

Sherlock Lives!

A WordGrid puzzle by Rick Rubenstein

“Watson, did I ever tell you about the incident involving the African cockroaches and my escape from the grain ship?”

“Indeed you did, Holmes! Rarely have your powers left me more in awe. I can’t imagine what we would do without you.”

The great detective chuckled. “You really thought that whole Reichenbach Falls business was the end of me, eh, Watson?”

“I did. How could I have known that your previously unmentioned knowledge of jujitsu would save you from certain death?”

Holmes took a thoughtful puff on his pipe. “In truth, Watson, I wasn’t the slightest bit worried. Even if I had gone over the precipice, I know of something more powerful than any wrestling move, something which would no doubt have brought me back from beyond the grave, if perhaps in somewhat different form.”

“Come now, Holmes! Surely you, of all people, don’t believe in the transmigration of souls!”

“Surely not, indeed. And yet I have in mind something not so dissimilar, which I believe will allow me to return from whatever future demises fate has in store for me. You know my methods, Watson; perhaps you can use them to uncover my little secret.”

Solve the first four puzzles in any order using the accompanying grid of words. No grid word will be used in more than one puzzle.

Each answer will be a common four-letter word. If you’re unsure of an answer, the first sentence on this page may provide a hint.

When you’ve finished the first four puzzles, complete the last section to determine the final two-word answer.

Elementary

Fifteen words in the grid are “elementary” in a particular way. These can be partitioned into four distinct sets. Within each set, join the words connect-the-dots style, starting with the shortest word and ending with the longest. (Don’t cross off the intervening words which the line happens to pass through.) The answer is the word thus illustrated; enter it below.

— — — —
1 2 3 4

The Science of Deduction

The grid contains three chains of five words (with links joined orthogonally or diagonally), where each can be derived from its predecessor by “deducting” one letter and (usually) rearranging the remainder. The removed letters, taken in order, will spell three words. Each of these forms a new word when preceded by the same four-letter word, which is the answer.

— — — —
5 6 7 8

The Game is Afoot

Four games can be found in the grid. Each is orthogonally or diagonally adjacent to some terms associated with that game. For each game, if it is adjacent to N relevant terms, circle the Nth letter in that game. Read the circled letters from top to bottom to get the answer (which is something you might, in fact, find on a foot).

— — — —
9 10 11 12

The Baker Street Irregulars

Semi-literate street urchins may make good informants, but they’re rubbish at dictation. In the grid are five verbs and their corresponding irregular past tense (or in one case past-perfect tense) forms. However, all ten words have been mistranscribed phonetically (e.g., *blew* might appear in the grid as *blue*). Find each pair, and circle the (unrelated) word which is between them. Read these circled words in order to get a description of the answer.

— — — —
13 14 15 16

Whatever Remains, However Improbable...

When you have completed the puzzles above, sixteen words will remain unused. Insert a comma after the fifth word, then read them in order to learn what further steps you must take to answer the question:

What method will Sherlock Holmes use to achieve immortality? _ _ _ _ _

CHESS	AFTER	NO	SNAKE	GNU	CODING	ENDEARS	REASONED	SEA
THE	KING	CHIP	GOLF	FOUNDATIONAL	DENSER	ONEONTA	OR	OLEANDERS
SOLUTIONS	REARRANGEMENT	POKER	CLUBS	SNEER	PLEAD	SCENE	CHIRON	PARAMETERIZING
CORRESPONDINGLY	ACE	FOLD	IGNORE	ZEROING	LENGTHY	WAR	TEA	WHERE
LOVE	TENNIS	GONER	THROE	GILEAD	MISLEADING	IMPROBABLES	ENVIRONMENT	UNIRONIC
HOMELAND	OGRE	COURT	KETTLE	STING	TINY	NEONATAL	NIGHTINGALE	SCRUTINIZE
MONDALE	ROE	MODEL	THROUGH	PROVIDES	LATINO	MARTINI	RASPUTIN	A
DESCRIPTOR	DOLMEN	OF	MOLE	THIS	HERE	SOUND	HERD	REINCARNATIONISM