
The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time, by Mark Haddon, is a murder mystery told through the eyes of Christopher, a 15 year old boy with Asperger’s syndrome. The story’s tone has an astute air of perception, misconception, and an overall view of common everyday occurrences through the eyes of someone with autism. From the onset of the story, Christopher shares his struggles with understanding human emotions: “I like dogs. You always know what a dog is thinking. It has four moods. Happy, sad, cross and concentrating. Also, dogs are faithful and they do not tell lies because they cannot talk” (p. 4).

Throughout the book, Christopher speaks candidly about his thoughts, disability, and view of his environment. The author continually embeds the characteristics associated with Asperger’s syndrome, which results in a subtle yet powerful impact on the reader. This book compels the reader to pay closer attention to ordinary or routine situations in his or her life and to consider the impact these situations may have on someone who has a different perspective. An easy read, the book is a wonderful choice for a book club or other social situation in which people who are and are not familiar with disabilities can get together and share their reactions and new insights.

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About the Reviewers

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