

English IV
The Short Story
Summer Assignment

“**The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time**” is told from the point of view of Christopher John Francis Boone, a 15-year-old autistic boy. Christopher takes the reader through typical days in his life and explains, clearly and coherently, sometimes in an almost detached way, what it is like to be autistic. The novel's inciting incident occurs when Christopher finds his neighbor's dog speared by a garden fork in his neighbor's front yard. Christopher takes it upon himself to find the dog's killer” (ENotes). His investigation leads him in a direction he did not anticipate.

Corruption occurs when dishonesty and deception prevail. Corruption can weaken trust and hamper one's development. However, once the corruption is identified, it is possible for self-discovery and identity to ensue.

The themes of corruption, identity and self-discovery will be a focus throughout your Short Story and British Literature course work.

Close-read the novel *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time* by Mark Haddon. Then, in a well-focused essay, analyze to what extent the main character Christopher is corrupted by his parents and how their corruption affects his decisions and path to self-discovery.

Writing Guidelines

Introduction

- The introduction should include the title and the author and some interesting opening remarks about the piece. The thesis statement should be **focused** and clearly demonstrate a grasp of the topic as well as an understanding of how the novel relates to the topic.

Body Paragraphs

- The body paragraphs should be **well-organized** with **sufficient paragraph development** to convey your understanding of not only the topic but also the work.
- The analysis should demonstrate **critical thinking** about the work.
- Ideas should be clear and insightful without resorting to plot details.

Conclusion

- The conclusion of the essay should follow **logically** from the body of evidence without repeating the thesis.

Standard English Composition

- The essay should demonstrate a level of **sophistication** in sentence structure, sentence variety, and word choice appropriate to grade level. It should contain few, if any errors in grammar, usage, and mechanics.