

Genre-Defining Sentences from *The Hound of the Baskervilles*

Consider using these sentences from the Masterworks film version of *The Hound of the Baskervilles* in your original mystery. Be conscious of whether you are using the sentence in a way that supports the traditional notion of the mystery genre or if you are bending or breaking a genre convention. Feel free to change the words or phrases in bold to suit the particulars of your story.

It's an ugly business. The more I see of it, the less I like.

As you value your life or your reason, keep away from the **moor**.

He was in a highly nervous state. Something was preying upon his mind.

I don't know whether it's a case for a detective or a priest.

I had no idea such a sum was involved. It is a stake for which a man might well play a desperate game.

You must not go alone. Some great misfortune will befall you if you do.

[This is] a worthy setting if the devil did desire to have a hand in the affairs of man.

No wonder **my uncle** felt as if trouble were coming in such a place as this. It's enough to scare any man.

Did you happen to hear someone, a woman, sobbing in the night?

Go back! Go straight back to **London** instantly. For God's sake, do as I ask you. Go back, and never set foot **on the moor** again.

I suppose the kindest thing would be to put you out of your misery.

Adapted from Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's *The Hound of the Baskervilles* Teacher's Guide, WGBH, Boston.

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