

Writing Assignments!

Please write clear, thoughtful paragraphs, each between 7 and 10 sentences long in response to 3 of the following questions. You must use quotes and evidence in your response in order to receive full credit. Do not use first person ("I") in your responses.

#1: What's more important in this book: Character or Plot? In other words, is the book primarily about who Christopher is or what Christopher does?

#2: Christopher is clearly the hero of the book. Can his dad be considered the bad guy or villain?

#3: Christopher's conversations with Siobhan, his teacher at school, are possibly his most meaningful communications with another person. What are these conversations like, and how do they compare with his conversations with his father and his mother? Ultimately, is Siobhan the most important character besides Christopher?

#4: How does the novel help us think about what is sensible, or what is "common sense" and what isn't? Use examples from the book to support your answer, but do not use first person "I" in your response.

#5: Does Christopher grow, develop, change over the course of the novel, or is he essentially the same person at the end of the book as he was in the beginning?

#6: Despite Christopher's many behavioral problems, readers tend to feel empathy (identify with the feelings, thoughts, or attitudes of another) for him. Why is that? What makes Christopher a likeable character? You must use three specific incidents from the text to support your idea.

As you write your paragraphs, be sure that you ...

1. Really understand the question being asked
2. Create the strongest, most compelling arguments for possible answers to the question.
3. Select the two or three MOST COMPELLING answers for each side
4. Compose a paragraph that:
 - States or Implies the question you're addressing.
 - Present the strongest point(s) for one argument
 - Present the strongest point(s) for the other argument
 - Based on these arguments, answer the question in clear, specific terms, demonstrating why one set of points is more compelling or more powerful than the other.