



Hello British Literature Student,

As your British Literature teacher, I welcome you back to St. Joseph Catholic Academy's fine tradition of excellence.

This year, you will encounter a number of adventurous learning experiences. In British Literature, you will have the opportunity to enrich your vocabulary, improve writing and grammar skills, and explore various works and genres of literature from all over the United Kingdom.

The main thematic topic driving our curriculum this year is mystery and suspense and how it affects characters; it will run throughout our readings.

To prepare for our year together, your first requirement is to begin your summer assignments. All reading is to be done during the summer. All assignments are expected to be complete and ready to turn in on the 1st day of class.

Summer Text:

***The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* by Mark Haddon (novel, not play!)**

- During the first week of school, students will need a version of the summer novel readily available, whether it is print or digital.
 - If a student would like to purchase and use their own text(s), they are more than welcome.

Sincerely,

SJCA English Department



The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time by Mark Haddon

These questions will be jumping off points for essay writing upon our return in August; they are due the first day back. There will be a test over the novel during the second week (after reviewing). Answer the following questions on paper (in a notebook or on loose-leaf, not laptop); be sure to answer all questions, even the ones inside of each number. You do not have to rewrite each question; simply label your answers and **be sure to cite the chapter (not the page)**. Points will be lost if this is not followed.

1. This story is told from Christopher's very restricted point of view, basically like a journal. Answer and complete the following 1 question: Do you think he is a reliable or unreliable narrator? Use text support and your own interpretations to answer and explain.
2. Answer and complete the following 2 questions: Do you like the author's style (the way the novel is organized and written)? How is it different from other novels that you have read? Use text support and your own interpretations to answer and explain.
3. Despite Christopher's many behavioral problems, readers feel empathy (identification with the feelings, thoughts, or attitudes of another) for him. Answer and complete the following 3 questions: Why is that? What makes Christopher a likeable character? What are three specific incidents from the text (things that happen in the plot or quotations from the novel) to support? You must put the chapter number.
4. Answer and complete the following 2 questions: How did Siobhan help Christopher express his feelings? Why did he need help with his expression of feelings? Use text support and your own interpretations to answer and explain.
5. Answer and complete the following 5 questions: Do you like Christopher? What about his father? And his mother? Are they good people? Do you sympathize with them when they behave unskillfully, or blame them for their shortcomings? Use text support and your own interpretations to answer and explain.
6. Christopher has a hard time following social norms. Answer and complete the following 3 questions: Reading this book, which takes place in England, do/did you experience any similar confusion or disorientation about the UK culture? Do you think this novel had to take place in the UK? What are some things in the novel that would have to be adjusted if it were switched to another country? Use text support and your own interpretations to answer and explain.
7. A static character is one who remains basically unchanged throughout a work, whereas a dynamic character is one who undergoes a permanent change in outlook or character during a story. Answer and complete the following 4 questions: Is Christopher a static or dynamic character? Is he capable of change? Do his experiences help him grow by the end of the novel? What are three specific incidents from the texts (things that happen in the plot or quotations from the novel) to support? You must put the chapter number.