General information on the author:

The author of the book is Mark Haddon.

Mark Haddon was born on the 26th of september 1962, and he is still alive to this day. He is currently 60 years of age. He was born in Northampton, England. He first went to school at Uppingham School and later majored in English literature at Merton College in Oxford. After his studies he became a caretaker for disabled people, this was in Schotland. He also had a variety of jobs including cartoonist and illustrator. He not only writes and sells books, he also paints and even sells these paintings. Mark Haddon published his first book in 1987 titled Gilbert's Gobstopper.

General information on the book:

The title of the book is: The curious incident of the dog in the night-time. I think the title fits the book well, because the book is about Christopher who is finding out what happened to the dog.

The book was published in 2003. I think it was significant for the time it was written, because this book is about a boy who presumably has autism. And in the time this book was published this was getting more attention. I also think that I the writer wanted to bring more attention to people who, for example, have autism.

I think this book is considered a mystery novel.

The main theme of this book is coming of age. Because in this story you see Christopher not necessarily grow up, but he does evolve in some way. You can see this in the novel, because in the beginning of the story Christopher is scared of a lot of things, for example talking to people or taking the train. But eventually, you see that when he has a clear goal, in this case it’s investigating the death of the dog, he actually is able to overcome his fears. You can see that Christopher starts talking to people, by interviewing them. And he takes the train to see his mother. This shows that Christopher does evolve in the duration of the story.

The narrator of this story is Cristopher Boone, and it is written in first person perspective.

**Summary:**

Christopher lives with his father in Swindon, then one night he finds out that the dog of the neighbour was killed. When a policeman grabs him, Cristopher hits him, and is taken to the police station. When he gets home, he decides to investigate the murder of the dog, and everything he finds out he writes in a book. During his interviews, he finds out that his mother had an affair with Mr.Shears. At home, his father finds Christopher’s book and confiscates it. While looking for the book he finds letters from his mom, who his father told him, had died. Christopher passes out and when his dad finds him he cries and explains that after having an argument with Mrs. Shears he killed the dog. Cristopher gets scared and decides to run away and take the train to his mother. Shortly after he arrives he decides that he wants to go back to Swindon to take his mathematics A-level. Christopher and his mother both leave since Mr. Shears starts to act hostile towards both Christopher and his mother. Back in Swindon after an argument Christopher’s mother agrees to let Cristopher’s father see him for short daily visits. Cristopher is still a bit afraid of his dad, but his dad does want to rebuild a bond with his son.

**Links:**

[Mark Haddon - Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mark_Haddon)

[The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time - Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Curious_Incident_of_the_Dog_in_the_Night-Time)

Own interpretation of the book:

I think the message the book gives you as a reader, is that not everyone is always honest, but that it doesn’t mean that they are doing that to hurt you. Because in the book Cristopher’s father keeps from him that his mother is actually alive. He lied to Cristopher saying that his mother was dead, and when Cristopher found out the truth he got upset and didn’t trust his father anymore. But I don’t think that Cristopher’s father was actively trying to hurt him. I think that he was just trying to keep Cristopher from the truth to save him from the pain it might bring. In this case I don’t think that it was the best decision, since it hurt Cristopher even more.

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| --- | --- |
| Name of protagonist 1:  | *Christopher Boone* |
| Positive:*He faces some of his fears* | Negative:*His emotions are quickly influenced by not necessarily relevant things.* |
|  |  |

I think a very important moment in the book, is when Cristopher finds out that his father has been lying to him. This is because what he finds out is a shocking moment for him. And it affects him a lot in that moment.It also affects what he does in the near future. Because finding out his mother was alive and wanted to see him, made him pass out. Then he finds out that his father has been keeping this from him, and that he also killed the neighbour's dog. This results in Cristopher not trusting his father anymore. Both of the things that happened to him then result in Cristopher finding his mother and running away. And this also results in him facing one more of his fears. That’s why I think that this was quit an important moment in the story.

I personally didn’t really like the book, but I also didn’t hate it. This was because I did like the story itself. I think it was quite good, and it had a nice plot twist. I just didn’t like how the book itself was written, I found it very confusing to read sometimes and this made it hard to read and it sometimes ruined the book for me a little. I think I would have liked the book way better if it was written in the way most other books are written. But other than that, I do think it was well written, and I think it could be very appealing to other people in a lot of different age groups.