

# English II Pre-AP Summer Reading

Students will read:

## *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* by Mark Haddon

### About the novel:

*The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* is a novel about a child that has Asperger syndrome, a mild form of Autism. We would like to encourage parents and students to read an article on Asperger syndrome together (link: <http://www.autism.org.uk/about/what-is/asperger.aspx>). This article will not only aid in understanding the behaviors of the protagonist of the novel, but also shed some light on a condition that is not commonly known nor accepted in society.

One common behavior trait of Asperger syndrome is a lack of understanding of words beyond their literal meaning. The protagonist in the novel reports everything he hears adults around him say without always understanding the meaning or ramifications of these words. Because of this particular behavior trait, the novel contains some strong language; however, in choosing this novel for summer reading, we feel that the benefits of this selection far outweigh these few occurrences of inappropriate language. Our hope is that through this reading experience, students will not only enjoy the story of a boy who overcomes the odds and learns to adapt to life with Asperger syndrome, but that they will also gain compassion and understanding of those individuals who are not commonly accepted in our society.

### Assignment Details:

All portions of the summer reading assignment will be due the **second day of class**. Follow the instructions carefully on each of these portions of the summer reading assignment. Summer reading assignment grades will count as major grades for the first quarter grading period of the course.

### **The three portions of the assignment are as follows:**

- **Dialectical Journal & Reflection Questions:** Go to the Calallen High School website (<http://calallenhigh.tx.cdh.schoolinsites.com/>) to download a Word document format of the summer reading assignment.
  - On the left hand tool bar, under the category title Academic Resources, click on Pre-AP/AP Summer Reading to find Pre-AP English II and then download and save the Word Document.
  - Students should type all responses into the Word document and save it.
  - This digital copy of the document will be submitted to turnitin.com by **11:59 PM on the second day of class**
  - **Students who do not complete the assignment on the Word document as instructed will be directed to redo it and submit it for a late grade (maximum of 70).**
- **Data Sheet:** Complete on the **provided paper** (must be handwritten—you can print out a copy of it if needed from the Calallen High School website). This paper will be due at the **beginning of class on the second day of class**
- **Test:** Be prepared to take it on the **second day of class**.

Students can email Mrs. Grubaugh at [jgrubaugh@calallen.org](mailto:jgrubaugh@calallen.org) with any questions about the assignment.

*The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* Summer Dialectical Journal & Reflection Questions

**Dialectical Journal Instructions:** A dialectical journal is a running record of your reading. As you read, you will need to find *important* quotations from each of the sections listed below. Provide the in-text citation for the quote in MLA format as shown in the example below. Then explain the context of the quote (what is happening when this quote occurs? who is talking? etc.). Finally, explain the deeper meaning of the quote (why is it important? what does it explain about the characters of the book? etc.).

Quote with In-text Citation	Context of the quote	Interpretation of the quote: Deeper Meaning
<i>Example: "I like hospitals. I like uniforms and machines" (23).</i>	Christopher is talking about his mother in the hospital. He is discussing why he likes hospitals.	Christopher likes hospitals because he likes places that are clean and predictable. He likes their uniforms because he knows who everyone is and what they are supposed to be doing. He likes machines because they have no feelings.

For this journal, the novel is split into three sections, as shown below. For each section, find **THREE** quotations and complete the dialectical journal boxes. You should have a total of nine entries in your Dialectical Journal at the end.

- Pages 1-90:** Find quotations that describe Christopher’s personality and behaviors and the difficulties he has living with Asperger Syndrome.

Quote with In-text Citation	Context of the quote	Interpretation of the quote: Deeper Meaning

2. **Pages 90-165:** These pages describe Christopher's realization about his family and the difficulty he has with the truth. Focus on quotations that show how Christopher's behavior and personality have changed.

<b>Quote with In-text Citation</b>	<b>Context of the quote</b>	<b>Interpretation of the quote: Deeper Meaning</b>

3. **Pages 165-221:** Find quotations that demonstrate Christopher's growth as a character and highlight how much he has learned about living with Asperger syndrome.

<b>Quote with In-text Citation</b>	<b>Context of the quote</b>	<b>Interpretation of the quote: Deeper Meaning</b>

**Reflection Questions:** Reflect upon the following prompts and write in complete sentences (you may use additional paper if you need more room) to explain your thoughts on each.

1. Write **1-2 complete sentences** for each item in the list below and **give an example of a quotation as support** of each to explain how Christopher reacts to the item (provide in-text citation in MLA format):

**Example of MLA in-text citation format:**

Christopher narrates, “I like hospitals. I like uniforms and machines” (23).

a. Larger groups of people

b. Change of any kind

c. Noise

d. Colors

e. People touching him

2. **List 3 defenses** Christopher has for the situations that upset him and **give a specific example** of each (paraphrase or provide quotation – include page numbers of textual evidence).

1.

2.

3.