

Name: _____

National Public Radio Interview with author Mark Haddon

"Is there any point to which you would wish to draw my attention?"

"To the curious incident of the dog in the night-time."

"The dog did nothing in the night-time."

"That was the curious incident," remarked Sherlock Holmes.

- "Silver Blaze"

National Public Radio: <https://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=4707767>

1. Describe Haddon's perspective on researching Asperger Syndrome/autism prior to creating Christopher's character.
2. How did Haddon go about creating Christopher? How does he explain Christopher's purpose?
3. What do listeners learn about Christopher prior to reading (i.e. his voice)?
4. According to Haddon, what purpose or credibility does Christopher have as an author/narrator? What are the advantages or disadvantages?
5. Haddon reads a direct quote from the novel (through the voice of Christopher). The quote is actually from author Virginia Wolf—why do you think Haddon attributes this quote to Christopher? What might this symbolize or mean for this character?

Author Study

Dog in the Nighttime

MARK HADDON

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6. Haddon says he empathizes with Christopher in what ways? And, in what ways is Haddon similar to Christopher's character?

7. Haddon conjectures about the parent's role and responsibility of parenting children with Asperger's or autism. How might this play out in the novel?