

## READER'S RESPONSE JOURNAL

### Mark Haddon's *the curious incident of the dog in the night-time*

As you read *the curious incident of the dog in the night-time*, be an active and critical reader. Start by writing down important events and revealing passages on character, setting, plot, style and theme. Draw connections to today's world and to your own experiences.

As you read this book, look for themes pertaining to the search for order and stability, tolerance, math and science and absence. Remember that a theme is not just a topic or category but rather an underlying message or universal truth about a particular topic.

In addition, record your reading responses - positive or negative, sure or unsure. It offers a chance to respond personally, predict, or reflect on the characters, events, literary elements, or language of a text. As you read, take time to record your observations. You may do this as ideas strike you or after you have read a small portion of the text. Write often and record as many of your observations as possible. DO NOT SUMMARIZE! Instead, record your textual observations. We will use your journals in class to start discussion. Your journal will be a very helpful tool.

Make at least one entry per chapter. Keep all of your entries in a running log. The length will depend on the length of the selection. Don't rush this. The more you take time to analyze each selection, the better your score will be.

If you are having trouble beginning an entry, try some of these starters:

- I was impressed by...
- I noticed that...
- I Wonder about...
- Some questions I have are...
- O I don't understand...
- I now understand why/how/what
- Something I notice/appreciate/don't appreciate/wonder about is...
- An interesting Word/sentence/thought is...

Please keep in mind that these journals are NOT meant to be a personal diary. They are meant to be read by others and should relate only to the assigned material. You will be sharing your journal in class, So keep this in mind as you Write. When sharing you will have the opportunity to confirm, clarify, and modify your responses throughout discussion.

**Reading Response Journal Sample Entry:**

Ch. 2, Pg. 1	O	I notice that the author has a very choppy writing style.
Ch. 2, Pg. 1	O	I can't believe he touched the dead dog! I would NEVER do that.
Ch. 2, Pg. 2	TS	One of my friends had a black standard poodle just like Wellington

You will need a minimum of one entry per chapter, but the more the better. In your journal for the entire novel, you will need at least two entries that fit into each of the following categories.

TT: Text to Text Connection (Relating *The Curious Incident* to another book or text)

TS: Text to Self Connection (Relating *The Curious Incident* to your own life)

TW: Text to World Connection (Relating *The Curious Incident* to events around the world)

Q: Question (A question that you have about the events or characters in the novel)

P: Prediction (Prediction about events to come in the novel)

O: Observation (Anything you notice that stands out to you)

**Ideas to consider:**

\*The author is trying to show...

\*How did the text affect you?

\*How has the text changed your worldview?

“Why do certain characters act the way they do?”

\*Think about the broader social issues the text attempts to address.

\*What did you think of any moral/ethical choices they characters made? What Would you have done?

“Where could the story go from here?”

“Does any of the reading connect with the theme of the novel?”

*The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* by Mark Haddon

### **KEY LITERARY ELEMENTS: SETTING**

The story is set in England, primarily in Swindon - a town between Bristol and London - and in London itself.

The events occur in 1998.

### **CHARACTER LIST**

Major Characters:

**Christopher John Francis Boone** - The book's narrator, Christopher is fifteen years old, gifted in mathematics, and has Asperger's Syndrome, a high-functioning form of autism. He lives at 36 Randolph Street with his father.

**Ed Boone** - Christopher's father, who owns and runs a heating maintenance and boiler repair business.

**Judy Boone** - Christopher's mother

**Siobhan** - Christopher's main teacher since he was twelve.

**Eileen Shears** - A neighbor of Christopher and ex-wife of Roger Shears. Lives at 41 Randolph Street.

**Roger Shears** - Former husband of Eileen Shears, a banker

**Mrs. Alexander** - Another neighbor of Christopher's who, she is an older woman who tries to befriend Christopher.

**Wellington** - A large poodle with black fur owned by Eileen Shears, found dead at the start of the novel.

**Toby** - Christopher's pet rat.

Minor Characters:

**Mr. Jeavons** - The psychologist at Christopher's School.

**Edward Paulson** - A fellow student at Christopher's school.

**Mr. Paulson** - Edward's father, who died from gliding accident,

**Steve** - A student who comes to Christopher's school on Thursdays, needs help to eat his food.

**Unnamed Policeman** - Called to the scene of Wellington's death, is hit by Christopher when he touches him.

**Kate** - The officer accompanying the policeman that Christopher hit.

**Police Sergeant** - Asks Christopher for information when he's taken into custody.

**Uncle Terry** - Ed Boone's brother, he works at bakery factory and lives in Sunderland.

**Grandma Burton** - Lives in a nursing home and suffers from senile dementia.

**Inspector** - Gives Christopher a caution for hitting the policeman.

**Number 38** - Next door neighbors, Ed Boone says they take drugs and forbids Christopher from talking to them

**Francis** - A student at Christopher's School, called a spastic ("spazzer") by his brother Terry.

**Terry** - The older, delinquent brother of Francis.

**Mrs. Peters** - Teaches art at Christopher's school.

**Mrs. Hardisty** - A neighbor who died of an aneurysm.

**Sarah** - A student at Christopher's School, he once punched her when she pulled his hair.

**Mrs. Forbes** - An older woman who works at Christopher's school.

**Reverend Peters** - Mrs. Peters' husband and a vicar, he volunteers to be the invigilator for Christopher's A-level math exam.

**Mr. Thompson** - Lives at 40 Randolph Street.

**Mr. Thompson's brother** - Speaks to Christopher during his investigation.

**Unnamed woman** - Mother of the family who lives at 44 Randolph Street, speaks to Christopher during his investigation. •

**Mr. Wise** - Lives at 43 Randolph Street with his disabled mother, speaks to Christopher during his investigation.

**Mrs. Gascoyne** - Headmistress at Christopher's school.

**Mr. Davis** - Works at Christopher's school.

**Mrs. Gray** - The life skills instructor at Christopher's school. Indian shopkeeper - Runs the local grocery where Christopher buys candy. /

**Ivor** - Mrs. Alexander's dachshund.

**Randyman** - A Red-Faced Black Spider Monkey at the Twycross Zoo.

**Miracle and Star** - A pair of Patagonian Sea Lions at the Twycross Zoo.

**Maliku** - An Orangutan at the Twycross Zoo. Joseph Fleming - A student at Christopher's school who is disruptive.

**Mr. Land** - Went to school with Judy Boone.

**Angie** - Secretary at Perkin and Rashid desk

**Julie** - Christopher's main teacher when he first began attending school.

**Mr. Perkin** - An employer of Judy Boone, co-owner of Perkin and Rashid, Chartered Surveyors.

**Mr. Rashid** - An employer of Judy Boone, co-owner of Perkin and Rashid, Chartered Surveyors.

**Aunt Ruth** - Cousin of Judy Boone who lives in Manchester and has cancer.

**Lady** - Mother of a baby and a little boy, Christopher approaches her to ask for directions to the Swindon train Station.

**Nigel** - Policeman who speaks to Christopher at the Swindon train station and loses him on the train to London. Jack - Student at Christopher's school.

**Polly** - Student at Christopher's school.

**Unnamed Man** - Encounters Christopher in London and tells him to wait for the policeman looking for him.

**Man in blue jacket** - Tries to help Christopher at the London train station.

**Woman at Information Booth** - Tells Christopher how to get to Willesden.

**Man with argyle socks** - Rescues Christopher from being run over by a train at a London station.

**Woman with guitar case** - Tries to help Christopher, has a dog on her case.

**Drunken Man** - Present at the Willesden station when Christopher arrives.

**Man in shop** - Indian shopkeeper at Willesden who sells Christopher a map of London.

**Sandy** - Golden retriever puppy given to Christopher by his father.

## **MAJOR LITERARY OR CULTURAL REFERENCES**

**Sherlock Holmes** - Famous detective character created by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Christopher's role model.

**Doctor Watson** - Companion to Sherlock Holmes and narrator of his stories.

**Hound, James Mortimer's spaniel** - Dogs that die in the Sherlock Holmes story The Hound of the Baskervilles.

**Sir Charles Baskerville** - Murder victim in the Sherlock Holmes story The Hound of the

Baskervilles.

*Sir Hugo Baskerville, Mrs. Stapleton, Mr. James Mortimer, Sir Henry Baskerville, Selden - Other characters in the Sherlock Holmes story The Hound of the Baskervilles.*

**Craig F. Whitaker** - Submits the Monty Hall Problem to Marilyn Vos Savant's column.

**Marilyn Vos Savant** - Person with the highest I.Q. in the world, according to the Guinness Book of World Records, she has a column in Parade magazine.

... Robert Sachs, Scott Smith, Kent Ford, W. Robert Smith, E. Ray Bobo, Everett Harman - Scientists ar's ... mathematicians who wrongly disagreed with Vos Savant's answer to the Monty Hall Problem.

**Sir Arthur Conan Doyle** - The creator of Sherlock Holmes who believed in the Cottingley Fairies Hoax and wrote of it for The Strand.

**Frances Griffiths** - One of the perpetrators of the Cottingley Fairies Hoax.

**Elsie Wright** - The other perpetrator of the Cottingley Fairies Hoax and cousin to Frances Griffiths.

**Harold Snelling** - Expert in fake photography who states the photograph of the Cottingley Fairies were real.

**Joe Cooper** - Interviewed Elsie Wright and Frances Griffiths in 1981, when they admitted the photos were faked.

**Arthur Shepperson** - Author of Princess Mary's Gift Book, used as the basis for the fairies drawn in the Cottingley Fairies Hoax.

**Robert May, George Oster, Jim Yorke** - Discovered a mathematical explanation for chaotic animal population fluctuations.

**James Gleick** - The author of Chaos, a popular Science book about chaos theory.

## CONFLICT

**Protagonist** - The narrator Christopher Boone, who wishes to solve the murder of Wellington and finds another mystery as a result,

**Antagonist** - The world removed from his routine: that is, the everyday world of chaos, disorder, absence. The initiator of chaos is the murderer of Wellington, a mystery Christopher chooses to solve. ". .