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1. How did you become interested in Sherlock Holmes?

Through my research on interdisciplinary teaching using the Young Sherlock Holmes movie as an anchor to study the Victoria era with fifth grade students. We accessed this film to study history, social and cultural influences, economics, math, medicine, travel and machinery, and literature of this period in history.

2. What is your favorite story or stories?

The Red-Headed League

A Scandal in Bohemia

Least favorite – The Speckled Band

3. Who are your favorite characters other than Sherlock Holmes and Dr. John Watson?

Irene Adler

4. What do you enjoy about our monthly meetings?

Hearing different perspectives on the characters and events in the stories. Also learning about cultural and historical events of the time period and writings of others who critique the stories.

Biographical Sketch

Victoria J. Risko, Professor Emerita, Vanderbilt University has been on the faculty of Vanderbilt University for 35 years, a member of the language, literacy, and culture area of the Department of Teaching and Learning. Vicki was the 2011-2012 President of the International Reading Association and a member of IRA's Board of Directors from 2002– 2005. Vicki, a former classroom teacher and reading specialist, received her B.S. in English and Elementary Education from the University of Pittsburgh, and her M.A. and Ed.D. in Reading Education and Learning Disabilities from West Virginia University.

Vicki's research focuses on teacher education and professional development, teacher reflection, reading comprehension and meaningful learning, and uses of cases and multimedia environments to enhance learning, especially the learning of diverse and struggling learners.

Across a number of studies, Risko and colleagues examined how multimodal learning environments, “anchored” in cross-curricular instruction enhanced reading and writing development and content learning. These learning environments were established for students across the grades (e.g., *Little Planet* series for young children, *Sherlock Holmes* and *Jasper* in middle grades). These anchored instruction projects enabled teachers to differentiate instruction to build academic knowledge and optimize students’ experiential knowledge and interests.

Vicki’s most recent book, *Be that Teacher! Breaking the Cycle for Struggling Readers* (2012) co-authored with Doris Walker-Dalhouse, is published by Teachers College Press.