

5 Quotes

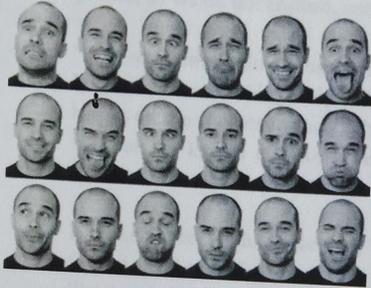
1. "We do this because sometimes Father wants to give me a hug, but I do not like hugging people, so we do this instead, and it means that he loves me."
2. "And sometimes Mrs. Shears stayed overnight at our house and I liked it when she did because she made things tidy and she arranged the jars and pans and tins in order of their height on the shelves in the kitchen and she always made their labels face outwards and she put the knives and forks and spoons in the correct compartments in the cutlery drawer."
3. And then, after a while, she said, "Christopher, let me hold your hand. Just for once. Just for me. Will you? I won't hold it hard," and she held out her hand. And I said, "I don't like people holding my hand." And she took her hand back and she said, "No. OK. That's OK."
4. "Mrs. Forbes said that hating yellow and brown is just being silly. And Siobhan said that she shouldn't say things like that and everyone has favourite colors. And Siobhan was right."
5. "If you do start to feel sad about this, I want you to know that you can come and talk to me about it. Because I think talking to me will help you feel less sad. And if you don't feel sad but you just want to talk to me about it. That would be OK, too. Do you understand?"

Comprehension Question

Growing up with a brother who has Asperger's enables me to understand how Christopher processes information. Theory of Mind is the ability to understand one's own and other's desires, views, emotions, and objectives. Individuals with Asperger's are unable to do so as they think concretely and logically. Christopher expresses discomfort and an inability to understand jokes as words with multiple meanings confuse him. If a joke involves an idiom of speech such as "it's raining cats and dogs", my brother becomes confused and I must explain the joke's meaning afterwards. Misleading someone with Asperger's is very easy as they do not question your intention. If I want to watch television or use the computer, I say it is for school, and he will let me do so without questions. When Christopher sees his father crying, the father uses Wellington's death as an excuse to avoid questioning. These ways of processing information differ between those with the disability and those without.

Curious Incident Empathy Board:

1.



2.



3.



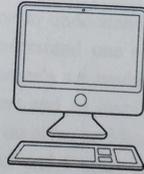
4.



5.



6.



7.



8.



Explanations of Images

In *the curious incident of the dog in the night-time*, Christopher, a boy with Asperger's, has difficulty coping with the outside world. Though the images and designs chosen, I create a clear connection between the empathy I feel for Christopher and how it is viewed within the book. The first image is a face from a micro expressions test. Christopher has difficulty understanding all forms of non-verbal communication. I empathize with Christopher as I see the difficulty my brother experiences as I help him learn to interpret emotions through detailed pic sim charts. The image of the dog represents Wellington's death. I empathize with Christopher's love for animals and his pain in seeing the dead dog, regardless of his lack of connection to it. I have also felt this pain when I lost my pet dog recently. All the images are printed in black and white representing Christopher's concrete way of thought. As a result, he is unable to comprehend jokes. My brother always needs detailed explanations of a joke's multiple meanings. I empathize with Christopher as jokes are a form of joyful self-expression that he cannot experience. The picture of an astronaut conveys Christopher's inability to pursue his dreams due to his fear of leaving home. As a child I dreamt of playing professional basketball but knew I could not due to my height. I empathize with Christopher's loss of a dream due to an overwhelming obstacle. The following image represents Christopher's first encounter with a police officer. Despite the officer recognizing Christopher's disability, he shows a lack of empathy, treating Christopher as any other person in a similar situation. The image of Christopher and Siobhan represents Siobhan's empathy towards him. Siobhan assumes responsibility for teaching Christopher life skills including understanding emotions through facial recognition charts and self-advocacy in writing his book. The computer represents Christopher's brain. When a computer exceeds its capacity, it eventually shuts down. Like a computer, Christopher overloads when faced with too much information. His head begins to hurt and must isolate himself by curling up and covering his ears. I empathize with Christopher as I often feel this "overload" when overwhelmed with work. The image of the world symbolizes Christopher's idea of how his deceased mother is still everywhere. Christopher is unable to comprehend how loved ones remain with us spiritually. He creates a logical scientific explanation that comforts him. I empathize with Christopher as I see the difficulty my brother faced dealing with our grandfathers death. All pictures are arranged in a very organized fashion. Just like Christopher, who requires organization in all aspects of his life, I too require this. I empathize with him as my perfectionist tendencies create frustration when I do not complete my work to the best of my abilities. The final image is the written word "Asperger's", which relates to my previous answer. Growing up with my sibling creates challenges that taught me a different perspective on people and enabled me to develop empathy for others. This has enhanced my connection to Christopher's experiences in life.