceded Sherlock Holmes by a few decades – Holmes is arguably the most well-known of them and his stories have had a long-lasting impact on both **detective fiction** and **popular culture** in general, with both the original tales and thousands written by other authors being adapted into stage and radio plays, television, films, video games, and other media for over one century.



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on Sherlock Holmes