Thesis

**"Christopher struggles with autism and being a teenager while trying to solve the mystery of who killed the neighbor's dog."**

*You will examine the main character's autism and how it effects his communication and interaction with others. You will examine how being a teenage effects Christopher, especially his relationship with his parents. And you will explain how this novel fit the literary genre of mystery.*

The novel "The Curious Incident of the dog in the night-time" was authored by Mark Haddon. It was released in the year 2003 as a Mystery novel. The title of the book is a marketing strategy that helps to appeal to both the older generation and the youths. The book is written in the first person as the narrator gives his story (Haddon, 2003). A teenager by the name Christopher gives his account. He lives with his single father and believes that his mother died some years ago. He has some behavioral conditions as he is affected by autism. His disability makes him struggle to understand people and what is in their minds. His struggles make him to even speculate about the thoughts and feelings of other people in the novel as he goes on with his narration. Autism makes one have a photographic memory and makes him so much good in mathematics. People with his condition seem to lack the emotional part of the human (Haddon, 2003). They describe any events that occur in their lives exactly as they happen without leaving any details but without the moving part of humans. This makes the audience or the readers to get more information that he gives as he can fill in the gaps that the narrator leaves that are emotionally engaging. He is so much into simplicity and familiarity, and this is seen in his sentence structure which resembles those of kids (Haddon, 2003). Christopher has a detective mind, and that's what interests him. He hates reading novels as he believes that they are just fairy tales without facts. He loves to learn about detective works that make him engage his brain and challenge himself. That is the reason that his teacher encourages him to learn and do some investigative work. That's the reason that makes the narrator do some investigative work to unveil the death of his neighbor’s dog (Haddon, 2003). Doing this causes him to not only reveal the end of the dog, but also the whereabouts of his mother who he discovers was alive and living in London with the husband to the dog's owner.

The reader may find reading about the story of Christopher boring but as he narrates his thoughts but when he talks about the things that interests, he gives us an offset to the narration. His interest in prime numbers is one of the most interesting parts about him. Christopher explains that he wants everything on him to be about him. That's why he doesn't like his name as its meaning does not associate with him (Haddon, 2003). He wants people to do and be associated with things that only care about them. That's why the numbers his novel using prime numbers as that's what interests him and affects him personally.

The favorite book by the narrator is "The Hound of the Baskervilles" which is a Sherlock Holmes story about a killer dog (Haddon, 2003). Like Sherlock Holmes, he views the world logically and analytically which is different from what many people think. He wants to use reasons and not feelings and emotions to solve problems which is what a top detective should do. He admires the detective Sherlock Holmes that's why the novel borrows so much from the Sherlock Holmes mysteries starting with the titles and also the false leads that the narrator describes as he continues with his detective works.

The novel focuses much on the Asperger's syndrome that the narrator suffers from. The condition makes one has difficulties in communicating with the people around him and also have some problems in relaying information without showing emotions or thinking about the emotional effects of the information being relayed (Haddon, 2003). This condition is a kind of mild autism characterized with people who are extremely gifted but lack the interpersonal skills that make them socialize with difficulties.

This novel helps us to see how the narrator can deal with his disability and make the best out of his life. People living with the Asperger's syndrome can live a meaningful life if they get the best support system and get people who understand them, care for them and even get a self-independent that they yearn for. Christopher makes us know that we should always do what is associated with us and makes us comfortable.

**Annotated Bibliography**

1. Wooden, S. R. (2011). Narrative medicine in the literature classroom: Ethical pedagogy and Mark Haddon's The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time. Literature and Medicine, 29(2), 274-296.

This article discusses the medical and ethical perspective of the book. It explains the mild autism that Christopher suffers from a medical perspective. The condition enables the narrator to see life from a logical standpoint. The article tells us of the psychological effects that the discovery that the young boy makes about his father and his mother being alive makes him make logical decisions which are to go to London and search for his mother (Wooden, 2011). The article helps us to know the things that the mother of the narrator did that one should not do when dealing with special needs kids. It talks on how one should deal with the kids with autism. It helps us to know how some life matters like divorce and learning of dishonest caregivers can hurt kids suffering from this condition (Wooden, 2011). It allows us to know when one should look at the child's needs when making important marriage decisions like separation. It tells us on when the needs of the child are more important than the emotional needs of the parent. In this case, the parent should compromise their differences and strive to give the child combined parenting that will ensure that they are not disadvantaged. It also tells us of the ethics that lie in the book. It helps us to know that one should not make easy conclusions but should first see the matter at hand look at the circumstances. It helps us to know that there is no person whose approach cannot be criticized as everybody makes mistakes and irrational decisions.

1. Kurtts, S. A., &Gavigan, K. W. (2017). Understanding (dis) abilities through children's literature. Education Libraries, 31(1), 23-31.

This article articulates how as a society we should be willing and able to understand the children with disabilities. The report shows that children who have some limitations should always be made to feel that they are not alone in their lives. Parents, teachers and caregivers should show compassion and also lead the students in identifying literature that shows that they are not alone in their disabilities (Kurtts&Gavigan, 2017). Doing that will also help them to have a deeper understanding of their condition and even of themselves. The article also articulates that society should be made to understand the terms and doing this will help in understanding them and treating them with dignity and respect. Thus, the education system should be able to have some learning about people with special needs in the curriculum. Doing that will ensure that children with disabilities feel that they are part of society and have equal opportunities to progress in their lives as both people and professionals (Kurtts&Gavigan, 2017). Thus, the article helps the educational fraternity to know that they should instill teachers with the right skills that will help them to understand how to deal with the students with disabilities.

1. Muller, V. (2006). Constituting Christopher: Disability Theory and Mark Haddon's' The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time'. Papers: Explorations into Children's Literature, 16(2), 118.

This article talks about how disabilities should be classified in the same cadre as race, class and gender. Limitations are one of the things that people are discriminated against, and thus people should create awareness about it (Muller, 2006). It discusses limitations from the social and medical perspective. It is therefore essential to know where to put the boundaries on how to deal with people with disabilities especially the kids. The children needed to feel respected and loved consequently they should be treated with compassion and love which requires an understanding of their condition from society (Muller, 2006). This article articulates about a relaxed view of the people with disabilities which will help in bringing a better society for all of us.

1. Burks-Abbott, G. (2007). 16 Mark Haddon's Popularity and Other Curious Incidents in My life as an Autistic. Autism and representation, 289.

This book talks on how the Asperger's syndrome affects a person. It tries to explain to us what goes in the mind of a person with the condition (Burks-Abbott, 2007). The book tells the true nature of the life of a person with this condition and how they should be treated in society.

1. Draaisma, D. (2009). Stereotypes of autism. Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society of London B: Biological Sciences, 364(1522), 1475-1480.

This article gives us an insight into the people with autism and the disorders that come with the condition. It follows the psychiatrist explanation of the disease and how people in the society should understand the disease. It serves as a critic of the presentations, novels and TV programs that talk about autism (Draaisma, 2009). It gives a clear explanation on whether this pieces of art and literature ethically present autism or not. It gives us a clear picture of how the pieces of art show us about those disorders and how it is in reality (Draaisma, 2009). It tries to dispute the notion that paints autistic children as people with super brains and who are incredibly gifted.

1. Park, C. C. (2003). The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time. Psychiatric Services, 54(12), 1661-1661.

This paper explains what goes in the lives of people with autism. It gives a clear explanation of how they are challenged socially as they have problems in communicating with their peers. The paper helps in knowing the challenges that those people face (Park, 2003). He gives special appreciation to Haddon for giving us a book that takes us in the day to day lives of people with autism (Park, 2003). This will make us respect and treat those people with consideration and compassion. It explains to us the good things that can happen when people with disabilities have caring parents and societies.

**References**

Burks-Abbott, G. (2007). 16 Mark Haddon's Popularity and Other Curious Incidents in My life as an Autistic. Autism and representation, 289.

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