

Mr. Cavanaugh
English-Team 7

Book Review and Podcast Guidelines

Independent reading is an important part of eighth grade. You are asked to always have an independent novel that you are working on outside of your regular assignments. A book review will be required for each novel that you complete. Your book review will then turn into a podcast to be shared with your peers!

Introduction: This must start with the sentence, “Welcome to the Team Seven Book Reviews.” Do not use your full name. You may create a name or use initials. End with, “Today I am going to be talking about...”

Book Information: Communicate the title, author, narrative point of view, pages, and genre in a creative way.

Overview: This should be a concise paragraph that focuses on the main conflict(s) facing the main character(s) Do NOT give away the ending!

Motivating Questions: Include three to five questions that entice the listener to read the book.

Recommendation: One short paragraph telling why you would recommend this book to your peers.

Closing: Thank everyone for listening and sign off with a tag line like “keep reading.”

EXAMPLE:

Hello and welcome to the Team Seven Book Reviews where students and teachers talk about books. I’m SC and I teach English at Lincoln Middle School. Today I am going to be talking about *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time*, by Mark Haddon. Stay tuned!

Have you read *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time?* by Mark Haddon? It is written as a personal journal by a 15 year old boy who lives in the small city of Swindon about 45 minutes from London. The book has 226 pages, **but** the last chapter is numbered 229. This book includes illustrations, train schedules, maps, and lists. It also includes math puzzles and riddles for the reader to solve.

Christopher John Francis Boone is a high school boy in England with a psychological and emotional disability. He does not like to be touched and he cannot process feelings. However, he is very smart and wants to go to college to study mathematics. While he is preparing for his college exams, he is sidetracked by the unexpected death of his

neighbor's dog, Wellington. Christopher decides he is going to solve this mystery. While in the process of investigating Wellington's death, the trusting relationship he has with his father begins to unravel **and** many "secrets" about both his father and mother are revealed to the reader.

Did you know that Christopher is a brilliant mathematician but has difficulty answering a question as simple as, "How are you today, Christopher?"

Did you know Christopher numbers his chapters with prime numbers? (2, 3, 7, 11, 13, etc.)

Did you know that Christopher never lies?

Did you know that Christopher's hero is the fictional character Sherlock Holmes and his favorite book is The Hound of the Baskervilles?

Did you know that Christopher's mother has disappeared in the story and is presumed dead?

This is a book that constantly challenges the reader with problems, puzzles and mysteries. Christopher's journal is fun to read because he is a teenager with a different way of looking at the world. I strongly recommend *the curious incident of the dog in the nighttime* to all good readers.

Thanks for listening. Tune in for future reviews and keep reading

Information and samples taken from <http://www.runkle.org/Podcasts/index.html>

Excellent student example: <http://www.runkle.org/Podcasts/Lincoln/lincolntalks.mp3>