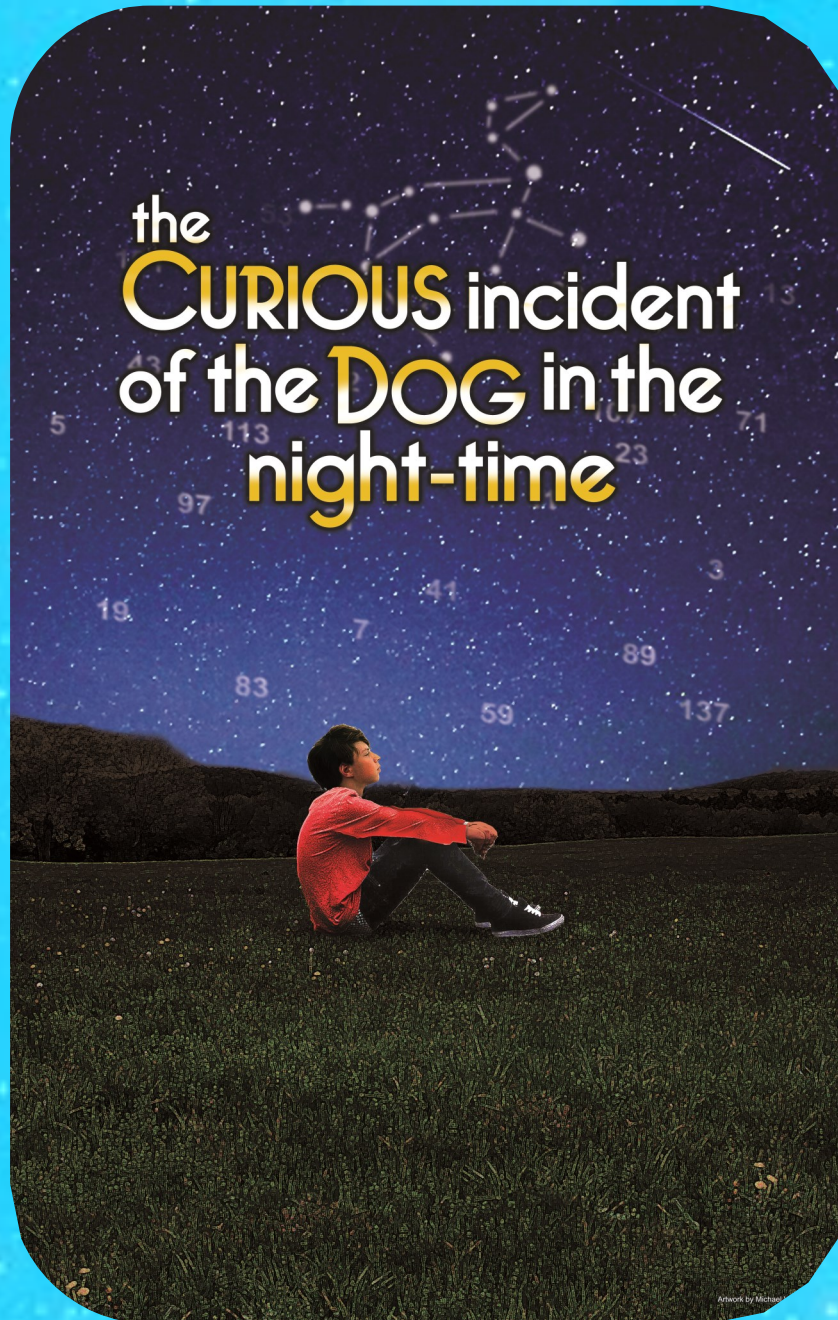




FOUNDED 1809

WALNUT STREET THEATRE

— EDUCATION —



Study Guide

Show Synopsis

Fifteen-year-old Christopher is on a mission. After the untimely death of his neighbor's dog, the brilliant but unique boy is compelled to investigate the crime. See the world through Christopher's eyes as he embarks on an extraordinary journey where he challenges assumed truths and discovers life-changing secrets. Based on Mark Haddon's best-selling novel, *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* is a thrilling, heartwarming, and uplifting adventure story for every one of us. Winner of Broadway's Tony Award for Best Play!

Discussion Questions

Before the Show

1. Have you ever seen a live play before? What is the difference between a play and a musical?
2. What do you think *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* will be about?
3. What do you think happened to the dog in the night-time?

After the Show

1. What was your favorite scene in *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*?
2. Did any of the character's grow throughout the show? If so, how?
3. Do you think the overlapping lines and fast paced scenes are important aspects of telling this play's story?

Theatre 101

Ever wondered how to put on a play?

There are many different elements that go into putting a show up on its feet. Please review these terms with your students!

PLAYWRIGHT: The playwright writes the script.

DIRECTOR: The director is in charge of orchestrating the entirety of the production. They lead the actors, designers, and production crew to put the show on its feet.

COSTUME: What the actors wear during the show.

SCENERY: Everything on stage (except props) used to represent the place at which action is occurring.

PROPS: All physical items on stage with the exception of the scenery. This includes lamps, chairs, pens, paper, books, and more!

LIGHTS: Stage lights illuminate the actors so that they look their best. The colors used, focus of the light, and amount of lighting can really set the mood and environment of a scene.

SOUND: Everything that you hear during a performance that does not come from actors.

ACTORS: The actors are the people that perform the show onstage.

AUDIENCE: The lucky people that get to watch the show. New to being an audience member? Follow these rules and you will be a natural!

AUDIENCE RULES

- Unlike a movie, the actors are performing in front of you. They can see everything that you do. Talking, sleeping, poking your neighbor, or making noise during the performance distracts the actors and others around you.
- Don't bring electronics to the performance. The use of cell phones, cameras, computers, tablets, and video game devices are **not allowed**.
- Use better judgement on when to laugh, clap, and/or cry during the performance. But don't forget to clap at the end of the show!
- Stay in your seat during the performance.
- Make sure you use the restroom *before* the show starts.

Activity: Adapt a Novel into a Play

DIRECTIONS: Using the space below, recreate a scene from your favorite novel as if it was turned into a play or musical!

DISCUSSION:

- What novel did you choose?
- Did the text provide enough information as to what the setting would look like?
- What props could be used in this scene?
- What colors could represent a continuous theme for the adaptation of this novel?



About the Author: Mark Haddon

Mark Haddon's *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* was published in 2003. It was the winner of more than 17 literary awards, including prizes in Japan, Holland and Italy, and was translated into 44 languages. *A Spot of Brother*, published in 2006, was also an international bestseller. His first work for the theatre, *Polar Bears*, was produced by the Donmar Warehouse in 2010. He has written 15 books for children, published a first collection of poetry in 2005, is an illustrator, and award-winning screenwriter. Mark Haddon's latest novel, *The Red House*, was published in 2012.

<http://www.playbill.com/playbillpagegallery/inside-playbill?asset=00000150-aea8-d936-a7fd->



About the Playwright: Simon Stephens

Simon Stephens, born on February 6th, 1971, is an English playwright. Having taught on the Young Writer's Programme at the Royal Court Theatre for many years, he is now an Artistic Associate at the Lyric Hammersmith. He is the inaugural Associate Playwright of Steep Theatre Company, Chicago, where four of his plays, *Harper Regan*, *Motortown*, *Wastwater*, and *Birdland* had their U.S. premieres. His writing is widely performed throughout Europe and, along with Dennis Kelly and Martin Crimp, he is one of the most performed English-language writers in Germany.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Simon_Stephens



Discussion

- How is the writing process different for a playwright than it is for an author?
- Why might it be important to collaborate with the author of a novel that is being adapted into a play or musical?

Group Activity: Act it Out

DIRECTIONS: Think about the ending of *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*. Answer these questions as a group:

- How did it end?
- Did it end the way you wanted it to?
- Did you imagine it ending another way?
- How could it have ended differently?

Re-write the last scene with an alternate ending.

Once you have re-written your scene, join up in small groups and share your “alternate ending”.

Choose your favorite alternate ending and cast the parts with the members of the group.

Practice acting out your alternate ending, then present it to the class!

Use the space below to outline or write your scene out!



Important vocab to keep in mind when writing a scene or play:

Blocking: An actor's movement on stage.

Stage Directions: Written in parenthesis, the stage direction gives all the physical and emotional aspects to the play.

Dialogue: Two or more characters talking back and forth. Written with the character's name followed by a colon for a play.

The 5 W's: Who, What, Where, When, and Why.

Activity: Emotion Analysis

DIRECTIONS: In the production, many characters, including Christopher on occasion, display powerful emotions. Work through the characters listed below and choose moments you remember from the play where they displayed a strong emotion. Analyze how that emotion was communicated by the actor.

CHRISTOPHER

Strong emotional moment: _____

Actor's performance aspects that revealed emotion (voice, body language, facial expression, etc.):

ED

Strong emotional moment: _____

Actor's performance aspects that revealed emotion (voice, body language, facial expression, etc.):

JUDY

Strong emotional moment: _____

Actor's performance aspects that revealed emotion (voice, body language, facial expression, etc.):



LIKE THE SHOW? LET US KNOW!

Send letters or drawings to:

Walnut Street Theatre

ATTN: Education Department

825 Walnut St.

Philadelphia, PA 19107





WALNUT STREET THEATRE



Biography

Walnut Street Theatre has the unique distinction of being the oldest, continuously operating theatre in the English-speaking world, having served Philadelphia audiences for over 200 years!

Today, under the direction of Producing Artistic Director Bernard Havard, Walnut Street Theatre is in its 36th season as a self-producing, non-profit theatre company. The Walnut Street Theatre continues to entertain and enlighten diverse audiences with high quality theatrical programming. With more than 55,000 subscribers, the Walnut is also the most subscribed theatre company in the world!

Last season, 126,718 children and adults were impacted by the Walnut's Education Programs: including our Theatre School with classes for kids and adults, Camp Walnut, our Touring Outreach Program to local schools and our Artist in Residency Programs.

Walnut Street Theatre Education Staff

DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION	Tom Quinn
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION	Jasmine Hammond
EDUCATION PROGRAMS ASSOCIATE	Amanda Pasquini
RESIDENT TEACHING ARTIST	Emily Mattison
OUTREACH ADMINISTRATOR	Nate Golden
EDUCATION APPRENTICE	Ali Walker
ACTING APPRENTICES	Taylor Mitchell
	Katie Raulerson
	Blake Lowry
	Kahlil Wyatt

Additional Resources

Walnut Street Theatre Education Department

<https://walnutstreettheatre.org/education/>

Study Guide Activity Reference

http://cdn.spotcointeractive.com/websitescuriousincident/_downloads/CuriousIncidentStudyGuide.pdf

Curious Incident Creative Team

DIRECTOR	Bill Van Horn
AUTHOR	Mark Hammond
PLAYWRIGHT	Simon Stephens

Sponsored By:



Frank and Ramona Gwynn

Walnut Street Theatre

Educational Opportunities!

2018-2019
SEASON

WALNUT STREET THEATRE TOURING OUTREACH

Bring a show to your school!

The Big, Bad Bullysauros

Finding Your People

The Tale of Sasquatch

Freedom Riders

Open a dialogue with students about issues that affect them!

Call 215-574-3550, ext. 584

Walnut Street Theatre for Kids!

Bring your kids to Walnut Street Theatre!

Pinkalicious

Fly Guy

Tickets just \$15-\$18!

Read the books, then see the stories LIVE!

Call 215-574-3550, ext. 504



The Theatre School at WALNUT STREET THEATRE

Classes for kids, students, and adults!

For students from 5 to 105! Great for networking, providing a creative outlet, and professional training.

Find your inner star at the Walnut!

Call 215-574-3550, ext. 510

WALNUT STREET THEATRE RESIDENCY PROGRAM

Let us design a dramatic and educational program for your school!

We support teacher's objectives with personalized programs that meet your needs and budget.

Call 215-574-3550, ext. 538

When we PLAY, Learning Happens!