

**221B**

Vincent Starrett, B.S.I.

Here dwell together still two men of note  
Who never lived and so can never die:  
How very near they seem, yet how remote  
That age before the world went all awry.  
But still the game's afoot for those with ears  
Attuned to catch the distant view-halloo:  
England is England yet, for all our fears—  
Only those things the heart believes are true.

A yellow fog swirls past the window-pane  
As night descends upon this fabled street:  
A lonely hansom splashes through the rain,  
The ghostly gas lamps fail at twenty feet.  
Here, though the world explode, these two survive,  
And it is always eighteen ninety-five.

## **“221B”**

By Susan Diamond and Francine Kitts

Poetry plays an important part in the world of Sherlock Holmes. In addition to the many books of Sherlockian poetry that have been written, toasts given at meetings are often done in verse. Some are serious; some are lighthearted. However, there is one quintessential poem that has become the cornerstone of the Sherlockian world: Vincent Starrett's "221B" written in 1942.

This poem is often recited at the beginning or end of a meeting and to Sherlockians, "it is always 1895." Vincent Starrett was a respected member of The Baker Street Irregulars. His immortal sonnet's theme is that Holmes and Watson are our comfort in the most trying of times. And for Starrett and most of the world, 1942 was a time fraught with fear. It was World War II, and England was fighting for its very survival. Thus, lines like "That age before the world went all awry" and "England is England yet, for all our fears" acquire extra poignancy.

So many of Starrett's phrases are magical, remaining with the reader forever: "two men...who never lived and so can never die," "the game's afoot for those with ears attuned," and, of course, "it is always eighteen ninety-five." He also creates striking visual images with "a yellow fog swirls past the window-pane" and "the ghostly gas lamps fail at twenty feet."

The poem provides an excellent example of English (or Shakespearean) sonnet structure. The poem has 14 lines; each line is written in iambic pentameter. In other words, each line has 10 syllables with the stress on the second, fourth, sixth, eighth, and tenth syllables. However, one line does not totally follow this meter. Can you identify the line? Answer: "England is England yet, for all our fears" with the stress on the first syllable of the line, instead of the second. The sonnet rhyme scheme is a-b-a-b, c-d-c-d, e-f-e-f, g-g. Thus, "note" and "remote" rhyme and "die" and "awry." The last two lines form a rhymed couplet with "survive" and "ninety-five."

Can you identify thirty-three words, found in the poem, in the following word search? Attempt to find as many as possible before looking at the list of the hidden words.

## “221B” WORD SEARCH

G	P	S	D	E	N	U	T	T	A	L	E	A	Z	W
H	B	S	P	L	A	S	H	E	S	C	V	N	C	S
O	O	O	L	L	A	H	W	E	I	V	I	I	S	Y
S	D	E	L	B	A	F	G	D	D	E	V	N	E	A
T	H	G	I	N	Q	K	Z	O	V	R	R	E	V	W
L	J	K	S	L	P	T	B	L	B	Y	U	T	E	L
Y	Y	O	E	Y	R	W	A	P	S	D	S	Y	I	A
D	M	V	N	L	A	E	G	X	I	X	A	F	L	S
L	T	L	G	I	I	N	E	E	T	H	G	I	E	T
R	O	A	L	V	N	T	W	N	F	O	R	V	B	I
O	O	M	A	E	U	Y	V	U	F	N	P	E	O	L
W	F	P	N	D	Q	Z	D	W	E	L	L	B	W	L
D	A	S	D	Y	E	T	O	M	E	R	U	Q	T	Z

Words are placed horizontally, vertically, and diagonally and both forwards and backwards. They may also overlap.

## **“221B” WORD SEARCH ANSWERS**

33 words

AFOOT  
AGE  
ALWAYS  
ATTUNED  
AWRY  
BELIEVES  
DIE  
DWELL  
EIGHTEEN  
ENGLAND  
EXPLODE  
FABLED  
FOG  
FOR  
GAS  
GHOSTLY  
HANSOM  
LAMPS  
LIVED  
MEN  
NIGHT  
NINETY FIVE  
RAIN  
REMOTE  
SPLASHES  
STILL  
SURVIVE  
TWENTY  
TWO  
VERY  
VIEW HALLOO  
WORLD  
YET