The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time

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The story was narrated by Christopher who was fifteen years old and had astonishing mathematical skills. He had certain preferences for his life. Logic was the key driver of his life and he analyzed every event of his life systematically. He faced problems in social gatherings. He was unable to understand the feelings of others which made it difficult for him to have good social links. He could not read the facial expressions of others and therefore, was unable to understand the behavior of others by their body language. He was unable to empathize people around him. He had an extraordinary memory and could recall any event with surprising details.

Christopher's life’s objective was to become an independent individual and he wanted to figure out his role in this world. But his inability to understand the emotions of others was a hurdle in achieving his goals. He found it difficult to adjust to new and unfamiliar environments. He was also unable to make quick decisions on the basis of new information. He took a lot of time to analyze the changed conditions and circumstances. He wanted to become a self-regulating person but his lack of confidence made it difficult for him. Christopher was used to living a very disciplined and organized life which depicted his scientific mindset. He hated disorders and new things in his life. But he had to face many unexpected events in his life. These unwanted events of his life became a source of his fulfilment.

The investigation of the neighbor’s dead poodle brought many changes in the life of Cristopher. He met different persons to investigate the murder of poodle which increased his social abilities a little bit. But this investigation gave him a lot of confidence that was the first step towards his dream. His investigation of Wellington’s murder revealed many secrets about the relationship of his parents and his behavior became a little bit aggressive towards his father.

His father told him that her mother was died due to a heart attack. Late on he came to know that his mother was alive. He expressed in the novel as “Mother had not had a heart attack. Mother had not died. Mother had been alive all the time. And Father had lied about this.” (Haddon, 2003a). He also found that his father had an affair with Mrs. Shears. The revelation of this reality made him angry with his father. He considered his father as a liar and lost his trust in his father. He often disobeyed his father to show his anger. This event changed Christopher's views about life. He was out of his comfort zone and it helped him to become an independent individual. This event made him rebuild his expectations from others and he tried to become more moderate in his expectations.

He also passed the A-Level test of mathematics which enabled him to get admission in a university. As his ambitions noted in the novel "I am going to prove that I am not stupid. Next month I'm going to take my A level in maths and I'm going to get an A grade.” (Haddon, 2003b). This achievement of his life gave him confidence and he felt independent. He came to know that his mother lived in London and he decided to go to London to meet his mother. His journey from his home town to London was the peak of his independence. He was all alone in his journey and was able to absorb the surroundings in a much different way. The difficulties of the journey tested his abilities and gave him a new level of confidence. As he wrote "And I know I can do this because I went to London on my own and because I solved the mystery of Who Killed Wellington? And I found my mother and I was brave and I wrote a book and that means I can do anything.” (Haddon, 2003c).

**References**

Haddon, M. (2003a). Page 44. In *The Curious Incident of the dog in the night time* (First Edition). London, UK: Jonathan Cape.

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