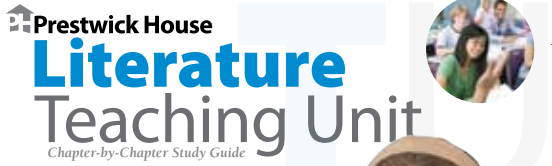




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Sample



The Curious
Incident of the Dog
in the Night-Time

by Mark Haddon

- Learning objectives
- Study Guide with short-answer questions
- Background information
- Vocabulary in context
- Multiple-choice test
- Essay questions
- Literary terms



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Literature Teaching Unit

Chapter-by-Chapter Study Guide



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P.O. Box 658, Clayton, DE 19938
www.prestwickhouse.com
800.932.4593

ISBN: 978-1-93546-475-4

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Item No: 305312

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time

Objectives

By the end of this Unit, the student will be able to:

1. discuss the characteristics of autism, including how being autistic equips Christopher to solve the mystery.
2. discuss the skills and attributes required to live, work, or interact effectively with Christopher, using Siobhan, Mr. Boone, and Christopher's mother as examples.
3. discuss Christopher's expanding understanding of honesty, including examples of how he learns to deal with the gray areas of relative honesty and partial truth that can be described by the phrase, situational ethics.
4. understand the importance of mathematics in Christopher's life, both during the story as a coping mechanism and in the long term as a potential career.
5. analyze the character of Christopher's father, examining his personal limitations and strengths and assessing his effectiveness as a parent.
6. compare the three policemen in the story by considering their demeanors and comprehension of Christopher's unique needs and evaluating their effectiveness in maintaining public safety.
7. discuss how the emotional and intellectual limitations of Christopher's mother are conveyed and how they affect her ability to deal with Christopher.
8. evaluate the curious incident of the dog in the night-time as an example of coming-of-age fiction.
9. cite and discuss the use of mathematical puzzles and classic problems in the story.
10. give examples of minor characters who add direction or depth to the narrative.
11. identify the main characters who interact with Christopher and summarize their relationships with him.
12. point out examples of humor in the story, and discuss what makes these examples funny.
13. identify the literary devices used in the novel.

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time

Questions for Essay and Discussion

1. Describe the behaviors that are characteristic of autism. Cite examples from the story to support your answer.
2. Define one of the following literary terms, explain how it is used, and discuss the effectiveness of its usage in the story:
 - digression
 - humor
 - irony
3. Do you think Christopher should be allowed to get a driver's license? Why or why not?
4. Did the digressions about mathematical problems help you understand some of the mathematical concepts in the story and how Christopher's mind works.
5. Compare and contrast the coping mechanisms that work for Christopher and the coping mechanisms used by you and your peers.
6. How does Christopher's autism protect him from some highly emotional realities? Cite examples, including his mother's death, his father's hiding of her letters, and the dangers of his trip to London.
7. Evaluate the curious incident of the dog in the night-time, including the readability of the book, the author's grasp of his material, especially his portrayal of an autistic person, and the way the story is structured.
8. Discuss the character of Christopher's mother. Include how the author conveys her intellectual limitations and emotional fragility.
9. Momentum occurs in a story when a decision or an event leads to a series of consequences or other situations. Choose one of the following events, and discuss the effects of it and how those effects build momentum toward the conclusion of the story:
 - Christopher prepares for his A level exam in mathematics.
 - Christopher finds letters from his mother.
 - Christopher decides to go to London.
10. Discuss the use of humor, including black or dark humor, in the story and how it either intensifies a situation or diffuses the emotion of it. Provide examples from the text to support your ideas.

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time

2.

1. What can the reader infer from the very straightforward and factual opening paragraph?

2. Who are Wellington and Mrs. Shears?

3. What does the narrator say that tells the reader where this story is going?

11. and 13.

Vocabulary

garden – a yard

1. Why does Christopher like the police?

2. What is the irony in this chapter? How does it play out?

3. Why does Christopher dislike jokes?

4. Although Christopher states this book will not contain jokes, you have probably already noticed examples of humor. Cite one example from this chapter.

5. Since chapter 13 does not contribute to the plot, why is it included?

67.

Vocabulary

- bloke** – a guy, a man
- brass monkeys** – slang for very cold
- bubonic plague** – a bacterial disease that killed millions of people in medieval Europe.
- football** – soccer
- marzipan** – colored and sweetened almond paste
- training shoes** – sneakers, athletic shoes; also called trainers
- tucker** – food

1. Why would the author include Christopher’s history of hitting people powerfully and the fact that he carries a Swiss Army knife?

2. Why does Christopher find it hard to talk to strangers? Why does he ask new people so many questions when he gets to know them?

3. Comedy that uses satire to lighten unpleasant or taboo subjects is called black (or dark) humor. How can Christopher’s interviews be considered black humor?
