



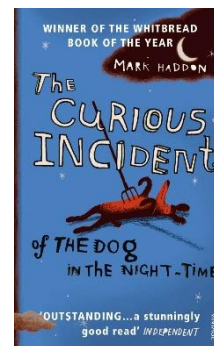
# The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time- Mark Haddon: Knowledge Organiser



Key Vocabulary	
Prejudice	Having an opinion that is not based on reason or actual experience.
Empathy	Being able to understand and share the feelings of someone else.
Sympathy	Being able to express feelings of pity and sorrow for someone else due to your own experience.
Stereotype	A mistaken idea or belief that many people have about a group or type of person which may be untrue or only partly true.
Abandoned	Being left alone or deserted.
Trust	Firm belief in the reliability, truth, or ability of someone or something.
Forgiveness	The action or process of accepting someone's apology.
Tension	A feeling of nervousness, excitement or fear that is created in a story.
Connotations	An idea or feeling that is associated with a particular word. Eg. Red=love
Protagonist	The main character
Antagonist	The character in the story that is in conflict with the protagonist.
Tolerance	Willingness to accept behaviour or beliefs that are different to your own
Superstition	A belief that is not based on reason or scientific thinking and that explains the causes for events

Plot Summary
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Christopher Boone is a 15-year-old who is socially awkward but very good at maths.</li> <li>Christopher has a disability – unspecified in the book, but which has been compared with an autism spectrum disorder called Asperger syndrome</li> <li>He finds a dead dog in his neighbour's garden and his father warns him to not get involved.</li> <li>Christopher decides to investigate the death of the dog.</li> <li>He discovers that his mother is not dead and that she is living in London.</li> <li>He also finds out that it was his father who killed the dog.</li> <li>Christopher feels like he can no longer trust his father.</li> <li>He runs away to find his mother but struggles to settle in.</li> <li>He returns to Swindon to take his A-level Maths exam.</li> <li>He receives his exam results, and finds out that he got the best possible score. Having successfully travelled to London on his own, and solved the mystery of who killed the dog, he's sure he can do anything.</li> </ul>

Context- real events that inspire the story	
The book was published in 2003.	
Autism	Autism is a lifelong developmental disability which affects how people communicate and interact with the world. One in 100 people are on the autism spectrum and there are around 700,000 autistic adults and children in the UK.
Asperger's	It generally involves having difficulty with social interactions, restricted interests and a desire for routines. People with Asperger's often have excellent focus and persistence, they are good at recognising patterns and have a strong attention to detail. This can often mean they are academically very successful.



Symbols	
Dogs	They represent Christopher's physical and emotional safety as they are meant to protect people.
Cars	They represent the individual ways in which Christopher gives order to his life.
Maths A Level	It represents Christopher's dreams for his future.
Stars	They represent the enormity of the universe in comparison to an individual. They also symbolise his dream to be an astronaut and the idea of escaping.
Sherlock Holmes	It represents Christopher's value of logic and personal detachment. He sees Holmes as an idol.
Colours	Red, yellow and brown. Christopher uses these colours to determine his day.

Characters	
Christopher Boone	The protagonist. A 15-year-old boy who is very good at maths but is socially awkward.
Ed Boone	Christopher's Dad. He cares about his son but is very hot-headed and stubborn.
Judy Boone	Christopher's Mum. Left due to not being able to handle his odd behaviour. Has a fun and romantic view of life.
Siobhan	Christopher's teacher. She is calm, patient and encouraging. She gives Christopher advice on what he should do.
Rodger Shears	Christopher's Mum's boyfriend. He is not understanding towards Christopher's needs and is often sarcastic
Mrs Shears	Rodger's wife. Helped Ed and Christopher. Wellington's owner.
Mrs Alexander	An elderly woman who lives on Christopher's street. She is kind and welcoming, but could also be seen as a gossip.

Themes	
Order vs Chaos	Independence
Family	Communication
Language	Honesty/ Trust
Identity	The Unknown
Crime	Love
Tolerance	Disorder

## Reading Skills

### Structure

Narrative perspective	This is the viewpoint that the story has been told from. In the novel, it is told from Christopher's perspective meaning it is in first person (uses I, my and we)
Narrative voice	The way that the narrator speaks or presents the reader with information. Christopher has quite an informal and childish narrative voice
Bildungsroman	A coming of age story where we witness the protagonist growing up and maturing.
Stream of consciousness	This is a method of narrating that describes the events as the narrator thinks of them.
Foreshadowing	To give a suggestion of what might happen later in the story.
Simple sentences	Sentences which have one subject and one verb. They are used often throughout the story as they show that Christopher is only a child and it appears simple and lacks sophistication.
Compound sentence	A sentence containing two main clauses joined by a coordinating conjunction (for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so)
Complex Sentence	A sentence with a main clause and at least one subordinate clause which adds extra information on the topic.
Exclamatory sentence	A word or sentence used to show surprise or shock and punctuated with an exclamation mark.
Interrogative sentence	A question

Story structure	Exposition →	Complication →	Climax →	Falling action →	Resolution
	The point where we are introduced to the story and the characters.	The action begins to happen and things change to create tension.	The crisis point where the tension and action is at its highest	This is where the characters work to solve the problem.	This is how things end in the story.

### Language devices

Repetition	Repeated words or ideas
Imagery	Creating a mental picture for the reader through appealing to the senses (smell, touch, taste, see, hear).
Pathetic Fallacy	When nature reflects human emotion (we often see this in the weather)
Simile	Comparing one thing to another using like or as
Metaphor	Describes an object or action in a way that isn't literally true, but helps explain an idea or make a comparison
Connotations	An idea or feeling that is associated with a particular word. Eg. Red= love
Adjective	Describing word. Eg. Beautiful
Verb	Action word. Eg. running
Noun	Person, place or thing. Eg. school
Adverb	A word to describe the verb. Eg. quickly

### How to structure an analytic paragraph

#### What is the writer doing

- Point
- Evidence

#### How have they done it (what language and structural techniques have been used)

- Technique

#### Why have they done it (what is the effect)

- Explain
- Reader

### Key Quotes

- "This is a murder mystery novel."
- "I think I would make a very good astronaut. To be a good astronaut you have to be intelligent and I'm intelligent."
- "And what he meant was that math wasn't like life because in life there are no straightforward answers at the end."
- "And when I was asleep I had one of my favourite dreams... And in the dream nearly everyone on the earth is dead..."
- "Prime numbers are what is left when you have taken all the patterns away. I think prime numbers are like life. They are very logical but you could never work out the rules, even if you spent all your time thinking about them."
- "I couldn't trust him, even though he had said 'Trust me,' because he had told a lie about a big thing."