

**Reading Comprehension Questions:**

1. What does Ed tell Christopher regarding Mr. Shears? Why do you think Ed tells Christopher this information?
2. What happens on a “super good day”?
3. Knowing what you know now about Mr. Shears can you agree with Christopher’s father that he is an evil person? Does it make sense that he is Chris’ prime suspect?
4. Why do you think Chris likes math diagrams so much?
5. Describe Chris’ reaction to Sherlock Holmes. What does it tell you about the way his mind works?
6. Christopher describes the Monty Hall problem on pages 65-65 and he provides us with a description of clouds on pages 67-69. To what extent are these digressions (un)related to the story? What do these digressions tell us about Christopher? Why might the author have chosen to include them?
7. Who is Rhodri, and why doesn’t Christopher like him?
8. When Siobhan asks Christopher if he is sad about the affair of his mother and Mr. Shears, he says that he is not. How does he explain this?

**Reader Response Questions:**

#1: Talk about why you think Mark Haddon uses this alternating structure, for example: – how does it create tension? – why is it useful to have background information about Christopher?

#2: In an interview, Mark Haddon said that he wanted to write the whole book in Christopher's voice, but that he realized that he had to find a way to do this while keeping the character of Christopher realistic. He said:

... if Christopher were real he would find it very hard, if not impossible, to write a book. The one thing he cannot do is put himself in someone else's shoes, and the one thing you have to do if you write a book is put yourself in someone else's shoes. The reader's shoes. You've got to entertain them, and there's no way he could have done that. It took me a while to figure out that puzzle. The answer I came up with is having him be a fan of the Sherlock Holmes stories. That way, he doesn't have to put himself in the mind of the reader. He just has to say, 'I enjoy Sherlock Holmes stories and I'll do something similar to that.'

Talk about what you think Mark Haddon is saying about writing stories and about the difficulties of having a character like Christopher narrate a book.