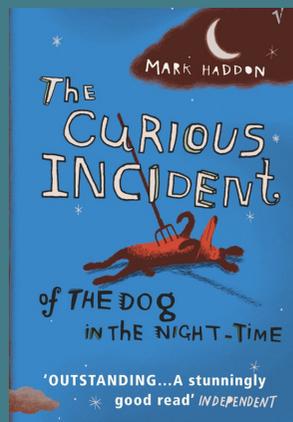


# THE CURIOUS INCIDENT OF THE DOG IN THE NIGHT-TIME



By Mark Haddon

Mystery, young adult

2003 ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Reviewed by William Vaes

- The curious incident of the dog in the night-time is an mystery, young adult novel written by MarkHaddon in 2003. His book won the Whitbread Book Awards for best novel and best book of year.

## Story

The story's protagonist is a boy called Christopher John Francis Boone, a 15-year-old teenager living with his father in a town named Swindon, England. His dad says that Christopher's mother passed away two years ago from a heart attack, which is why he only lives with his father. Christopher has some mental issues, and a disorder called Aspergers. This makes it difficult for him to communicate with people he does not know. Christopher is a very gifted and exciting boy that loves math and space. One day he found a dead dog, Wellington, the dog of Mrs Shears, Christopher's neighbour, lying on Mrs Shears' lawn with a garden fork through it. Christopher wants to play detective like Sherlock Holmes and tries to figure out who killed Wellington. He decides to investigate his whole neighbourhood and ask questions for clues that might help him find the killer. Later, Christopher discovers a box in his father's room that answers all the questions he never could answer himself.

## Opinion

The author of the book, Mark Haddon, wrote this book with great passion. He made the cover of the book look lovely. He spends much time in his book, which shows the readers when they read it. The fact that he made excellent drawings made the book more lively and clearer. The vocabulary used in the story was straightforward to understand. The negative aspects of the book were that the story contained many swear words. If an author wants to write a book for children, adding swear words is not the way to go. Also, sometimes some violence came in, which is inappropriate for the younger readers. The book's pace was very slow because it aimed more attention at the characters than the actual plot itself. The topics were sometimes unrelated to the story, but Mark Haddon did a great job there because this lets us learn more about Christopher and see his strengths and weaknesses. The book tells the story from the perspective of Christopher. This made it a lot more compelling because readers would also experience what the protagonist went through and see the characters' emotions. Overall, it is a terrific book if you like mystery novels. It is a fantastic starter book for young and old readers. The book would get 4 out of 5 stars.

## Conclusion

The book teaches us that life can be challenging and that people must take risks to get something. This book's main themes are growing up, being confident, loving, and trusting. The book aims to let readers know that everyone can improve in something. In the story, Christopher improves his social skills even if he has a disorder and cannot communicate well. Mark Haddon wants to show that everyone can improve and be a better person even if someone has a disorder or a weakness.