

**10th Grade Study Questions  
for Mark Haddon's  
*The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time***

**General reading instructions:** As you read Mark Haddon's *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time*, be an active and critical reader. **Highlight** important events and revealing passages on character, setting, plot, and theme. **Write** insightful notes in the margins of your book. Draw connections to today's world and to your own experiences.

During sophomore year you will read a variety of literature – short stories, novels, plays, nonfiction, and poems – that have underlying themes in the following areas: **justice, virtue, maturation/coming of age, and relationships**. As you read this book, look for these themes. Remember that a theme is not just a topic or category but rather an underlying message or universal truth about a particular topic. (“Love” is a topic; “Love is a many splendored thing” or “Love hurts” or “He ain’t heavy, he’s my brother” are themes about love.)

**Study questions instructions:** Read each of the following questions and then find – and highlight – the answers in the novel. Remember, some questions may require you to make *inferences*. Instead of highlighting the specific answer, you will have to read between the lines and combine two or three details to *deduce* the correct answer; highlight those details.

Please answer the questions briefly but thoroughly, supporting your answers with specific details from the novel. Some questions have multiple parts. Use **parenthetical page numbers** for the supporting details. (This means that, following each **concrete detail** you include, there should be a page reference in parentheses.) Answer the questions on your Tablet PC in Microsoft Word, and number your answers. All answers must be typed in full sentences in paragraph form. This assignment is **due the first day of class**. Expect a **test** and/or **essay** on the book during the first two weeks of school.

**Reflective Study Questions**

*n.b. YOU MUST INCLUDE AT LEAST ONE PARENTHETICAL **PAGE REFERENCE** FOR EACH QUESTION.*

**UNDERSTAND** – *Show what you know about the summer reading selection. Please write 3-5 sentences for each question below.*

1. What are three aspects of autism that are evident in this story about Christopher, the fifteen-year-old main character?
2. Why is mathematics so important to Christopher? Describe at least two other things that are important to Christopher.
3. How does Christopher define “love” (86)? How does Christopher express love?

4. Why does Christopher find it so hard to relate to other people? Describe two such difficult social interactions and describe Christopher's reaction to these **relationships**.
5. What role does Siobhan play in Christopher's life? Describe their **relationship**.
6. What fears does Christopher have to confront? In what ways does he develop as a person? In other words, how does (or doesn't) he **mature**?
7. Look up the literary device *dramatic irony*. Find and describe one example in the story in which the reader understands more about a situation than a character.
8. Look up the terms **virtue** and **virtuous**. Does Christopher's father have **virtue**? Give an example. What are some of the good and bad ways in which Christopher's father **relates** to him? Why does he lie to Christopher about his mother?
9. Is there any **justice** for what happens to the dog? How is **justice** served or not served by the end of the novel?
10. What are Christopher's thoughts on religion? What reasons does he have for holding this position on faith and God?

**REFLECT** – *Interact with the summer reading. Please write 5-7 sentences for each question below.*

11. How easy did you find it to relate to Christopher? How are you similar? How are you different?
12. Assuming that Christopher is the central character of the story, choose one other character who you believe to be the next most important. Why did you choose that character? Support your choice.
13. Why do you think this book has become such an enormous bestseller?
14. *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time* was, unusually, published simultaneously in children's and adult versions. Do you think this is justified, or does it sit more easily in one category or the other? How do you feel about the use of strong language in a book for children?
15. What did you enjoy about *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time*? Was there anything you didn't enjoy? Why?