**SETTING AND ATMOSPHERE ACTIVITY SHEET 4**

***SHERLOCK HOLMES*: INTRODUCING LORD BLACKWOOD**

This sequence is taken from the film *Sherlock Holmes*. This scene sets up a conflict between the villain of the film, Lord Blackwood, and a character who opposes him. You are going to work in small groups to investigate details of setting and atmosphere in the clip.

**VIEWING ACTIVITY**

Watch the clip carefully, making notes on the following questions:

1. Where does the action seem to be taking place? What does the location look like? Is it interior (inside) or exterior (outside)?
2. What part of the world does this seem to be, and what time period does the film seem to be set in? What parts of the clip suggest these ideas to you?

Now watch the clip a second time, looking closely at how the sequence is put together. Work in pairs or small groups to explore the following:

1. How would you describe the atmosphere in the sequence? Does it change at different moments, and if so when?
2. How important do you think each of the following is for creating atmosphere:
* setting and set design
* lighting
* colour
1. What meanings can you think of for the following in this clip:
* The chiming bell, and the drumbeat, at the start of the clip
* The heavy rain
* The crow we see briefly outside the door?

**CREATIVE TASK**

The very first part of the clip – the section that is set outside – gives a lot of visual information, without using any dialogue or voiceover. Turn this opening sequence into a short descriptive paragraph using words to convey the atmosphere rather than images. Once you have finished, discuss with a partner the differences between creating atmosphere in words and creating atmosphere through sound and images.