The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time Study Guide

Questions to think about while you read, then answer:

1. One of the unusual aspects of the novel is its inclusion of many maps and diagrams. How effective are these in helping the reader see the world through Christopher's eyes?

2. Christopher experiences the world quantitatively and logically. His teacher Mr. Jeavons tells him that he likes math because it's safe. But Christopher's explanation of the Monty Hall problem gives the reader more insight into why he likes math. How well do Siobhan and Mr. Jeavons understand Christopher?

3. Which scenes are very funny (comical) in this novel, and why? How and why are these same situations also sad, upsetting or frustrating?

4. Christopher's conversations with Siobhan, his teacher at school, are possibly his most important communications or connections he has with another person. What are these conversations like, and how do they compare with his conversations with his family?

Chapter 5

5. What does Christopher do when he is confronted with Mrs. Shears’s screaming? Why do you think he reacts this way?

Chapter 17

6. Why does being arrested make Christopher feel calmer?

Chapters 31-37

7. What ritual or routine do Christopher and his father share? Why have they developed this ritual?

8. What about the conversation with the police shows that they do not understand that Christopher is autistic or different? What are some of the pieces they are missing?

Chapter 41

9. What does Christopher’s father tell him to do about Wellington?

Chapters 43, 47, and 53

10. What superstitious systems has Christopher created for himself? Why does he create them?

11. What does Christopher say about his mother’s death? What happened after Christopher learned that his mother had died?

Chapter 67

12. Why does Christopher find it hard to talk to strangers? Why does he ask new people so many questions when he gets to know them?

Study Guide Questions Adapted from:
13. Comedy that uses satire or sarcasm to lighten unpleasant or taboo subjects is called black (or dark) humor. How can Christopher’s interviews be considered black humor?

**Chapter 79**

14. What is Mrs. Alexander’s reaction when Christopher tells her about his mother’s heart attack and death?

**Chapters 151-157**

15. How does Christopher’s mother explain her decision to leave?

16. How does Christopher’s father explain the deception or his dishonesty of saying that his mother was dead?

**Chapter 167**

17. What happens when Christopher’s father holds up his open hand to comfort or assure Christopher of his love?

**Chapters 197 and 199**

18. When the policeman catches Christopher on the train, the officer is “breathing really loud and holding his knees.” What does this action reveal about the officer, and what does the telling of it reveal about Christopher?

19. What is funny about the sequence of events when the train starts moving? How was this kind of event foreshadowed earlier in the book?

**Chapters 211 and 223**

20. What is the point of showing all the signs at the station, both as they are written and as Christopher begins to see them?

**Chapter 227**

21. How does Christopher’s mother react when she first sees him at the front door?

22. Describe what happens when Christopher’s father shows up to the mother’s house?

**Chapter 233**

23. Why does Christopher say he has to go back to Swindon? What does this illustrate or show about Christopher?

24. Why does Christopher go outside at 2:07 a.m., and what happens to make him go back in?

25. What happens the night after Christopher gets home, and what can you infer or conclude about the relationship between Christopher’s mother and Roger?

26. What two events help stabilize or calm Christopher’s life as the story ends?

27. What is Christopher’s long-term plan?
