



# ELA Virtual Learning

## English 218 Introduction to Literature

Lesson: April 21, 2020



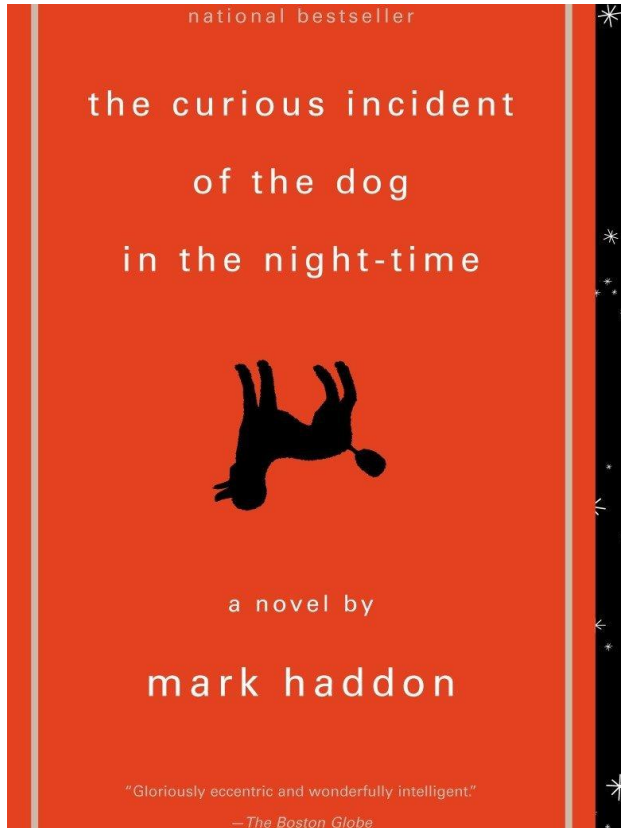
# English 218 Introduction to Literature

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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.
  - Write an arguable thesis statement for a literary analysis

# Bell Ringer:



Now that you have chosen a topic for your literary analysis which includes two or three literary elements, which will be the major element of focus? Which one are you most interested in?

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

# Learn

To review, 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).

Having chosen your topic for this paper, which includes two or three literary elements, you now need to create a working thesis before proceeding with research to find a secondary source or two. We call it a “working” thesis because it is where you will start and what you will work from - and it is a work-in-progress. You may end up modifying your thesis by the time the paper is done.

To write your working thesis, first please read this Google doc I have created to guide you. [Lit. Analysis of C.I. - Thesis](#)

# Learn, cont.

Again, our source of all things writing - Purdue OWL from Purdue University - has provided a wonderful powerpoint which helps explain not just thesis writing, but writing a thesis for a literature paper - in this case, one for world literature, which works just fine. Please open and read through this presentation:

[Writing the Thesis Statement for a world literature paper](#), by the Purdue OWL staff (Online Writing Lab)

This presentation is also very well-done, like the one on literary analysis. Again, I would like to explain just a couple of things. Slide 7 gives an example of a thesis which includes scope and structure - a bit more detail of what is in the paper. I do NOT want your thesis to include scope and structure. That is a personal/professional preference. I like a thesis statement which is a bit more streamlined. The example on slide 6 is good.

In short, “what” did the author do and “how”?

When writing your thesis, determine which of your two or three elements is the main one and focus on that, which is the “what”, using the other one or two as the “how”.

Ex: In “The Veldt”, Bradbury illustrated the dangers of over-reliance on technology using the characterization of Lydia as the worried mother and the chilling setting of the nursery in their Happylife Home.



# 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](#)

Another online writing lab, at Excelsior College, provides a way to practice identifying a proper, strong thesis. Complete this first:

## [Thesis Statement Activity](#)

What was your score? If it was not 4/4, go back and do it again, comparing the correct answer with the incorrect answer, to see the difference in the choices.

# Practice:

Practice writing thesis statements for the following topics, using scholarly language.

1. The school holding prom later in the summer
2. The positive or negative impact of closing school for the rest of the year
3. Why recycling is important
4. Why people should read great literature

Check slide 11 for sample quality thesis statements for these.



# Practice:

What have you chosen as the topic of your literary analysis? You must have your topic in order to write your thesis. You were to identify two or three literary elements.

Review the handout, if needed. [Literary Analysis 2020](#)

Referring to the sources provided - my handout and the presentation from OWL - write your working thesis in two or three different ways. Look at your topic, and decide which of your elements is the “what” (did the author do) and which is/are the “how” (did he do it). Write a single sentence which is clear and to-the-point, encompassing your two or three literary elements, then do the same thing again in another statement.

After writing these, weigh the merits of each, based on the requirements of clear, concise and correct statement which is arguable and also based on how the literary elements relate to each other. By tomorrow, have one solid working thesis. If you wish, you may email your thesis to me for feedback.

# 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 identify one specific aspect of Haddon's writing. For example, a student may identify Haddon's characterization of Christopher as the major focus.*

*Practice: The practice Thesis Statement Activity shows if you chose the correct response for each. If you had any errors on that, please go back through it again and review.*

*The following slide shows possible responses for the second practice.*

*The student should evaluate his/her own working thesis per the guidelines; it is always advisable to get another opinion.*

# Examples of Quality Responses

1. The school holding prom later in the summer.

Thesis: Prom is considered by many to be a highlight of senior year and the district needs to reschedule and hold prom later this summer.

2. The positive or negative impact of closing school for the rest of the year.

Thesis: Although disappointing and possibly inconvenient to many people, it was necessary to close school for the remainder of the 2019-20 school year in order to protect people from possible contagion of Covid-19.

# Examples of Quality Responses, cont.

## 3. Why recycling is important

Thesis: There are many types of substances, such as plastics, produced and used by people, which will not naturally decompose in a reasonable amount of time, so it is important to recycle such substances rather than allow them to contaminate the environment for many years.

## 4. Why people should read great literature

Thesis: People from all walks of life should read great literature because it opens up the mind to alternative perspectives, stimulates the imagination and transports one out of the routine of daily life and into infinite possibilities of characters and places.

# 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.

In the meantime, I have discovered another OWL - Online Writing Lab - this one brought to us by Excelsior College. I have only begun to explore this OWL, but I have noted several links related to thesis writing. Check it out.

[Excelsior College OWL](#)