

Answer Key

THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES by Arthur Conan Doyle – Grammar and Style

EXERCISE 9 STYLE: FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE

Identify the figurative language in the following sentences. Label underlined words:

p = personification s = simile m = metaphor o = onomatopoeia

- M 1. But incredulity and indifference were evidently my strongest cards.
- O 2. Far away came the sharp clink of a boot striking upon a stone.
- S 3. He had long, quivering fingers as agile and restless as the antennae of an insect.
- M 4. “That gravel page upon which I might have read so much has been long ere this smudged by the rain and defaced by the clogs of curious peasants.”
- M 5. “But now I see that I was never anything but a tool in his hands.”
- S 6. “Feel my hand!” It was as cold as a block of marble.
- M 7. “I seem to have walked right into the thick of a dime novel,” said our visitor.
- O 8. We heard the steps of our visitors descend the stair and the bang of the front door.
- M 9. “There now!” said Holmes bitterly as he emerged panting and white with vexation from the tide of vehicles.
- M 10. “We must see what further cards we have in our hands and play them with decision.”
- M 11. “But we hold several threads in our hands, and the odds are that one or other of them guides us to the truth.”
- M 12. “I’ve been checkmated in London.” = chess
- P 13. In a very few hours the brown earth had become ruddy, the brick had changed to granite, and red cows grazed in well-hedged fields where the lush grasses and more luxuriant vegetation spoke of a richer, if a damper, climate.
- P 14. Rolling pasture lands curved upward on either side of us, and old gabled houses peeped out from amid the thick green foliage, but behind the peaceful and sunlit countryside there rose ever, dark against the evening sky the long, gloomy curve of the moor, broken by the jagged and sinister hills.