In the short story *The Mixer* by P.G. Wodehouse, the readers are introduced to a variety of characters such as the Shy Man and Blackie. Blackie, the story’s narrator who is a dog, reveals a certain characteristic to the reader about the Shy Man; he is shy and hates talking to people. However, can we trust this dog as a narrator? Maybe we can find something else going on behind the closed mouth of the Shy Man.

Throughout *The Mixer*, the Shy Man enters into situations where he refuses to say too much. Perhaps the Shy Man knows people are out to get him, so he does not want to be recognized with his voice. Early in the story, the Shy Man encounters a policeman. When the policeman tells the Shy Man he needs a “change of air,” the Shy Man simply replies, “All right!” (p. 77). When the Shy Man and Blackie were walking to the country, Blackie tried to get him to talk. “‘Are you going to be a caretaker?’ I asked the man. ‘Shut up,’ he said” (p. 78). Avoiding conversations in public may prove the Shy Man does not want to be recognized.

Next, avoiding conversation and staying quiet may prove just how smart the Shy Man is. When Bill, the Shy Man’s roommate, wants to only “fix” the caretaker’s dog and “walk in and help yourself,” the Shy Man came up with a better plan (p. 79). He would rather keep quiet and secretly poison the caretaker’s dog. Furthermore, his intelligence shows when he comes up with the plan to teach Blackie to not bark when someone enters the window. In fact, the Shy Man rewards Blackie when he learns not to bark. “‘Good dog!’ he said. ‘Now you can have this” (p. 81).

Finally…INSERT 3rd PARAGRAPH HERE
In conclusion, the Shy Man’s choice to stay quiet reveals a great deal about his character. It shows he is nervous about being recognized, he is extremely smart, and ________________. Perhaps Blackie was mistaken when he decided to start calling him the *Shy* Man.