

The Failures of Sherlock Holmes

K.Beard, 27jan2019

Thanks for the Great Billing!

Our presenter will be Kevin Beard, and his presentation title is "The Failures of Sherlock Holmes", which makes me want to clutch my pearls and yell "How dare you?!" :) - Ipek

A CASE OF IDENTITY

Once only had I known him to fail, in the case of the King of Bohemia and of the Irene Adler photograph; ... -JW

The Naval Treaty

"On the contrary," said Holmes, "out of my last fifty-three cases my name has only appeared in four, and the police have had all the credit in forty-nine. -SH

THE FIVE ORANGE PIPS

"I have been beaten four times--three times by men, and once by a woman." -SH

fail

/fāl/

verb: fail; 3rd person present: fails; past tense: failed; past participle: failed;
gerund or present participle: failing

1.1. **be unsuccessful in achieving one's goal.**

"he failed in his attempt to secure election"

1.2. **neglect to do something.**

"the firm failed to give adequate risk warnings"

Who considers it a failure?

- Sherlock Holmes
- the client (*let us assume dead clients would be unsatisfied clients*)
- the authorities

Tonight's Rules

- Polite discourse & debate, appropriate to our honoured subject
- Limited to the 56 canon stories.
- No projectile weapons, please.

Scoring

+1 = 100% success

-1 = 100% failure

spreadsheet

sh_failure7.ods - LibreOffice Calc

File Edit View Insert Format Tools Data Window Help

Liberation Sans 13

J2 =100*I1/56

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y
1		sum	54.5	44.6	27.8	35	14	23	2	14															
2		ranking	87.0	79.0	49.0				3.6	25.0															
3	year	novel	SH	client	authorities	arrests	fed	allowed	dead	client	to be dead														
4	1887	A Study in Scarlet	1	1	1	1					Rache														
5	1890	The Sign of the Four	1	1	1	1					treasure														
6	1900-1902	The Hound of the Baskervilles	1	1	1	1	1				murder														
7	1914-1915	The Valley of Fear	1	1	1	1	1				murder														
8																									
9	1892	The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes																							
10	1891	A Scandal in Bohemia	1	1							frame Artier														
11	1891	The Red-Headed League	1	0	1	3					bank turned														
12	1891	A Case of Identity	1	-0.4				1			stepfather=finance														
13	1891	The Boscombe Valley Mystery	1	1	-1			1			Cooper!														
14	1891	The Five Orange Pips	1	-1	0.6		3		1	1	kick														
15	1891	The Man with the Twisted Lip	1	1	1			1			begging														
16	1892	The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle	1	1	0.3			1			goose														
17	1892	The Adventure of the Speckled Band	1	1	1					1	snake														
18	1892	The Adventure of the Engineer's Thumb	1	0.5	0.5		3				counterfeit														
19	1892	The Adventure of the Noble Bachelor	1	-0.1							bride missing														
20	1892	The Adventure of the Beryl Coronet	1	0.7				2			twisted														
21	1892	The Adventure of the Copper Beches	1	1				4			shoplifting														
22																									
23	1893-1894	The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes																							
24	1892	The Adventure of Silver Blaze	1	0.6	1			1			race horse														
25	1893	The Adventure of the Cardboard Box	1	1	1	1					severed finger														
26	1893	The Adventure of the Yellow Face	-1	0.9							Norbury														
27	1893	The Adventure of the Stockbroker's Clerk	1	1	1	2					gharry work														
28	1893	The Adventure of the Gloria Scott	1	1	0	2					convicts escape														
29	1893	The Adventure of the Musgrave Ritual	1	1	1	0				1	fern														
30	1893	The Adventure of the Redigate Squire	1	1	1	2					rise burglary														
31	1893	The Adventure of the Crooked Man	1	1	1		1				ferret														
32	1893	The Adventure of the Resident Patient	1	0.5	-0.2	0	3			1	hanged														
33	1893	The Adventure of the Greek Interpreter	1	-0.5	0.5	0	3			1	Mycroft														
34	1893	The Adventure of the Naval Treaty	1	1	0.1	0	1				sickbed														
35	1893	The Adventure of the Final Problem	0.7	0.7						2	Murder by														
36																									
37	1905	The Return of Sherlock Holmes																							
38	1903	The Adventure of the Empty House	1	1	1	1					gas gun														
39	1903	The Adventure of the Hound of the Baskervilles	1	1	1	1				1	murder (suicide)														
40	1903	The Adventure of the Dancing Men	1	-1	1	1				1	Chicago														
41	1904	The Adventure of the Solitary Cyclist	1	1	1	3					forced marriage														
42	1904	The Adventure of the Priory School	1	1	1	1	1			1	kidnap														
43	1904	The Adventure of the Black Peter	1	1	1						harpoon														
44	1904	The Adventure of Charles Augustus Milverton	1	1	-1	0	1			1	blackmail														
45	1904	The Adventure of the Six Napoleons	1	1	1	2					pearl														

Sheet1

Sheet 1 / 1 Default Sum=25.0 50%

statistics (my version!)

97% Sherlock Holmes is satisfied

80% client is satisfied

50% authorities are satisfied

35 arrests

14 fled

23 allowed to escape justice

2 dead clients

15 total dead during the case