

Summer Reading - English 021 (Standard & Honors)

Janisko, McPartland, Ventura, and Zetzer

The Curious Incident of a Dog in the Night-Time by Mark Haddon

American Born Chinese by Gene Luen Yang

Directions: Read the beforementioned texts prior to returning to St Edward High School in August of 2019.

[*American Born Chinese*](#) is a graphic novel by Gene Luen Yang and will be used as a source for one of the first assessments in your English course. In order to begin your Sophomore year fully prepared, please read the novel and pay special attention to the plot and character development of the text (notes are optional).

[*The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*](#) by Mark Haddon is a popular piece of fiction, most recently adapted as a Broadway production in 2014. Please read and complete the Socratic seminar ticket prior to the first day of school of the 2019-20 school year. Your seminar ticket should be typed and submitted to Turnitin.com (instructions located on PowerSchool).

Check your local library (thrift stores and used bookstores) or YouTube (free audio readings) for copies of the texts!

Name: _____ Date: _____ Teacher: _____

020/021 – *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* Seminar Ticket

Directions: *Relate all questions to the novel & real-world examples. All answers should be your own. Do not share answers with your peers. Moreover, do not copy answers from the internet.*

****Submit this assignment to Turnitin.com & PRINT A COPY for the seminar.****

Part I: Answer each of the questions below in no less than three (3) well-constructed sentences each. You should utilize textual support to back up each of your assertions (1 piece of textual evidence for each response). **Remember, your answers should be your own!**

Appreciating Christopher's Perspective

1. One of the primary disadvantages of the autistic is that they can't project or intuit what other people might be feeling or thinking --- as illustrated in the scene where Christopher has to guess what his mother might think would be in the Smarties tube (pp. 115–116).

➤ Referring to one specific example, when is this deficit most visible in the novel?

➤ Does Christopher seem to suffer from his mental and emotional isolation, or does he seem to enjoy it? Provide evidence.

2. The novel includes many maps, diagrams, & images as a part of Christopher's narration. These act as visual representations of Christopher's perspective.

➤ Referring to one specific example, how do the maps, diagrams, & images characterize Christopher's perspective on the world?

➤ Provide another example of Christopher's ideas or behaviors, helping to further characterize his perspective. Assign an adjective to this characterization.

3. Christopher likes the idea of a world with no people in it [p. 2]; he contemplates the end of the world when the universe collapses [pp. 10–11]; he dreams of being an astronaut, alone in space [pp. 50–51], and that a virus has carried off everyone and the only people left are "special people like me" [pp. 198–200].

- What do these passages say about his relationship with other human beings? What is striking about the way he describes these scenarios?

Holding a Mirror Up To Ourselves

4. Review what Christopher says about metaphors & lies and their relationship to novels (pp. 14–20). In his antipathy to lies, Christopher decides not to write a novel, but a book in which "everything I have written . . . is true"

- How is the idea of truth central to Christopher's narration of the novel? In what way(s) is his narration most "true"?

- Why do other characters in the novel, like Christopher's parents, find lies so indispensable? How understandable do you find the instance(s) when characters are deceitful or less than honest? Provide at least one example.

5. Mark Haddon has chosen to make us see the world through Christopher's eyes. Presumably, he does so to help us discover something about our typical expectations for literature and something about ourselves as people.

- How does *Curious Incident* challenge conventional character development & the motivations that drive the plot? Reference another work to make the contrast clear.

- What does Haddon's novel help us discover about ourselves - what was revealed to you through analyzing and empathizing with Christopher's narration?

5. Christopher's journey to London underscores the difficulties he has being on his own, and the real disadvantages of his condition in terms of being in the world.

- What is most frightening, disturbing, or moving about this extended section of the novel [pp. 169–98]?

Part II: Create four (4) open-ended discussion questions about the novel to add to our Seminar:

*Remember, these questions should be either debatable, narrow, significant, or researchable.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.