



January 2019

Dear Word Detectives,

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle is the author of many short stories and novels based around the fictional character: Sherlock Holmes. Mr. Doyle is an amazing communicator (in writing anyway) who got his start as a great speller by being a super word detective. This year we will all work to become word detectives by studying very carefully the patterns and details of words, and how they are created. There's no mystery to mastery of spelling (or what we'll call 'word work'), so get ready, young Sherlocks, here are some clues about how this agency conducts: *Operation Word Work (OWW)*

Clue #1: Work with each word list will take place over a two-week period.

Clue #2: Word work groups will meet together for their lesson on the first Monday. During this lesson, detectives will receive their lists, study their words and perform word sorts based on sound, spelling pattern and meaning. They will also receive their assignment and begin working on it. While there may be some time made available in class, it is possible that most of the assignments may have to be completed at home.

Clue #3: Scholars may be required to write sentences for an assignment. If so, they must be interesting (your Inspectors/Teachers enjoy being entertained with strong and descriptive words), and must be written on a piece of lined loose-leaf paper and stapled to the back of the assignment.

Clue #4: Assignments are to be completed and handed in on the first Thursday. That's right! Scholars will have three evenings to complete their assignment! Detectives, it is your responsibility to remember this and to get it in, completed fully, neatly, and on time! Failure to do so will result in exclusion from other activities on Fridays until the assignment is completed.

Clue #5: Word Work assignments are always completed neatly in pencil. Handwriting does not need to be perfect but all other detectives MUST be able to read it, so students should be careful and respectful of their reading audience! 😊

Clue #6: The second week is reserved for a) assignment corrections, b) preparation for the final assessment and c) the final assessment (spelling test)

Clue #7: An assessment of growth (spelling test) will take place on the second Thursday. The assessment will consist of five parts: 1) ten words chosen from the list 2) three other words that fit the same word patterns studied in the lesson 3) five 'Frequently Misspelled Words' (chosen randomly from the list given at the beginning of the year) 4) a dictation of a sentence that includes two list words and 5) the creation of a sentence using two list words given (scholars will be assessed on spelling, punctuation, capitalization, meaning and sentence structure).

Clue #8: Learning is fun when approached with a smile! OWW!

Good luck, young Sherlocks!

I've read and understand how "OWW" works.

_____ word detective

_____ parent



Inspectors:
Bourassa
Brunner
Cross
McMillan