

Quotes

This quote demonstrates Christopher's empathy towards the dog, because he felt sad for the dog: "And why were you holding the dog?" he asked. This was a difficult question. It was something I wanted to do. I like dogs. It made me sad to see that the dog was dead."

This quote shows Siobhan's empathy towards Christopher. She realizes that he doesn't understand people's expressions. Most people probably wouldn't apologize for something like this, but Siobhan understands that Christopher felt frustrated and she feels empathy towards him: "When I told Siobhan that I was doing this, she got out a pencil and another piece of paper and said it probably made people feel very 😊 and then she laughed. So I tore the original piece of paper up and threw it away. And Siobhan apologized."

I think that in this scene Mrs. Alexander shows empathy towards Christopher when he comes to her house by trying to accommodate him:

"And I said, 'Is it a long cake with a square cross section which is divided into equally sized, alternately colored squares?'"

And she said, 'Yes, I think you could probably describe it like that.'

I said, 'I think I'd like the pink squares but not the yellow squares because I don't like yellow. And I don't know what marzipan is, so I don't know whether I'd like that.'

And she said, 'I'm afraid marzipan is yellow, too. Perhaps I should bring out some biscuits instead. Do you like biscuits?'"

Below is another quote that shows Christopher's empathy and compassion for others. This quote shows that he cares about other people and feels for them. When something bad is happening to someone else, Christopher feels bad for them and tries to help: "And if they are having an epileptic fit, I move any furniture out of the way to stop them from banging their head and I take my jumper off and I put it underneath their head and I go and find a teacher."

The conversation between Mrs. Alexander and Christopher shows Mrs. Alexander's empathy towards Christopher. It shows that Mrs. Alexander feels bad for Christopher and will do whatever she can to help him: "And I said, 'Was that why Mr. Shears left Mrs. Shears, because he was doing sex with someone else when he was married to Mrs. Shears?' And Mrs. Alexander said, 'Yes, I expect so.' Then she said, 'I'm sorry, Christopher. I really am.'"

Put yourself in their shoes.



Jordana Ansel

Explanation

My empathy board brings together all the forms of empathy, under one key slogan 'Put yourself in their shoes.' Empathy is shown here using many symbols and pictures to create a overall feeling of what it means to be empathetic in this novel. The two pictures in the top row, one of the robots inside the shoes, and the other of a baby in a mother's shoes represent the slogan. These pictures both show us that to be empathetic we need to put ourselves in someone else's shoes, or to imagine what someone else is feeling. By imaging ourselves in someone else's position, or situation we can feel empathy for them and what they are experiencing. The picture with the boy on the train tracks represents Christopher's empathy towards Toby, his pet rat. When Toby jumped onto the subway tracks, Christopher immediately thought that Toby would die and he felt empathy towards him so he jumped off the platform to save him. The picture of the teacher and the child represents Siobhan's empathy towards Christopher. I purposely chose the picture of the boy in a red shirt, because for Christopher, red is a good color and red cars mean its a good day. In the story, the police officer didn't understand that Christopher has aspergers so he was didn't understand what Christopher was trying to say to him. In the part where he gets arrested, the police officer wasn't mean to Christopher, he just didn't understand him because he talks very literally and couldn't answer the police man quickly enough. I think that if the police man knew that Christopher had aspergers he might have empathized with him and talked to him nicely, but because he didn't understand, he yelled at him. The photo of the boy lying with the dog shows Christopher's empathy for Wellington. In the beginning of the book when Wellington was killed, Christopher sat beside the dying dog and held him, when most people wouldn't touch a dead animal. Christopher said he was golding the dog because he felt sad for the dog and he likes dogs. In between the photographs are many other symbols of empathy, such as emoticons and a heart. These emoticons show how, if you empathize with someone, when they are happy you are happy and when they are sad you are sad. They also represent the chart that Siobhan made for Christopher so that he could understand other people's emotions and he can understand what people thinking to relate to them.

Response Question #1

I think that I personally learned a lot about being empathetic from this novel, especially towards people that I do not understand. While it is easy to feel bad for someone who has a noticeable disability, I found it hard to empathize with someone who I didn't know was different than me. I have learned that you should be patient with people, because not everyone will understand what you are saying or feeling just like Christopher. I actually happen to know someone with aspergers and I find that I always get annoyed with them easily, but this book taught me that people like that don't understand normal social rules like we do. Before reading this I would get annoyed at small things that other people would never do, but I have realized that people with aspergers don't understand that you're not supposed to do these things. I think that this book broadened my capacity for empathy and taught me to really try to understand how other people think.