

BRITISH LITERATURE:

There is one book assigned for British Literature: *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time* by Mark Haddon. It is important that you annotate this book as you read it. In order to effectively prepare for the assessments on this novel, you should actively engage the text by taking thoughtful notes.

As you read, create a notes sheet on Google Docs that includes the following elements:

- A **character list**, including a short explanation about each character
- The **setting(s)** for each chapter
- Note **moments of significance** in each chapter. A moment can be significant for various reasons because it draws our attention to any of the following: character development, relationship development, a central conflict in the story, a pattern or motif within the story, ambiguity or complexity within the story, an important shift or moment of growth, etc. *Aside from noting significant plot points, remember that moments can still be significant even when “nothing” is actually happening to advance the plot. Significant moments can exist within a lengthy description about a setting or an object, an exchange during a conversation between two people, a character’s thoughts or realizations.
- **Thoughtful questions!** Note areas that confuse you, contain ambiguity, or need further consideration, so you remember to return to them after you’ve finished reading the novel.
- Consider **the big picture**. What are themes that you see emerging?
- **No sparknotes, Shmoop, Litcharts, etc!** Notes that contain obvious borrowing (direct quotes and paraphrases) from these sources will be considered plagiarism. Disciplinary consequences will follow.

We will have a quiz on *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time* at the second or third class meeting. The quiz will involve short written response questions about the characters, setting, and plot. Our first in-class essay will also be on the summer reading. For this essay, you will analyze short passages from the novel.

Additionally, please take time over the summer to review any grammar weak spots that were identified by your English teacher last year (e.g., commas, run-on sentences). I recommend referring to the Purdue Owl website <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/> , or chompchomp.com.

If you have any questions about this assignment, please email Ms. Marcy (lmarcy@stuartschool.org).