

Study Guide
The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time

I. Pages 1-21

1. Identify: Wellington

Mrs. Shears

2. What are the pictures Siobhan shows Christopher and why does he need them?
3. Why does Christopher like dogs? What does this tell you about him?
4. Explain why Christopher likes only murder mystery novels.
5. What do you notice about Christopher's descriptions of the policeman and policewoman?
6. Explain why Christopher has trouble answering the policeman's questions.
7. When does Christopher groan? Why?
8. Explain why Christopher hit the policeman.
9. How did Christopher feel after the policeman arrested him? Why?
10. Describe Christopher's thoughts as he is being taken to the police station.
11. How are prime numbers like life, according to Christopher?
12. What was it about the police cell that Christopher found "nice"?
13. Explain the two reasons Christopher finds people confusing.
14. Describe Christopher's thoughts. (page 19)
15. Describe Mr. Boone's reaction to Christopher; can you see why he'd be angry?

II. Pages 22-50

1. Describe Christopher's reaction to his mother's illness. Is he unhappy?
2. Explain how Christopher decides the following:
 - a. Good Day
 - b. Black Day
 - c. Quite Good Day
 - d. Super Good Day
3. How does Christopher see himself?
4. Describe Christopher's reaction to his mother's death. Does he seem unhappy? Why or why not?

5. Why does Christopher not always do what he is told to do? What does this tell you about him?
6. Explain how Christopher feels about strangers. Why can't he look at them?
7. In the conversation with Mrs. Alexander, what is revealed about Christopher?
8. In what ways is Christopher different from the others at this school?

III. Pages 50-80

1. After reading of Christopher's behavioral problems, which do you think would create the most difficulty for him?
2. What makes Mr. Boone so angry?
3. Explain why Christopher thinks he'd make a good astronaut.
4. What did Mrs. Alexander tell Christopher about his mother? How did he react to this news?
5. Why do you think Christopher likes math diagrams so much?
6. Describe Christopher's reaction to Sherlock Holmes. What does it tell you about the way his mind works?
7. When Siobhan asks Christopher if he is sad about the affair of his mother and Mr. Shears, he says that he is not. How does he explain this?
8. Describe Christopher's thinking as revealed on pages 77-80.

IV. Pages 80-124

1. Why did Christopher hit his father?
2. Explain Christopher's opinion of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.
3. What is Occam's Razor?
4. Where did Christopher find the book he had been writing? What else did he find?
5. Why do you think Mr. Boone told his son that his mother was dead?
6. According to Christopher, when is a mystery not a mystery?
7. How did Christopher's mother explain her actions? Why do you think Mr. Boone had kept the letters hidden from his son?
8. How did reading the letters affect Christopher? Why?
9. How did Mr. Boone try to comfort him?
10. According to Christopher, how are people like computers?

11. When Mr. Boone tries to explain his actions, Christopher cannot accept his words and he leaves the house. Why is he so determined to leave his father?

V. Pages 124-220

1. Explain why Christopher rejects the idea that the constellation Orion looks like a hunter. What does this tell you about the way his mind works?
2. Describe the logic that led Christopher to decide to go to his mother in London. Again, what does this tell you about the way his mind works?
3. List the conflicts that Christopher encounters in his attempt to take the train and explain how he solved them. (pgs. 135-154)
 - a. How did Christopher escape the policeman? Describe his other encounters with other people on the train.
 - b. Why did it take so long for Christopher to get on to the underground to Willesdon Junction?
 - c. How did Christopher find his way to his mother's apartment?
 - d. How did Mr. Shears react to having Christopher stay with them?
 - e. Describe Mr. Boone's attempts to win Christopher's confidence.
 - f. How was it finally possible for Christopher to stay with his father during the time that his mother was ill?
 - g. In your opinion, what did having the dog do for Christopher?
 - h. What did Christopher's trip to London do for his self-confidence?

This book provides an insight into the mind of the narrator who has Asperger's Syndrome. He explains his thoughts and reactions to many different social situations. Once you have completed the novel, consider the following questions:

- I. How does Christopher react to :
 - a. large groups of people
 - b. change of any kind
 - c. noise
 - d. light
 - e. colors
 - f. people touching him

II. List the defenses Christopher has for the situations that upset him.

III. Be able to discuss the reaction of these people to Christopher. What do they do to help him? To hurt him?

- a. Mrs. Shears
- b. Mrs. Alexander
- c. Siobhan
- d. his mother
- e. Mr. Boone, his father
- f. Mr. Shears
- g. the various policemen he encounters
- h. newsstand operator
- i. woman at the Information Desk