C:\Documents and Settings\Phyllis\Local Settings\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\6PBTRZ1Z\MC900389384[1].wmfIndependent Reading Book Talk

EXAMPLE

TITLE: *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time*

AUTHOR: Mark Haddon

GENRE: Fictional Memoir

Today I am going to be talking about *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time*, by Mark Haddon.

Have you read *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time*? by Mark Haddon? It is written as a personal journal by a 15 year old boy who lives in the small city of Swindon about 45 minutes from London. The book has 226 pages, but the last chapter is numbered 229. This book includes illustrations, train schedules, maps, and lists. It also includes math puzzles and riddles for the reader to solve.

Christopher John Francis Boone is a high school boy in England with a psychological and emotional disability. He does not like to be touched and he cannot process feelings. However, he is very smart and wants to go to college to study mathematics. While he is preparing for his college exams, he is sidetracked by the unexpected death of his neighbor’s dog, Wellington. Christopher decides he is going to solve this mystery.

While in the process of investigating Wellington’s death, the trusting relationship he has with his father begins to unravel and many “secrets” about both his father and mother are revealed to the reader.

* *Did you know that Christopher is a brilliant mathematician but has difficulty answering a question as simple as, “How are you today, Christopher?”*
* *Did you know Christopher numbers his chapters with prime numbers? (2, 3, 7, 11, 13, etc.)*
* *Did you know that Christopher never lies?*
* *Did you know that Christopher’s hero is the fictional character Sherlock Holmes and his favorite book is The Hound of the Baskervilles?*
* *Did you know that Christopher’s mother has disappeared in the story and is presumed dead?*

This is a book that constantly challenges the reader with problems, puzzles and mysteries. Christopher’s journal is fun to read because he is a teenager with a different way of looking at the world.

I strongly recommend *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time* to all good readers.