

BOOK CLUB IN A BOX

**Bookclub-in-a-Box presents the
discussion companion for
Mark Haddon's novel
the curious incident of the dog
in the night-time**

Novel published by Anchor Canada, 2004, a division of Random House of Canada Limited. ISBN: 0-385-65980-6

Quotations used in this guide have been taken from the text of the paperback edition of *the curious incident of the dog in the night-time*. All information taken from other sources is acknowledged.

This discussion companion for *the curious incident of the dog in the night-time* has been prepared and written by Marilyn Herbert, originator of Bookclub-in-a-Box. Marilyn Herbert, B.Ed., is a teacher, librarian, speaker, and writer. Bookclub-in-a-Box is a unique guide to current fiction and classic literature intended for book club discussions, educational study seminars, and personal pleasure. For more information about the Bookclub-in-a-Box team, visit our website (www.bookclubinabox.com).

**Bookclub-in-a-Box discussion companion for
the curious incident of the dog in the night-time**

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BOOKCLUB-IN-A-BOX

Mark Haddon's the curious incident of the dog in the night-time

READERS AND LEADERS GUIDE	2	WRITING STYLE AND STRUCTURE	
INTRODUCTION		Grammar	43
Novel Quickline	7	Narration	44
Key to the Novel	8	Story Structure	45
Author Information	10	SYMBOLS	
CHARACTERIZATION		Prime Numbers	49
A Note About	17	Okapi	50
Christopher	18	Triangle	50
Christopher's Parents	21	Tightrope Walker	51
Mr. and Mrs. Shears	23	LAST THOUGHTS	
Mrs. Alexander, Siobhan	24	Autism	56
FOCUS POINTS AND THEMES		Asperger's Syndrome	56
Power of Storytelling	30	Theory of Mind	58
Counterexample	31	Pythagoras	58
Paradox	32	What We Learn From Christopher	59
The Truth About Lies	34	Haddon's Success	62
Safety	35	Christopher's Conclusion	63
Stress	36	Suggested Beginnings	64
Courage	36	FROM THE NOVEL (QUOTES)	69
Trust	38	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	81
Making Decisions	39		
Power of Teaching	39		

BOOKCLUB-IN-A-BOX

Readers and Leaders Guide

Each Bookclub-in-a-Box guide is clearly and effectively organized to give you information and ideas for a lively discussion, as well as to present the major highlights of the novel. The format, with a Table of Contents, allows you to pick and choose the specific points you wish to talk about. It does not have to be used in any prescribed order. In fact, it is meant to support, not determine, your discussion.

You Choose What to Use.

You may find that some information is repeated in more than one section and may be cross-referenced so as to provide insight on the same idea from different angles.

How to Begin

Relax and look forward to enjoying your book club.

With Bookclub-in-a-Box as your behind the scenes support, there is little for you to do in the way of preparation.

Some readers like to review the guide after reading the novel; some before. Either way, the guide is all you will need as a companion for your discussion. You may find that the guide's interpretation, information, and background have sparked other ideas not included.

Having read the novel and armed with Bookclub-in-a-Box, you will be well prepared to lead or guide or listen to the discussion at hand.

Lastly, if you need some more "hands on" support, feel free to contact us.

What to Look For

Each Bookclub-in-a-Box guide is divided into easy-to-use sections, which include points on characters, themes, writing style and structure, literary or historical background, author information, and other pertinent features unique to the novel being discussed. These may vary slightly from guide to guide.

INTERPRETATION OF EACH NOVEL REFLECTS THE PERSPECTIVE OF THE BOOKCLUB-IN-A-BOX TEAM.

Do We Need to Agree?

THE ANSWER TO THIS QUESTION IS NO.

If we have sparked a discussion or a debate on certain points, then we are happy. We invite you to share your group's alternative findings and experiences. You can contact us via our website (www.bookclubinabox.com), by email (info@bookclubinabox.com), or by phone (1-866-578-5571). We would love to hear from you.

Discussion Starters

There are as many ways to begin a book club discussion as there are members in your group. If you are an experienced group, you will already have your favorite ways to begin. If you are a newly formed group or a group looking for new ideas, here are some suggestions.

- Ask for people's impressions of the novel. (This will give you some idea about which parts of the unit to focus on.)
- Identify a favorite or major character.
- Identify a favorite or major idea.
- Begin with a powerful or pertinent quote. (Not necessarily from the novel.)
- Discuss the historical information of the novel. (Not applicable to all novels.)
- If this author is familiar to the group, discuss the range of his/her work and where this novel stands in that range.
- Use the discussion topics and questions in the Bookclub-in-a-Box guide.

If you have further suggestions for discussion starters, be sure to share them with us and we will share them with others.

Above All, Enjoy Yourselves

INTRODUCTION

Novel Quickline

Key to the Novel

Author Information

INTRODUCTION

Novel Quickline

- Christopher John Francis Boone is confronted with a mystery when he finds his neighbor's dog dead of a fatal stab wound inflicted by a set of garden shears. An animal lover, Christopher is determined to solve the mystery and find the murderer.
 - However, this is not the only mystery in Christopher's life. His mother disappeared suddenly two years earlier and Christopher had been told that she had died. In the unraveling of the mystery surrounding the dog, Christopher discovers that his mother is still alive. Now Christopher has two mysteries to solve.
 - Normally, exploratory situations such as these would be tackled through the methods of investigation and questioning, both of which
-

notes

involve approaching people to discover their observations and hear their answers. Interaction such as this is common for most people, but not for Christopher.

- Because Christopher has Asperger's syndrome, a form of autism, he does not like approaching people he doesn't know. This makes investigation difficult, but Christopher does like to solve puzzles. However, his father has made him solemnly promise not to pursue the incident, and so Christopher experiences the full intensity of these conflicting emotions. He must decide whether or not to continue the search on behalf of a dead dog and a missing mother.
- What seems commonplace and attainable for ordinary people is anything but for Christopher. Solving these two mysteries will take every ounce of effort and ingenuity that Christopher has. Mark Haddon has created a first person narrator who bravely faces his personal challenges. Over the course of the story, we are taken into the head and thoughts of an unusual young man. We not only learn about him, but about ourselves as well.

Key to the Novel

Counterexample

- When Christopher writes his math A-level exam, he is asked to solve a problem involving right-angled triangles. In the solution to this problem, Christopher must use a counterexample to disprove the converse to a statement about these triangles.
- Behind this thinking is the established, and always correct,



**Thanks for previewing this
Bookclub-in-a-Box discussion guide.**

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print or PDF format, just visit:**

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