



FIVE

**AMAZING
FACTS**

**ABOUT THE
WRITING LIVES
OF GREAT ENGLISH
AUTHORS**

ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE

He was one of the Britain's first drivers.

There is no doubt that Doyle was a real innovator and often on the cutting edge of things. This was seen no more so than when he became one of the first motorists in Britain. It is said he purchased his first car in 1911 without having even driven one before! Further to this, he showed his daredevil streak by driving a car in the Prince Henry Tour which pitted British drivers against German ones.

**“When there’s no
imagination
there’s no
horror.”**



HE WAS ANNOYED BY Sherlock Holmes

The fact is hard to believe but it's totally true! After writing the Holmes stories for a while, Doyle became bored of them and longed to kill his most famous creation off! He did try to do so on one occasion, but the backlash forced him to re-think and come back with "The Hound of Baskervilles". Eventually he succeeded in bringing the series to an end but only after spending more years than planned penning extra stories.



He believed in ghosts.

As well as fairies, Doyle also fervently believed in the existence of ghosts and the authenticity of the many mediums around at the time. He was a passionate advocate of the ability some people claimed to have to contact the dead and loved going to seances. His interest in spiritualism actually cost him his friendship with the famous Harry Houdini. Houdini knew how seemingly impossible tricks could be pulled off from his act and clashed with Doyle over the subject.



He was a real life Sherlock.

Maybe inspired by his fictional hero, Doyle also took to solving crimes to in his spare time. He used the methods of Holmes and the new angles they could give on cases to help real people. One such case was that of Oscar Slater who had been sentenced to prison for the murder of an old lady. Doyle used his own time and money to uncover new evidence and lobby politicians until Slater was eventually found innocent. Interestingly, Slater got £6,000 in compensation money which he never shared with the man who got him out!

Doyle believed in fairies.

Doyle strongly believed in the existence of fairies. It should be noted however that he based his beliefs on the infamous 1917 Cottingley Fairy hoax.

There is no doubt that Sir Arthur Conan Doyle was a character every bit as fascinating as Sherlock Holmes. His many personal interests and foibles make him someone that is interesting to learn about to this day. Of course, his skill as a writer should not be overlooked either and his other works are certainly worth checking out too. The game is afoot!



BIG
THANK
YOU
FOR READING!

WE REALLY HOPE
IT WAS ENJOYABLE!