

ENTRY D – DIGIAL PORTOLIO INTERVIEW PROJECT***The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*
Literary Analysis Paper**

Throughout the research project exploring America’s relationship with food, you learned and refined the many skills needed for the successful analysis of social issues through a philosophical lens. You will now apply these same skills to the interpretation of literary fiction. Choose one (1) of the following prompts and compose a response in the form of a 1000-1500 word essay. Supplement your analysis of this work with the research findings of at least three literary scholars, reviews and / or professional authors.

1. *What challenges does The Curious Incident present to the ways we usually think and talk about characters in novels? How does it force us to reexamine our normal ideas about love and desire, which are often the driving forces in fiction? Since Mark Haddon has chosen to make us see the world through Christopher’s eyes, what does he help us discover about ourselves?*
2. *Christopher’s conversations with Siobhan, his teacher at school, are possibly his most meaningful communications with another person. What are these conversations like, and how do they compare with his conversations with his father and his mother?*
3. *Christopher’s parents, with their affairs, their arguments, and their passionate rages, are clearly in the grip of emotions they themselves can’t fully understand or control. How, in juxtaposition to Christopher’s incomprehension of the passions that drive other people, is his family situation particularly ironic?*
4. *Mark Haddon has said of The Curious Incident, “It’s not just a book about disability. Obviously, on some level it is, but on another level . . . it’s a book about books, about what you can do with words and what it means to communicate with someone in a book. Here’s a character whom if you met him in real life you’d never, ever get inside his head. Yet something magical happens when you write a novel about him. You slip inside his head, and it seems like the most natural thing in the world.” Is a large part of the achievement of this novel precisely this—that Haddon has created a door into a kind of mind his readers would not have access to in real life?*
5. *In his review of The Curious Incident, Jay McInerney suggests that at the novel’s end “the gulf between Christopher and his parents, between Christopher and the rest of us, remains immense and mysterious. And that gulf is ultimately the source of this novel’s haunting impact. Christopher Boone is an unsolved mystery.” Is this an accurate assessment? If so, why?*

Please keep in mind that while the subject matter has shifted, this assignment remains a formal research paper. Prior to submitting your final draft, ensure that the following elements are present and polished:

Formal Diction	Jane Schaffer Paragraphs
MLA Format	At Least Three (3) Research Sources
Sources Cited Page	Sophisticated Sentence Patterns
Title Page	Developed Intro & Conclusion Paragraphs
Headers	Properly Integrated & Cited Quotes
Standard 12-Point Font	Double-Spaced Text
Solid Thesis Statement	Academic Vocabulary

Preview the essay exemplar and carefully read the instructional and diagnostic rubrics before you begin