

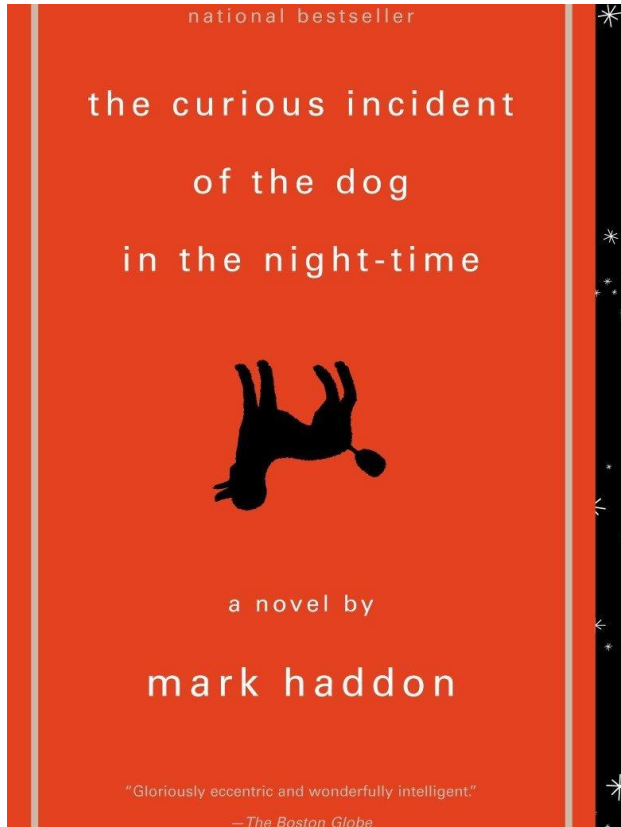
English 218 Introduction to Literature

Lesson: April 10, 2020

Learning Targets

- Read and comprehend literature, including stories, dramas, and poems, independently and proficiently.
- Evaluate the impact of the author's choices regarding how to develop and relate elements of a text.

Bell Ringer:



The previous reading (46-60) includes some important revelations about Mother and Father. What was your initial reaction as you read this? How does it affect how you feel about Father and Mother?

****Start a document to record your response to this and the work which follows on later slides.**

Learn

In our study of short stories, poems and drama, we have discussed various aspects of author's style. Today, we are returning to the author's choice of point-of-view (POV) - a key element of style.

Point-of-View: Authors make a conscious decision about how they will tell the story, and in this book, the narrator plays a very active role. "Who" tells the story is one of the ways an author emphasizes certain ideas. The narrator in this novel is Christopher - it is a first-person POV. Much of this novel is Christopher's narration, which could also be considered inner monologue. Review your notes about POV and consider how POV influences other aspects of the story. What if Haddon had chosen third-person (limited or omniscient) instead? Read what this writer has to say about POV and note the differences between the main three types.

[Joseph Bates, Writer's Digest: Why POV is So Important](#)

Practice: Read and Write

- Use the pdf of this wonderful novel to refer back to our reading so far, from the beginning through page 60, then respond to the prompts which follow.
- [Mark Haddon The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time](#)
- **Review** the notes you have taken on POV, considering how it can differ and why an author chooses a particular POV. Then, **write 3-5 sentences** which interpret the effect of Christopher's POV in this novel. Some questions to consider: What do you know about this narrator? What does he see in the world around him? What details does he share with his readers? What information about the world does he omit? What is the effect of his perspective, i.e. his unique view because of who he is?
- Going back to our bell-ringer, **in what way(s) does Christopher's POV affect how the reader views Mother and Father?**

Response Criteria

(Answers will Vary)

- Check your written response to make sure it meets the following criteria:
 - **Did you write in complete sentences?**
 - **Did you use standard conventions (spelling, punctuation, grammar)?**
 - **Did you answer the questions?**

Sample Appropriate Response:

Bellringer - Responses will vary, but should address how the student feels about Mother and Father, based on the information in pages 52-60.

Questions: responses will vary. On the following slide is an example of a good response. Remember all conventions and MLA format when writing.

Sample response:

Christopher has a unique perspective because he is a young adolescent with autism, living with only his father, in a small town in England. Using his POV means the reader will get limited information about his world, based on his direct experience. The details shared by Christopher affect the reading experience, since he tends to share minute details about some things of interest to him, and completely omit other details which do not interest him. For example, he shares his thoughts on whether it is a “Black Day” or a “Super Good Day”, based on what he sees; he shares his thoughts on math and his favorite author; however, he does not share much about his school, his teacher or his friends. If Haddon had chosen a third-person perspective, the reader might be told about different things in Christopher’s world, but at the same time would not get to know Christopher nearly as well.

This POV also means the reader will feel closer to Christopher and empathize with him, which will affect how the reader views other characters, such as Father and Mother. Seeing these characters through Christopher’s eyes makes it difficult to like either character, based on how Father acts towards Christopher, the letter he reads from Mother and his conversations with Mrs. Alexander about his parents’ affairs..

If you want to learn more...Additional Resource:

It must be difficult to parent a child with autism. In this short TED talk, Carina Morillo talks about how she learned to get through to her son, who has a more severe form of autism than Christopher. Watch this to learn more about a parent's view of having a child with autism.

["To understand autism, don't look away" by Carina Morillo](#)



Carina Morillo | TEDxRiodelaPlata

To understand autism, don't look away

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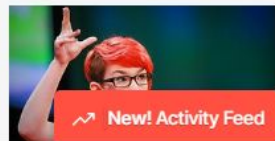
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