



ELA Virtual Learning

English 218 Introduction to Literature

Lesson: April 17, 2020



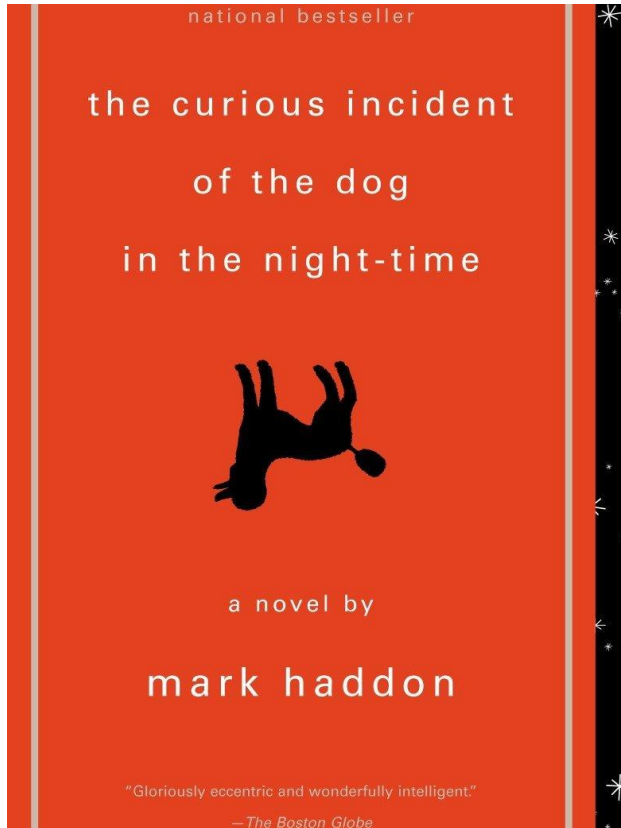
English 218 Introduction to Literature

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Objective/Learning Target:

- Discuss and analyze literary works by using critical reading and thinking skills.
- Analyze the author's choices regarding how to develop and relate elements of a text.

Bell Ringer:



You should now have finished this wonderful book. Did you love it? If so, talk about why; if not, talk about how you do feel about it and why.

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

Learn

Beginnings and endings are so important to a story. Readers can be fickle; if the story does not pull them in pretty quickly, they may close the book and walk away. The story must grab them and keep their attention; it also must leave them satisfied or they will not tell their friends about it and it will die quickly.

A good ending must satisfy the reader, leaving a feeling that the time spent with the story was worth it and not wasted. When the final page is finished and the back cover is closed, a good book lives on because the reader will tell others to read it; the best books will be read again and again by the same readers, too.

The ending must answer enough questions to not feel as though there are loose ends which should have been tied up. It is not that every question must be answered, but certainly the “big” ones must be. Examples of big questions include

Learn, cont.

whether someone lives or dies, if relationships have worked out or crumbled, if reconciliations have occurred, and if the main character's life worked out the way it should have. The best endings have emotional impact - the reader feels something about it - happy, sad, anything but apathetic. The ending should be paced correctly - not too fast and not too slow. No one wants to keep reading when the questions have been answered and there is nothing more to say; also no one wants to be rushed into a resolution which seems unnatural or forced.

Sometimes the ending is specifically written to set up another story - a sequel or continuation of what is clearly a series. Everyone could tell the first Harry Potter book would not be the last; it was written to continue in a series. In those types of cases, the ending is a little different. There are deliberate loose ends or even cliffhangers, designed to leave the reader hungry for more and waiting desperately for the next book.

Learn, cont.

Think again about the last ten pages or so of *the curious incident of the dog in the night-time*. Especially consider the final page, and the final paragraph.

“And I know I can do this because I went to London on my own, and because I solved the mystery of **Who Killed Wellington?** and I found my mother and I was brave and I wrote a book and that means I can do anything” (104).

Consider the following questions: Was the ending satisfying? Did you think it was paced correctly, or was it too fast or too slow in resolving? How would you change the ending, if at all?

These are some of the questions you need to answer in the writing assignment for this lesson.

Practice: Read and Write

- Use the pdf of the novel to review or re-read any parts you need or want to and also to help you respond to the prompt.
- [Mark Haddon The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time](#)

Write a personal response to this novel, in essay form, using your best writing and citing text at least twice. You may use first-person for this writing.

Write about your experience reading this book – likes, dislikes, something confusing, questions you still have, rewards of reading the book, a personal connection you have to an event, character, author’s style, etc. Include your answer to this question, as well: Why do you think this book has become such an enormous bestseller? Don’t forget to specifically answer the questions about the ending, too. Was the ending satisfying? Did you think it was paced correctly, or was it too fast or too slow in resolving? How would you change the ending, if at all?

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 the student's opinion of this novel.

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

Examples of Quality Responses

The prompt requires a personal, but thoughtful response. Every student may have different ideas about the value of this book, quality of the writing, and simply whether or not he or she liked it and why. The essay needs to reflect all of that and address the questions specifically asked in the prompt. Following is an example of a successful essay, which happens to be my personal response to this book.

[Mrs. Meyer's Personal Response to *the curious incident of the dog in the night-time*](#)

** By the way, do not “put away” your copy of this book. Next week, you will write a formal literary analysis based on it.

Resources to Further Understanding and Enjoyment

Earlier you saw a trailer for a stage production of this book. It has now been staged in several countries, including the United States; it was first staged in London. I had the good fortune to take a group of students to see it at the Kansas City Repertory Theater a couple of years ago and it was fantastic! My students loved it.

Attached is a link to a high school stage production. I tried to find a professional one, but they are not available. Take some time to watch it; it is a very interesting interpretation.

[the curious incident of the dog in the night-time play](#)

Playbill for the London production of the play

