

Sophomore Summer Reading Assignment

Please answer the following questions during or after your reading of **The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time**. Your answers must be fully developed through 1-2 paragraphs and include *text evidence* to support your explanations. The text evidence you use should be *properly quoted in your writing*. To do this properly, your quote must be introduced into your own sentence, separated by quotation marks, and cited afterward with the page from the text where you found the quote.

1. Why are the chapters numbered in an unusual way in this novel?
 2. What do jokes and lies have in common, according to Christopher?
 3. Is kindness sometimes better than the truth?
 4. How does the novel help us to think about what is sensible, or what is 'common sense', and what isn't?
 5. It is often believed that people with syndromes like Christopher's are completely different to other people. Yet can you see any personality traits that you have in common with Christopher?
 6. What does the novel have in common with a detective story?
 7. How does the novel differ from a detective novel? How is it different from other novels you've read?
 8. Find out a definition of irony in a dictionary and/or glossary of literary terms. Find five examples of how Mark Haddon uses irony in his novel.
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Please type with double spaces or very neatly handwrite your answers on every other line. Organize them in order and staple or clip them together into a packet. An example question and answer has been provided for you.

Example Question & Answer

Question: How does Christopher explain the link he makes between seeing red cars and having a good day?

Answer: Christopher makes a very specific link between the number of cars he sees of a certain color and how it will influence his day. Though the average person wouldn't understand why, "4 red cars in a row made it a Good Day, and 3 red cars in a row made it a Quite Good Day, and 5 red cars in a row made it a Super Good Day and why 4 yellow cars in a row made it a Black day" (pg. 24). Christopher describes his Black Days as "a day when I don't speak to anyone and sit on my own reading books and don't eat my lunch and Take No Risks" (pg. 24).

Though this is completely illogical to most, to Christopher it is exactly the logic he needs in his life. He likes when things remain in a nice order and tries to be logical that way. He believes that "there were other ways of putting things in a nice order" which was the reason he created his own system for determining Good Days and Black Days (pg. 24). He notices how other people around him have either good or bad days based on certain events in their day, as well as how things work in nice order. Mr. Jeavons, his psychologist, told him he was "a very clever boy," but Christopher just called himself observant and acknowledged having things in a nice order did in fact make him feel safe (pg. 25).