ELA Virtual Learning

English 218 Introduction to Literature

Lesson: April 20, 2020
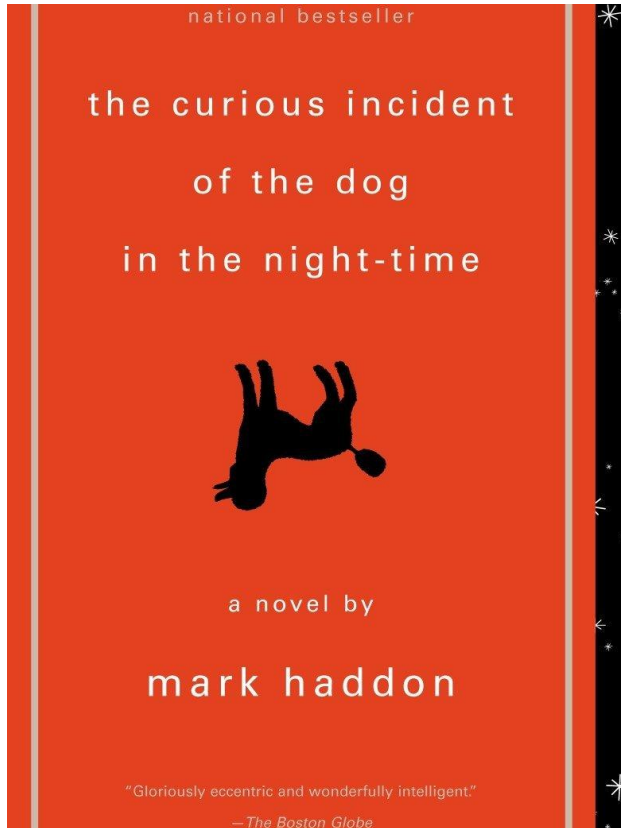
English 218 Introduction to Literature

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Objective/Learning Target:

- Analyze the novel using critical reading and thinking skills.

- Analyze and evaluate the author's choices regarding how to develop and relate elements of a text.

Bell Ringer:

the curious incident
of the dog
in the night-time

a novel by

mark haddon

"Gloriously eccentric and wonderfully intelligent."
—The Boston Globe

Considering all of your reading of the curious incident of the dog in the night-time, what aspect of Haddon's writing stands out the most to you and why?

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

Learn

Now that you have finished reading the extraordinary novel, your next task is to write a formal literary analysis. A literary analysis is an argumentative paper which looks more closely at what an author has done in the writing of a piece of literature, makes one or more assertions about the writing and demonstrates the truth of those assertions with explanation, discussion and support from evidence (text and research).

You have written two other forms of literary analysis and will pull from both of those to get this paper started - the TWIST analysis and the Key Passage Analysis. Using what you have learned about tone, word choice/diction, imagery, theme and other aspects of author's style (sentence structure, characterization, etc.), and referring to key passages in the novel, you will support your thesis about what Haddon has done in the book, how he did it, the result and how well it was done.

Learn, cont.

Luckily for us, our source of all things writing - Purdue OWL from Purdue University - has provided a wonderful powerpoint which helps explain literary analysis. Please open and read through this presentation:

Writing a Literary Analysis by Brian Yothers as presented on Purdue OWL (Online Writing Lab)

This presentation is very well-done; however, I would like to explain just a couple of things. Slide 10 explains secondary sources, which is the same thing I mean when I say "outside sources". In other words, these are sources you get through research; these outside sources are also discussing the novel and/OR discussing some of the literary concepts you are discussing in your paper (such as how an author develops theme). You DO need one or more secondary sources in this paper.

Learn, cont.

On slide 11, it explains where you get secondary sources. For this project, that is simply our academic database - EBSCO, any helpful books on literary criticism and/or analysis, or the internet. CAUTION: Be very careful choosing anything on the internet; we have discussed choosing reliable sources and I will discuss this more as we work this week.

On slide 13 is a nice synopsis of what you need to do as you write your literary analysis.

Slide 13

When writing a literary analysis:

▪ Be familiar with literary terms.

▪ Analyze specific items.

▪ Make an a argument.

▪ Make appropriate use of secondary sources.

▪ Consult instructors and tutors for help when needed.

Practice:

- Use the pdf of the novel to review or re-read any parts you need or want to and also to refer to in the writing of your literary analysis.
- Mark Haddon The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time

You last wrote a personal response to this novel. Re-read your response to get started thinking about a topic for this paper. Next, go back over some of our previous discussion questions and answers. Think about what all we have examined, from characterization to tone to theme and much else. What will your topic focus on?

Initially, you will just identify your two or three areas of focus. Tomorrow, we will work on writing the thesis to come from this exercise.

First, read the handout on the paper. You will see the parameters of the paper, but also a list of things to help you choose a topic. Literary Analysis 2020

Practice:

Today, write three different possible topics for your paper, in the form of a "top three" list - #1 is your first choice, #2 your second and #3 your third. Use the paper handout for ideas.

Ex. Haddon's characterization of Christopher using _____

Ex. 2 Haddon's development of the theme of _____, using _____.

After writing these, weigh the difficulty of each, based on how much you know about the literary concepts and how well you know the book. By tomorrow, have one solid first choice.

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 a specific aspect of Haddon's writing. For example, Haddon's use of sentence structure is quite striking. He uses different types of sentences for different characters and different tones.

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

Examples of Quality Responses

The prompt requires the student to consider possible topics for this paper. Following are some solid possible responses.

Haddon's characterization of Christopher using sentence structure and visual elements

Haddon's development of the theme of parenting a child with autism using conflict and the characterization of Mother

Resources to Further Writing Skills

As you know from my many, many references, Purdue OWL is our online writing handbook. I have urged all of my students to access this resource and get to know it; everything you need to help you with writing is there.

One thing I would like to point out today - for this project and others - are the many resources for writing which are available on OWL. This link takes you to the section on writing in literature; on the left, below it, you can click on specific links to get more help with this type of writing. Please check it out:

[Purdue OWL Writing in Literature](#)