

English 12

Summer Reading Assignments

No sources, other than the sources listed on this assignment handout, may be consulted for this assignment.

1. **Read** *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* by Mark Haddon. Complete the reading assignment on this page.
2. **Choose a second book from the assignment on the next page, and follow the instructions.**
3. **Be prepared** to participate in discussions and to write an in-class essay on the summer reading during the first week of school.
4. **Bring BOTH the required and choice summer reading books AND the major works data sheet with your choice novel to class on the first day.** Remember: Purchase a fresh copy of both books; previously annotated novels are not acceptable.

Questions?

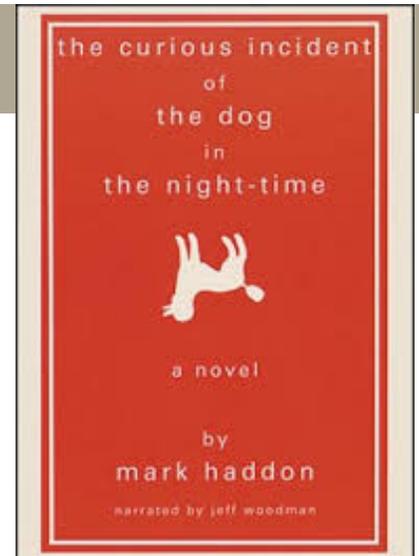
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The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time by Mark Haddon

Christopher John Francis Boone knows all the countries of the world and their capitals and every prime number up to 7,057. He relates well to animals but has no understanding of human emotions. He cannot stand to be touched. And he detests the color yellow. This improbable story of Christopher's quest to investigate the suspicious death of a neighborhood dog makes for one of the most captivating, unusual, and widely heralded novels in recent years. (from *Amazon*)



Having finished your reading and annotations, you must bring your copy of *Curious Incident* to class the first day. There will be an annotation grade and a content reading quiz followed by discussions and a written theme response.

Theme topics include the following and should help guide your annotations:

1. Challenges that Christopher faces
2. Things that upset him
3. Things that he doesn't understand
4. Things that you admire about him
5. Small town issues
6. Cultural differences

Reading Assignment #2

Choose ONE of the novels listed below, and follow the instructions.

No sources, other than the sources listed on this assignment handout, may be consulted for this assignment.

1. **Annotate for at least TWO of the universal literary conflicts:** man vs. man; man vs. society; man vs. self; man vs. God/gods/fate; man vs. technology; man vs. nature. Hint: you will be writing about both topics, so choose wisely.
2. **Complete a Major Works Data Sheet for your selected novel (example attached).** An example using *The Great Gatsby* is provided to help guide your responses for your chosen book. Bring the completed data sheet to the first class meeting. A blank data sheet is provided.

Please note: The goal here, really, is for you to just enjoy reading a good book over the summer. To that end, try to avoid simply opting for the shortest one or for the one your friends pick. Instead, spend a few minutes pondering and researching your own choice. And, of course, you are free to read more than one! (Both Mr. Connolly and Mr. Mauthe have read all of them!)

1. ***The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* by Douglas Adams:** Join hapless hero Arthur Dent as he travels the galaxy with his intrepid pal Ford Prefect, getting into horrible messes and generally wreaking hilarious havoc. Dent is grabbed from Earth moments before a cosmic construction team obliterates the planet to build a freeway. You'll never read funnier science fiction.
2. ***In the Time of Butterflies* by Julia Alvarez:** It is November 25, 1960, and three beautiful sisters have been found near their wrecked Jeep at the bottom of a 150-foot cliff on the north coast of the Dominican Republic. The official state newspaper reports their deaths as accidental. It does not mention that a fourth sister lives. Nor does it explain that the sisters were among the leading opponents of Gen. Rafael Leonidas Trujillo's dictatorship.
3. ***Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen:** In a remote Hertfordshire village, a country squire of no great means must marry off his five vivacious daughters. At the heart of this enterprise are his headstrong second daughter Elizabeth Bennet and her aristocratic suitor Fitzwilliam Darcy — two lovers whose pride must be humbled and prejudices dissolved before the novel can come to its splendid conclusion. One of the most universally loved and admired English novels.
4. ***City of Thieves* by David Benioff:** During the Nazis' siege of Leningrad, Lev Beniov is arrested for looting and thrown into the same cell as a deserter named Kolya. Instead of being executed, Lev and Kolya are given a shot at saving their lives by complying with an outrageous directive: secure a dozen eggs for a powerful Soviet colonel to use in his daughter's wedding cake. A gripping, World War II adventure with an utterly contemporary feel for how boys become men.
5. ***Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Bronte:** Although the poor but plucky heroine is outwardly of plain appearance, she possesses an indomitable spirit, a sharp wit and great courage. She is forced to battle against a cruel guardian, a harsh employer and a rigid social order -- all of which come into play when she becomes governess to the daughter of the mysterious, sardonic and attractive Mr. Rochester. Ranks as one of the greatest and most perennially popular works of English fiction.

(List continues on the next page.)

6. ***The Poisonwood Bible* by Barbara Kingsolver:** A story told by the wife and four daughters of Nathan Price, a fierce, evangelical Baptist missionary who takes his family to the Belgian Congo in 1959. They carry with them everything they believe they will need from home, but soon find that all of it -- from garden seeds to Scripture -- is transformed on African soil. A suspenseful epic of one family's tragic undoing and remarkable reconstruction over the course of three decades in postcolonial Africa.
7. ***Into the Wild* by Jon Krakauer:** In April 1992 a young man from a well-to-do family hitchhiked to Alaska and walked alone into the wilderness north of Mt. McKinley. His name was Christopher Johnson McCandless. He had given \$25,000 in savings to charity, abandoned his car and most of his possessions, burned all the cash in his wallet, and invented a new life for himself. Four months later, his decomposed body was found by a moose hunter.
8. ***Last Days of Night* by Graham Moore:** From the Oscar-winning screenwriter of *The Imitation Game* comes a novel—based on actual events—about the nature of genius and the cost of ambition. A young untested lawyer named Paul Cravath, fresh out of Columbia Law School, takes a case that seems impossible to win. Paul's client, George Westinghouse, has been sued by Thomas Edison over a billion-dollar question: Who invented the light bulb and holds the right to power the country?
9. ***The Catcher in the Rye* by J.D. Salinger:** The influential and widely acclaimed story details two days in the life of 16-year-old Holden Caulfield after he has been expelled from prep school. Confused and disillusioned, he searches for truth and rails against the "phoniness" of the adult world. He ends up exhausted and emotionally ill, in a psychiatrist's office. After he recovers from his breakdown, Holden relates his experiences to the reader.
10. ***The Age of Miracles* by Karen Thompson Walker:** On an ordinary Saturday, Julia awakes to discover that something has happened to the rotation of the earth. The days and nights are growing longer, gravity is affected, the birds, the tides, human behavior and cosmic rhythms are thrown into disarray. Julia faces surprising developments -- divisions widening between her parents, strange behavior by friends, the vulnerability of first love, a sense of isolation, and a rebellious new strength.

Assignment: Major Works Data Sheet: Example

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| Title / Author / Publication Date | <i>The Great Gatsby</i> , F. Scott Fitzgerald, 1925 |
| Genre and Genre Characteristics | Fictional novel; utilizes flashback from a first-person perspective |
| Historical Information about the Period of Publication | Set during the “roaring twenties” and the Jazz Age; also takes place during Prohibition era, where alcohol was illegal; book takes place in New York and is based on real neighborhoods Fitzgerald was familiar with |
| Biographical Information About the Author | Fitzgerald is often held up to be <i>the</i> defining author of the Jazz Age; he had numerous connections to the ex-pat community of the age, especially Hemingway |

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| Memorable quote: “I hope she’ll be a fool — that’s the best thing a girl can be in this world, a beautiful little fool.” | Significance: Daisy to Nick; reflects the societal lack of respect/use for women; foreshadows Daisy’s character and development as a girl defined by her looks |
| Memorable quote: "So we beat on, boats against the current, borne back ceaselessly into the past." | Significance: Narrator (Nick) to reader; shows the constant striving for improvement but backsliding to the past; shows the power of the past and nostalgia to draw us back and hold us back; shows how our desire to return to earlier times can keep us from improving or make it difficult to do so |
| Memorable quote: In my younger and more vulnerable years my father gave me some advice that I've been turning over in my mind ever since. "Whenever you feel like criticizing any one," he told me, "just remember that all the people in this world haven't had the advantages that you've had." | Significance: Nick to the reader. Shows Nick as unreliable narrator; reminds reader of the disconnect in social classes as theme of the novel; explores idea that we need to understand people’s backgrounds to understand them |

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| Symbol/motif of note: Green light | Significance: Light on Daisy's dock - represents the nature of Gatsby's dream (constantly out of reach, but always present); shows social class divisions & the desire to overcome them |
| Symbol/motif of note: Eckleburg billboard | Significance: Billboard in the Valley of Ashes. Represents God staring down at the Valley as events unfold; shows God has been replaced with advertising |

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| Character name: Nick Carraway | Role in story: Narrator; Daisy's cousin and Gatsby's neighbor | Significance/adjectives: Tries to be neutral but constantly judges; forced to deal with the judgmental nature of those around him and evaluate the lives of the '20s |
| Character name: Daisy Buchanan | Role in story: Nick's cousin, Gatsby's former love | Significance/adjectives: Shallow, beautiful, wealthy, codependent |
| Character name: Jay Gatsby | Role in story: Nick's neighbor; mysterious party-thrower | Significance/adjectives: Lavish, expensive tastes, show-offy with new money, romantic, nostalgic |
| Character name: Tom Buchanan | Role in story: Daisy's husband | Significance/adjectives: Domineering, abusive, old money, racist |
| Character name: George Wilson | Role in story: Husband of Tom's lover; kills Gatsby | Significance/adjectives: Poor; beaten-down; faithful; religious |

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| Important scene: Myrtle hit by car | Significance: Sets up the death of Gatsby (and George); reflects the uncaring nature of the upper class; demonstrates Gatsby's need to protect Daisy and his dream |
| Important scene: Daisy and Gatsby reunite | Significance: Gatsby achieves his dream (at least for a little while); shows the disconnect between hopes and reality and the difficulty of overcoming nostalgia |

English 12

Name:

Assignment: Major Works Data Sheet

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| Title / Author / Publication Date | |
| Genre and Genre Characteristics | |
| Historical Information about the Period of Publication | |
| Biographical Information About the Author | |

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| Memorable quote: | Significance: |
| Memorable quote: | Significance: |
| Memorable quote: | Significance: |

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| Symbol/motif of note: | Significance: |
| Symbol/motif of note: | Significance: |

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| Character name: | Role in story: | Significance/adjectives: |
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| Character name: | Role in story: | Significance/adjectives: |
| Character name: | Role in story: | Significance/adjectives: |

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| Important scene: | Significance: |
| Important scene: | Significance: |