



THE FLETCHER SCHOOL

THE RANKIN INSTITUTE

Rising 10th Grade Summer Reading 2022 Passage Analysis and Reflection

For the Summer of 2022, each rising 10th-grade student has joined a Google Classroom. Each will be required to read *The Curious Incident Of The Dog In The Night-Time* by Mark Haddon which will be pushed to their MacBook Airs before summer. If a paper copy is desired, the parents can purchase this for their child. If an audiobook is desired, it too can be purchased or checked out through the TFS Sora library or the Charlotte Mecklenburg Library, but it should not be used in isolation as the student needs to follow the text as well. The assignment is due on the first day of classes, August 18, 2022.

Directions: While reading *The Curious Incident Of The Dog In The Night-Time*, respond to the questions that accompany each excerpt using text evidence and support.

New Students: Please share your work with Mrs. Hall (lhall@thefletcherschool.org) before the first day of school.

Ch. 1-19

Passage: "My name is Christopher John Francis Boone. I know all the countries of the world and their capital cities and every prime number up to 7,057. 8 years ago, when I first met Siobhan, she showed me this picture 😞 and I knew that it meant sad, which is what I felt when I found the dead dog. Then she showed me this picture 😊 and I knew that it meant happy, like when I'm reading about the Apollo space missions or when I am still awake at 3 a.m. or 4 a.m. in the morning and I can walk up and down the street and pretend that I am the only person in the whole world. Then she drew some other pictures 😏 😒 😞 😞 but I was unable to say what these meant."

Christopher is not a conventional narrator. He uses images in his writing and states facts rather than telling a straightforward story.

List 2-4 facts that Christopher notes about himself	Answer:
What about the faces do you think confuses Christopher?	Answer:
Give another example in this section in which Christopher understands facts but not emotions.	Answer:

Ch. 23-43

Passage: "I do not tell lies. Mother used to say that this was because I was a good person. But it is not because I am a good person. It is because I can't tell lies ... A lie is when you say something happened which didn't happen."	
Christopher notes the difference between how his mother and probably most people would perceive someone who does not tell lies, a good person, and how he sees himself. He does not believe being honest and being "good" are related.	
Is Christopher a "good" person because he does not tell lies?	Answer:
What trouble does Christopher's honesty get him into in this section?	Answer:
Are there times when it is better to lie than tell the truth? Explain.	Answer:

Ch. 47-71

Passage: "I am going to prove that I'm not stupid. Next month I'm going to take my A level in maths and I'm going to get an A grade."	
Similar to how Christopher views lies, he is black and white about intelligence. In this passage, he equates an "A" on a test with not being stupid. But there are many things that Christopher does not understand about the world, and he also does not get along with others well.	
Does being "smart" or "stupid" only have to do with grades?	Answer:

What are some things done outside of school that would classify someone as "smart?"	Answer:
What is your definition of "smart?"	Answer:

Ch. 73-139

<p>Passage: "And Father said, "Christopher, do you understand that I love you?" And I said "Yes," because loving someone is helping them when they get into trouble, and looking after them, and telling them the truth, and Father looks after me when I get into trouble, like coming to the police station, and he looks after me by cooking meals for me, and he always tells me the truth, which means that he loves me."</p>	
<p>This passage takes place after Christopher and his father have made-up after a violent altercation. Christopher's father is trying to explain how much he loves Christopher, and Christopher says he understands, but he also simplifies love to the definition above.</p>	
Do you agree with Christopher's definition of love? Explain.	Answer:
How would you explain love to Christopher if you were his father?	Answer:
At this point, can Christopher really understand love or know what it is? Explain.	Answer:

Ch. 149-167

<p>Passage: "I had to get out of the house. Father had murdered Wellington. That meant he could murder me, because I couldn't trust him, even though he had said "Trust me," because he had told a lie about a big thing."</p>	
<p>Christopher finds out that his father has been lying about his mother being dead, and he also finds out that it was his father who killed Wellington. This sends Christopher into a shock and ultimately leads him to run away for fear that his father is too dangerous to live with.</p>	
Do you relate to/understand Christopher's father's situation Explain.	Answer:

Why do you think Christopher's father told him his mother was sick?	Answer:
How do you think Christopher would have reacted if his father told him the truth about his mother from the beginning?	Answer:

Ch. 173-191

<p>Passage: "And then I tried to think about what I had to do, but I couldn't think because there were too many other things in my head, so I did a maths problem to make my head clearer."</p>	
<p>Christopher is at the train station determined to go to London to stay with his mother, but he is overwhelmed by everything going on. He does math to help him clear his head.</p>	
What is one thing you do to clear your head when you're overwhelmed?	Answer:
Christopher goes back and forth between feeling afraid and feeling confident in his journey. Do you think he is going to make it to his mother's? Explain.	Answer:
What is different between his interaction with this police officer and the one at the beginning of the book?	Answer:

Ch. 193-227

<p>Passage: "And then Father came into my room. But I was holding my Swiss Army knife with the saw blade out in case he grabbed me. And Mother came into the room as well, and she said, "It's OK, Christopher. I won't let him do anything. You're all right." And Father bent down on his knees near the bed and he said, "Christopher?" But I didn't say anything. And he said, "Christopher, I'm really, really sorry. About everything. About Wellington. About the letters. About making you run away. I never meant...I promise I will never do anything like that again. Hey. Come on, kiddo. And then he held up his right hand and</p>	
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spread his fingers out in a fan so that I could touch his fingers, but I didn't because I was frightened."	
Christopher has been in many dangerous situations at this point, but he is still fearful of his dad.	
Is Christopher right to be afraid of his father? Explain.	Answer:
How could his father win back Christopher's trust? Is that even possible?	Answer:
Do you think Christopher can trust his mother? Explain.	Answer:

Ch. 229-End

Passage: "And it's best if you know a good thing is going to happen, like an eclipse or getting a microscope for Christmas. And it's bad if you know a bad thing is going to happen, like having a filling or going to France. But I think it is worst if you don't know whether it is a good thing or a bad thing which is going to happen"	
Things are very uncertain for Christopher's family in the last part of the book. Here Christopher says that the worst thing is when things are uncertain.	
Do you agree with Christopher? Explain.	Answer:
The reality is that no one really knows the future and so most people live in uncertainty. How do you deal with not knowing the future?	Answer:
In the end, Christopher says he can do anything. Do you believe that about him? Do you think he can do anything? Or is he limited by his thoughts and perspective of the world?	Answer: