



8601 W. Roosevelt Road, Forest Park, IL 60130
708-338-4100 Phone 708-338-4199 Fax

PDP-IB British Literature SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT
Due August 22, 2016 (First Full Day of School)
40 points

For your summer reading assignment, you will need to purchase and read the novel, *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* by Mark Haddon.

Below is your assignment. This assignment must be typed in Times New Roman font, double-spaced, with 1” margins.

Please number each category (i.e. Setting ,characters, etc)

This assignment will be worth 40 points and will be due on the 1st day of class. Failure to turn in this assignment will result in 10 points being deducted the 1st day it is not turned in. If it is not turned in on the 2nd day of school, you will have a 0 for this assignment.

Please note that you are responsible for purchasing your own copy of the novel.

1. Setting

- Define setting. Briefly describe and discuss the setting (place and time) of the novel. Include shifts that occur throughout, so there may be more than one. Be sure to support it with evidence from the novel.

2. Characters

- Select your top three (3) characters from the novel. Thoroughly discuss each one by describing how they look, telling about their role in the story, and one example of conflict each character faced.

3. Key Moments

- On separate, attached pages, summarize **eight** (8) key episodes or events in the novel (conflict, epiphany, turning point, or moment of important insight). List them in the order they appear in the novel. For each, summarize the episode/event, explain the significance to the meaning of the work as a whole, and provide **one** (1) quotation that best illustrates this moment.

4. Theme*

- *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* has several examples of themes. Think about a theme that could represent the novel. Once you have selected your theme discuss it in detail telling why it can be considered as a theme for the novel. Response should be one paragraph or more supported with information from the text.

5. Quote Analysis**

- The following are quotes from *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*. Carefully read each quote. Select **ten** (10) of the **sixteen** (16) quotes listed below to expound upon. When discussing your selected quotes, indicate the chapter, page, and the person who stated the quote. Next, in one or more paragraphs, explain what the quote is saying to you, tell how it pertains to the entire ‘diary’ (support this part with information from the text), and tell how you can relate to it. Each explanation needs to be at least six (6) sentences in length and include part of the quotation in the answer.

- "I was so excited. When I started writing my book there was only one mystery to solve. Now there were two."
- "I put my hands over my ears and closed my eyes and I rolled forward till I was hunched up with my forehead pressed onto the grass. The grass was wet and cold. It was nice."
- "Prime numbers are like life. You can never work out all the rules even if you spend all your time thinking about them."
- "Novels are supposed to have descriptions in them."
- "This is a murder mystery novel."
- "I like dogs. You always know what a dog is thinking."
- "Siobhan said that I should write something that I would want to read myself."
- "All the other children at my school are stupid...everyone has learning difficulties because learning to speak French or understanding relativity is difficult"
- "The next day I saw 4 yellow cars in a row on the way to school, which made it a Black Day"
- "I don't tell lies"
- "I like Sherlock Holmes, but I do not like Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, who was the author of Sherlock Holmes stories. This is because he wasn't like Sherlock Holmes and he believed in the supernatural"
- "And it means that sometimes a whole population of frogs, or worms, or people, can die for no reason whatsoever, just because that is the way the numbers work"
- "I was looking through some old photos last night, which made me sad. Then I found a photo of you playing with the train set we bought for you a few Christmas's ago. And that made me happy because it was one of the really good times we had together"
- "...it made me think about how all the water in the world is connected, and this water had evaporated from the oceans somewhere in the middle of the Gulf of Mexico or Baffin Bay, and now it was falling in front of the house..."
- "I tried doubling 2's again, but I couldn't get past 215 which was 32768. So I groaned to make the time pass quicker and not think"
- "...if you have difficult things in your life it is nice to think that they are what is called negligible, which means that they are so small you don't have to take them into account..."
- "I have to close my eyes and put my hands over my ears and groan, which is like pressing CTRL+ALT+DEL and shutting down programs and turning the computer off and rebooting."
- "But most people are lazy. They never look at everything. They do what is called glancing...and then they would stop noticing anything because they would be thinking something else like 'oh, it's very beautiful here,' or 'I'm worried I might have left the gas cooker on...'"

6. Reading Journal

- For each of the chapters, you will need to write journal entries. Each chapter needs to have at least four (4) comments/entries. At least two (2) of these entries need to be made while you are reading. Label these entries with the page number that inspires the thought. The others can be made after you are finished with the chapter. These entries should be labeled as “overall.”
- Your notes/entries should NOT center on what happens in the story, but on deeper connections or thoughts, such as:
 - Ideas that the reading inspires or makes you think of
 - Connections that you can make to other books, stories, or culture
 - Thoughts regarding what is happening to the character(s) - their actions, their words, their emotions
 - Ideas regarding the themes of the book and what the author’s message could be
 - The language – the tone, the meanings, the way the author writes
 - Culture connections – thoughts on how the play comments on society,
 - Patterns in either the language or the concepts (or both)

7. Summary

- Write a summary of *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* in your OWN WORDS. This response should consist of three paragraphs.

* Help for Theme

Themes help readers answer the question: What does a story present about the universal human experience?

Every story, either short or in novel format, has at least one theme. A theme is a revelation shown through the characters' struggles and triumphs about life. A theme in a short story may occasionally be revealed in a direct sentence through a character's thought or declaration, but most often, a reader must infer the theme of the work after considerable thought. A theme or themes in longer works are never stated as one or two words-these identifying words are theme categories or theme subjects, such as "love" or "fear" or "identification." Themes, when analyzed, must be written in statement format (one or two sentences) that explain the universal human experience-experiences commonly shared by humans regardless of race, nationality, or time period.

How does a reader infer a theme from a story? Always ask questions as you read:

- Why is this situation included in the story?
- What is the main idea about this situation? Does it show fear? Or love? Or change? Or strength?
- Is this a central conflict throughout the story or in just one situation?
- Why is this character important? Why is this symbol important?
- What are the changes from the beginning to the end of the story?

After you have finished reading and have answered the above questions as you have read, ask yourself what are the main ideas or categories found within the story.

**Help for Quote Analysis

So, what is this analysis "thing"?

When you analyze you break down the context and examine methodically and in detail the structure of something, typically for purposes of explanation and interpretation. You are making connections to the meaning of the quotation: why is it there? What comes before and after the quotation? How does it further the meaning of the story?

The quote analysis should be written in present tense; this is called "literary present tense" because literature never changes once it has been printed. Present tense is used when the action is NOW or when it is a truth (President Washington is the first President of the United States) or when writing about literature that always

remains the same or true. In the explanation are blended quotations-these will be your analysis “friend” once you have learned the proper format. Such fun awaits!