

The Curious Empathy Board

Quotes of Empathy:

1. "I pulled the fork out of the dog and lifted him into my arms and hugged him" (Page 3)
2. "Sometimes these things would make mother and father really angry and they would shout at me or shout at each other." (Page 47)
3. "I used to think that mother and father would get a divorce. This was because of the stress of looking after someone who has behavioral problems like I have." (Page 45-46)
4. "She had sent me lots of love and had my get well card on the table beside her bed. Father said that she liked it very much." (Page 26)
5. "And then I saw Toby, and he was also in the lower-down bit where the rails were... And I bent down to catch Toby but he ran off." (Page 182)

Question 1: I really do believe through reading the book and exploring through Christopher's life, I have learned an immense amount about my capacity of empathy. I have learned through the journey of Christopher how hard life can be for people with behavioral issues such as kids like Christopher. I hadn't noticed before, but after reading the book, I began to really be able to see how Christopher, and people like him, see the world. I can now put myself in their shoes and understand the struggles they go through while dealing with the simplest situations. An example is visiting a new place. Someone like me just scans the room and doesn't notice details, but now I understand that someone like Christopher notices every little detail there is and gains anxiety when things are moved around. Reading this novel will help me in life in a way that I will no longer judge by first glance and try to use the theme of empathy and put myself in his or her shoes. I will try to understand what they are going through before making assumptions. Christopher has taught me to really take in all the little specifics of life and not only take a glance.

By: Stephanie



Hoovering



"Christopher, if you do not behave I swear I shall knock the living daylights out of you"

C



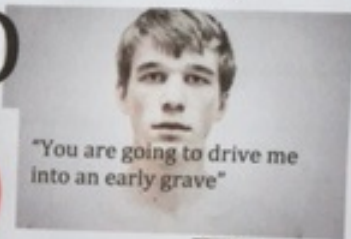
"I can't choose. So confused. What does it all mean? I want my own thing. So bad I'm gonna scream!"

I



UGH!!

D



E



J

"I don't like you"



Q



K

O



8 years old and 5 months



R



M

Explanation: This novel was about a boy named Christopher living with Asperger's. Through the story you get to follow Christopher's journey through his perspective putting yourself in his shoes. This is what then leads us to the main theme of the book, empathy. My empathy board is based on Christopher's misbehavior chart on page 46-47. Each photo or quote on the front side, represents me, putting myself in Christopher's brain and thinking the way he thinks. Or, another way you can call it, empathy towards Christopher. To start, as you can see everything is jumbled and has no order what so ever. This relates to empathy because it represents how when things aren't perfectly organized, Christopher begins to feel anxiety and fear. So, I made it all mixed up to try and feel the way he does. All the letters represent his misbehavior chart, which is listed in letters from A-R. Some segments of the chart are quite obvious such as all the brown and yellow items with a cross through it because Christopher hates brown and yellow. Also, the car in the wall for the time he crashed his mother's car into a wall, but others are more difficult. On the top right is a jar of peanut butter, which represents his analogy on stupid things. "Stupid things are things like emptying a jar of peanut butter onto the table in the kitchen and..." (Page 47). Next to the jar is a dizzy face and the word "Hoovering" on top. This represents how Christopher gets dizzy and scared when his mother did "hoovering" (moving things around). The chairs in random places also represent his fear of change in furniture in a room. Then, we get to the broken glass, which represents two things. The literal characterization is of how when Christopher gets angry, he tends to break things such as glass. However the other representation connects to Christopher's brain in a way that when things aren't perfect or organized his brain shatters almost like glass and he can't seem to control himself. All around the board are serious faces, which symbolize how Christopher sometimes will never ever smile and the child with the tape on his mouth, represents how once, Christopher went a full 5 weeks without talking to someone. Although I wish I could explain every little detail like Christopher would, I'm running out of space on the page so I am going to explain one last picture. To the far left you will see an image of a crowded group of black and grey people and then one green person standing out. This also symbolizes two things. The simple explanation is that it shows how Christopher doesn't like to be in small spaces with many people. But the other description is that it represents how Christopher is different from others and he stands out. Even though his parents may find him difficult at times, aside from all his "Misbehaviors" in his list, he may just be one of the wisest, most logical, caring and kind character I have read about. Many people around him may not realize it, but after putting myself in Christopher's shoes while reading this book, and empathizing and understanding how he sees things, I really appreciate how important being different is. You don't really know something about someone until you live through it. That is how my Empathy board connects to the theme of empathy in the book, "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime".