WESTCHESTER COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL

Rising Honors English 10 - Summer Reading

Summer 2026

This summer, read *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* by Mark Haddon, a not-so-traditional murder mystery. In Haddon's novel, the first person narrator is fifteen-year-old Christopher Boone, who is a person with autism. Christopher finds it difficult to understand what others are thinking (or why). When he discovers his neighbor's dog was stabbed by a pitchfork, Christopher sets out to discover who the perpetrator is. This adventure takes Christopher far away from his comfort zone. He faces struggles and learns from them.

Your Task

Before you read *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*, research Joseph Campbell's definition of the hero's journey. A good place to start is here.

Essentially, there are 12 steps in the hero's journey. They are

1. The Ordinary World
2. The Call to Adventure
3. Refusal of the Call
4. Meeting with the Mentor
5. Crossing the Threshold
6. Tests, Allies, Enemies
7. Approach
8. The Ordeal
9. The Reward
10. The Road Back
11. The Resurrection
12. Return with the Elixir

As you read *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time*, pay attention to Christopher's journey. Can it be considered a hero's journey? Annotate (mark notes in your book) any place where Christopher might be engaged in one of the steps of the hero's journey. **(Your annotations will be checked, so don't skip this!)**

When we get back to school, you will write an argumentative essay that claims Christopher was or was not on a hero's journey, and you'll need evidence from the text to support your claim.

Please direct questions to Mr. Morelli (frank.morelli@westchestercds.org).