

Quotes

1. "Sometimes we are sad about things and we don't like to tell other people that we are sad about them. We like to keep it a secret. Or sometimes, we are sad but we really don't know why we are sad, so we say we aren't sad but we really are."
2. "I stepped outside. Father was standing in the corridor. He held up his right hand and spread his fingers out in a fan. I held up my left hand and spread my fingers out in a fan and we made our fingers and thumbs touch each other. We do this because sometimes Father wants to give me a hug, but I do not like hugging people, so we do this instead, and it means that he loves me."
3. "Everyone has learning difficulties, because learning to speak French or understanding relativity is difficult."
4. "It is like being in France which is where we went on holiday sometimes when mother was alive, to camp. And I hated it because if you went into a shop or a restaurant or on a beach you couldn't understand what anyone was saying which was frightening."
5. "And Father said, 'Christopher, do you understand that I love you?' And I said 'Yes,' because loving someone is helping them when they get into trouble, and looking after them, and telling them the truth, and Father looks after me when I get into trouble, like coming to the police station, and he looks after me by cooking meals for me, and he always tells me the truth, which means that he loves me."

Do you think you learned about your capacity for empathy through your exploration of Christopher's life? How?

I have learned that even though Christopher thinks differently from me, he still is a human and I should treat him with respect. He has helped me understand that even though everybody is different, we should all still be treated with the same amount of respect. Therefore, you should treat others the way that you want to be treated. While saying that, we need to also realize that everybody is different and there are different ways to approach someone. For example, Christopher doesn't like to be surprised, overly touchy or yelled at, so if I were talking to him, I should remember not to do any of that to him.



In the collage, various graphics and illustrations show empathy being portrayed. This is one of the main themes in the book *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime*, where Christopher the protagonist has Asperger's and views the world in a very factual sense. As readers, without Asperger's or another syndrome on the Autism spectrum, we naturally think very differently from him, and we must find a way to relate or empathize with the main character's thought process. As well as this, in the book Christopher is able to recognize some forms of empathy, but is unable to feel fully empathetic at times. For my poster, I decided to make the background a prime numbers chart because of Christopher's love of prime numbers. On every prime number is a picture relating to empathy because much like how you can only multiply prime numbers in one way, we can only talk to another human in one way, that is also why much like the chapters in the *Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime* where the chapters are prime numbers, the pictures on my poster are as well. The picture on number two, is of comedian Louis CK. This is because in his TV show "Louie", he says to his daughter, "The only time you should look in your neighbour's bowl is to make sure that they have enough. You don't look in your neighbour's bowl to see if you have as much as them. Louis said this to make sure that his daughter is unselfish and that she is empathetic, in the sense that if her neighbour doesn't have enough, she will try and help him. The picture on number three is of a funeral, and in the picture it shows a lot of funeral attendees hugging the mourners. This shows empathy because everyone has been in the situation of having a loved one that has died, so if you know of someone else whose loved one has died, you can comfort them the way that you had wanted to be comforted. The picture on number five shows Shawn Marion (in blue) hugging Dwyane Wade (in white), the situation is the 2011 NBA Finals and the Dallas Mavericks (Shawn Marion) had just beaten the Miami Heat (Dwyane Wade). In this picture, Marion is hugging Wade because he has lost crucial games in his career, and would've wanted someone to comfort him while he was down in the dumps. So instead of rubbing it in Wade's face he decided to give him a hug. In the picture on number seven, it shows two anthropomorphic creatures with arrows in their backsides, and a quotation that says, "I know exactly how you feel." This has to do with one of the main definitions of empathy, which is putting yourself in someone's situation, and even if this one is literal, it is usually said in a figurative or symbolic way. The picture on number eleven shows a young woman and an old woman holding hands. This is to show empathy towards the old woman because someday, she will be that old and need help, just like this current old woman. The picture on number 13 shows a medical professional helping a Haitian child, this was during the time when Haiti was recovering from the earthquake, which had destroyed their country. This is empathetic because it shows how other countries had helped Haiti recover because they want to help, and if something had ever destroyed their country, they would want help. The picture on number 17 shows one person giving another person their umbrella when it is raining, this shows that if someone was in need of help that they would get help, much like how you would help someone else. Number 19 is a picture of a man holding a bowling ball while a pregnant woman sits on a couch, the man says, "How long do I have to hold this for?" and the woman says, "Nine months please." This has to do with empathy because it shows that if someone is pregnant, they would need certain forms of caregiving, and if you were pregnant, you would want the same. The picture on number 23 is a quote that says, "The moment there is no empathy, there is no real human connection." This quote relates to the book because Christopher had trouble connecting with other people, and sometimes unintentionally lacked empathy. On number 29 it is a quote that says, "Put yourself in someone else's shoes." This means that if someone is struggling at something, you should help them, for you have struggled as well. The picture on number 31 shows a homeless man holding a mirror over his face while a man walks by. This picture teaches us to take care of the homeless because if you were in their situation, you would need the help that they need. The picture on number 37 shows a polar bear floating on an iceberg and a human floating on the planet Earth. The polar bear is saying, "And how do you like it?" This means that we are mistreating the polar bears, while destroying the planet in the process, so soon we will be in the same situation as the polar bears. Empathy is a common topic in this book because we are reading a story from a person who thinks very differently than we do, and if only everyone read this book we learn how to treat another.