

ELA.11.CR.1.01.151

Sample Item ID:	ELA.11.CR.1.01.151
Grade/Model:	11/2
Claim:	1: Students can read closely and analytically to comprehend a range of increasingly complex literary and informational texts.
Assessment Target(s):	1. KEY DETAILS: Cite explicit textual evidence to support inferences made or conclusions drawn about texts
Secondary Target(s)	n/a
Standard(s):	RL-1, RL-3
DOK:	2
Difficulty:	Easy
Item Type:	Constructed Response
Score Points:	2
Correct Response:	See rubric
Stimulus/Passage(s):	Excerpt from <i>The Hound of the Baskervilles</i> , by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle
Stimuli/Text Complexity:	The quantitative measures suggest a higher placement for this text than the qualitative measures do. While this is a challenging read, it also has some engaging features, which will make the text more accessible. It is also a fairly traditional/predictable narrative. Based on these sets of measures, this passage is recommended for assessment at grade 11. Please see the text complexity worksheet attached.
Acknowledgement(s):	http://www.gutenberg.org/files/2852/2852-h/2852-h.htm
Item/Task Notes:	
How this item/task contributes to the sufficient evidence for this claim:	To answer this item, students must justify a given inference using evidence from the passage.
Target-Specific Attributes (e.g., accessibility issues):	This task requires students to enter text using a keyboard.

Stimulus Text:

Read the following passage, then answer the question.

This passage is excerpted from the book The Hound of the Baskervilles by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. The excerpt begins shortly after the death of Sir Charles Baskerville, the owner of a grand estate called Baskerville Hall. Baskerville's friend, Dr. Mortimer, has just asked Detective Sherlock Holmes to investigate the mysterious circumstances surrounding Baskerville's death.

The Hound of the Baskervilles

By Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

Dr. Mortimer refolded his paper and replaced it in his pocket. "Those are the public facts, Mr. Holmes, in connection with the death of Sir Charles Baskerville."

"I must thank you," said Sherlock Holmes, "for calling my attention to a case which certainly presents some features of interest. I had observed some newspaper comment at the time, but I was exceedingly preoccupied by that little affair of the Vatican cameos, and in my anxiety to oblige the Pope I lost touch with several interesting English cases. This article, you say, contains all the public facts?"

"It does."

"Then let me have the private ones." He leaned back, put his fingertips together, and assumed his most impassive and judicial expression.

"In doing so," said Dr. Mortimer, who had begun to show signs of some strong emotion, "I am telling that which I have not confided to anyone. My motive for withholding it from the coroner's inquiry is that a man of science shrinks from placing himself in the public position of seeming to endorse a popular superstition. I had the further motive that Baskerville Hall, as the paper says, would certainly remain untenanted if anything were done to increase its already rather grim reputation. For both these reasons I thought that I was justified in telling rather less than I knew, since no practical good could result from it, but with you there is no reason why I should not be perfectly frank.

"The moor is very sparsely inhabited, and those who live near each other are thrown very much together. For this reason I saw a good deal of Sir Charles Baskerville. With the exception of

Mr. Frankland, of Lafter Hall, and Mr. Stapleton, the naturalist, there are no other men of education within many miles. Sir Charles was a retiring man, but the chance of his illness brought us together, and a community of interests in science kept us so.

...

"Within the last few months it became increasingly plain to me that Sir Charles's nervous system was strained to the breaking point. He had taken this legend which I have read you exceedingly to heart—so much so that, although he would walk in his own grounds, nothing would induce him to go out upon the moor at night. Incredible as it may appear to you, Mr. Holmes, he was honestly convinced that a dreadful fate overhung his family, and certainly the records which he was able to give of his ancestors were not encouraging. The idea of some ghastly presence constantly haunted him, and on more than one occasion he has asked me whether I had on my medical journeys at night ever seen any strange creature or heard the baying of a hound. The latter question he put to me several times, and always with a voice which vibrated with excitement.

"I can well remember driving up to his house in the evening some three weeks before the fatal event. He chanced to be at his hall door. I had descended from my gig and was standing in front of him, when I saw his eyes fix themselves over my shoulder and stare past me with an expression of the most dreadful horror. I whisked round and had just time to catch a glimpse of something which I took to be a large black calf passing at the head of the drive. So excited and alarmed was he that I was compelled to go down to the spot where the animal had been and look around for it. It was gone, however, and the incident appeared to make the worst impression upon his mind. I stayed with him all the evening, and it was on that occasion, to explain the emotion which he had shown, that he confided to my keeping that narrative which I read to you when first I came. I mention this small episode because it assumes some importance in view of the tragedy which followed, but I was

convinced at the time that the matter was entirely trivial and that his excitement had no justification.

"It was at my advice that Sir Charles was about to go to London. His heart was, I knew, affected, and the constant anxiety in which he lived, however chimerical the cause of it might be, was evidently having a serious effect upon his health. I thought that a few months among the distractions of town would send him back a new man. Mr. Stapleton, a mutual friend who was much concerned at his state of health, was of the same opinion. At the last instant came this terrible catastrophe.

"On the night of Sir Charles's death, Barrymore the butler, who made the discovery, sent Perkins the groom on horseback to me, and as I was sitting up late I was able to reach Baskerville Hall within an hour of the event. I checked and corroborated all the facts which were mentioned at the inquest. I followed the footsteps down the yew alley, I saw the spot at the moor-gate where he seemed to have waited, I remarked the change in the shape of the prints after that point, I noted that there were no other footsteps save those of Barrymore on the soft gravel, and finally I carefully examined the body, which had not been touched until my arrival. Sir Charles lay on his face, his arms out, his fingers dug into the ground, and his features convulsed with some strong emotion to such an extent that I could hardly have sworn to his identity. There was certainly no physical injury of any kind. But one false statement was made by Barrymore at the inquest. He said that there were no traces upon the ground round the body. He did not observe any. But I did—some little distance off, but fresh and clear."

Item Prompt:

In the passage, Dr. Mortimer speaks several times of a legend surrounding the Baskerville family. Explain how the reader can tell that the legend suggests that a frightening hound haunts the family. Support your answer using details from the text.

Sample Generic Reading 2-Point CR Rubric	
2	<p>A response</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gives sufficient evidence of the ability to cite explicit textual evidence to support inferences. Includes specific inferences that make clear reference to the text. • Adequately supports the inferences with clearly relevant details from the text.
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A response • Gives limited evidence of the ability to cite explicit textual evidence to support inferences. Includes some inference that makes reference to the text. • Supports the inferences with limited details the text.
0	A response gets no credit if it provides no evidence of the ability to cite explicit textual evidence to support inferences and includes no relevant information from the text.

Scoring Notes

The response may include, but is not limited to:

Sir Charles believed the legend and thought “a dreadful fate overhung his family.” He asked Dr. Mortimer if he had seen or heard a hound. Dr. Mortimer saw a mysterious large animal while visiting sir Charles.

The ending suggests that the legend is about a hound haunting the family. It was a “false statement” that there were “no traces upon the ground round the body.”

Score Point 2 Sample:

Sir Charles thought “a dreadful fate overhung his family.” He must have believed in the legend of a hound haunting the family, because he asked Dr. Mortimer if he had seen or heard a hound. Dr. Mortimer saw a mysterious large animal while visiting sir Charles. The ending suggests that a hound had been at the scene.

Score Point 1 Sample:

The ending shows that there is a hound that haunts the family.

It was a “false statement” that there were “no traces upon the ground round the body.”

Score Point 0 Sample:

A hound haunting the family is only a legend.

Worksheet: Text Complexity Analysis

Title	Author	Text Description
Hound of the Baskervilles	Arthur Conan Doyle	An excerpt from the classic novel



Recommended Placement for Assessment: Grade 11

The quantitative measures suggest a higher placement for this text than the qualitative measures do. While this is a challenging read, it also has some engaging features, which will make the text more accessible. It is also a fairly traditional/predictable narrative. **Based on these sets of measures, this passage is recommended for assessment at grade 11.**

Qualitative Measures

Meaning/Purpose:

Very complex: There is really one level of meaning, but understanding the significance of details is a somewhat sophisticated task that requires some work by the reader.

Text Structure:

Moderately complex: The passage follows a fairly standard narrative arc, though the fact that it is an excerpt adds to the complexity.

Language Features:

Very complex: The language will be unfamiliar, and there are nuances in the use of words that are subtle and affect understanding (e.g., “then let me have the private ones”). The majority of sentences are complex.

Knowledge Demands:

Very complex: The integration of the story with a legend is complex. Students must draw conclusions on their own, and accept some ambiguity of text.

Quantitative Measures

Common Core State Standards Appendix A Complexity Band Level (if applicable):

Lexile or Other Quantitative Measure of the Text:

Lexile: 1240L; grades 9-10 and grades 11-CCR
Flesch-Kincaid: 9.5
Word Count: 1041

Considerations for Passage Selection

Passage selection should be based on the ELA Content Specifications targets and the cognitive demands of the assessment tasks.

Potential Challenges a Text May Pose:

- Accessibility
- Sentence and text structures
- Archaic language, slang, idioms, or other language challenges
- Background knowledge
- Bias and sensitivity issues
- Word count

Adapted from the 2012 ELA SCASS work