



MOUNT NOTRE DAME

Empowering Young Women

MND British Literature CPX Summer Reading Assignment 2021 *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime* by Mark Haddon

Hello Scholars!

Welcome, to British Literature class. We are excited to accompany you on this journey of discovery as you immerse yourself in learning about the literature of Britain from its earliest days to the present. We hope you enjoy the award-winning novel we have chosen as your Summer reading and we encourage you to start the school year off by completing this first assignment to your best ability. As you scroll down you will find helpful suggestions on how to do it well.

*Incoming Seniors will also submit a first draft of a college essay.

The Assignment: Read and Annotate the Novel.

For your summer reading assignment, you will annotate your book as you read. Annotation encourages close reading and keeps you engaged in a text by recording your thoughts during the reading process. **To annotate a text, write meaningful questions, comments, and observations on the annotation sheets provided.** These annotations will be submitted to your English teacher for a grade. If you prefer to type your annotations rather than write them by hand and save them all in a single word document, that is acceptable. Use the example below a model for completing your annotation sheets:

Page Number: 39	Quotation from Book: "Say, you sure was right about him. Maybe he ain't bright, but I never see such a worker... There ain't nobody can keep up with him."
Annotation Number: 1	Annotation: Characterization of Lenny; he is not in the scene

You must **include the quotation and page number** to which each annotation is referring. If you are annotating a large passage, record the most important sentence or two from that passage. Be sure to spread your annotations out evenly across the book.

Perhaps the simplest way to distribute your annotations is to divide the pages in your book by 50 (the minimum expected number of annotations); the result is how many pages between annotations. (Example: 200 page book/50 annotations = one annotation every 4 pages) There are more sample annotations on the following pages.

As you read your text, consider all of the ways that you can connect with what you are reading. Don't overuse the same type of annotation. Instead, use a variety of approaches to record your reactions to your book. Here are some suggestions that will help you with your annotations:



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- Offer an analysis or interpretation of what is happening in the text.
- Point out and discuss literary techniques the author is using.
- Explain the effects of syntax, method, figurative language and other techniques on the text.
- Ask specific questions about what you don't understand.
- Make connections to other parts of the book.
- Make connections to other texts you have read or to things you have seen, including movies, comic books/graphic novels, news events, other books, stories, plays, songs, or poems
- Paraphrase or summarize a particularly difficult or meaningful passage or moment from the text.
- Make connections to your own life experiences.
- Describe a new perspective you may have now.
- Explain the historical context or traditions/social customs that are used in the passage.

By doing this well, you will be prepared for the discussions and the assignments on the story that will take place the first few weeks of school.

Examples of Good Annotations

Note: You are not expected to write this many annotations per page. These examples are just meant to show you a variety of things you might record in your annotations. See the rubric for number of annotations that are expected.

OF MICH AND MRN 39

thing," Slim repeated. "Say, you sure
 him. Maybe he ain't bright, but I never
 ker. He damn near killed his partner
 there ain't nobody can keep up with
 why I never seen such a strong guy."
 proudly. "Jus' tell Lennie what to
 if it don't take no figuring. He can't
 to do himself, but he sure can take

lang of horseshoe on iron stake out-
 beer of voices.

ck slightly so the light was not on his

face. "Funny how you an' him string along together."
 It was Slim's calm invitation to confidence.

"What's funny about it?" George demanded defen-
sively.

"Oh, I dunno. Hardly none of the guys ever travel
 together. I hardly never seen two guys travel together.

You know how the hands are, they just come in and
 get their bunk and work a month, and then they quit
 and go out alone. Never seem to give a damn about
 nobody. It jus' seems kinda funny a cuckoo like him
 and a smart little guy like you travelin' together."

"He ain't no cuckoo," said George. "He's dumb as
 hell, but he ain't crazy. An' I ain't so bright neither, or I
 wouldn't be buckin' barley for my fifty and found. If I
 was bright, if I was even a little bit smart, I'd have my
 own little place, an' I'd be bringin' in my own crops,
 'stead of doin' all the work and not getting what comes
 up outta the ground." George fell silent. He wanted to
 talk. Slim neither encouraged nor discouraged him. He
 just sat back quiet and receptive.

"It ain't so funny, him an' me goin' aroun' together,"

more light and sound imagery

Kind of like the two guys in the movie Due Date

foreshadowing?

why "defensively"?

Reminds me of my brother who wants to be his own boss.



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ALTHOUGH THERE WAS evening brightness showing through the windows of the bunkhouse, inside it was dusk. Through the open door came the thuds and occasional clangs of a horseshoe game, and now and then the sound of voices raised in approval or derision.

Slim and George came into the darkening bunkhouse together. Slim reached up over the card table and turned on the tin-shaded electric light. Instantly the table was brilliant with light, and the cone of the shade threw its brightness straight downward, leaving the corners of the bunkhouse still in dusk. Slim sat down on a box and George took his place opposite.

"It wasn't nothing," said Slim. "I would of had to drowned most of 'em anyways. No need to thank me about that."

George said, "It wasn't much to you, maybe, but it ~~was~~ could this

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"It wasn't nothing," said Slim. "I would of had to drowned most of 'em anyways. No need to thank me about that."

George said, "It wasn't much to you, maybe, but it was a hell of a lot to him. Jesus Christ, I don't know how we're gonna get him to sleep in here. He'll want to sleep right out in the barn with 'em. We'll have trouble keepin' him from getting right in the box with them pups."

Handwritten annotations include:

- Is the light symbolic?
- auditory imagery sets the scene
- dialect indicates lack of education
- Huh?
- fun!
- why?
- why?
- Slim is dumb.
- IDC
- ☺

Inadequate Annotations

(Annotations Like These Will NOT Earn Credit for this assignment)



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Summer Reading Annotations Rubric

	Novice 6	Apprentice 7	Proficient 8	Distinguished 10
Quality of Annotations	Annotations are random and show little understanding of the novel.	Annotations are mostly at the surface level. The commentary shows some deeper thought but not throughout the text.	Annotations demonstrate some analysis and interpretation – thinking somewhat beyond the surface level of the text. Attempts at making connections.	Annotations demonstrate analysis and interpretation – thinking beyond the surface level of the text. Thoughtful connections made to other texts, or other events throughout the novel.
Thoroughness of Annotations	Less than 30 annotations	At least 30 annotations	At least 40 annotations	At least 50 annotations
Variety of Annotations	Annotations only ask brief questions or only have one-word comments.	Annotations contain a mixture of brief questions, comments, and observations.	Annotations contain a mixture of reasonable questions, observations, comments and reflections.	Annotations contain a thorough mixture of significant questions, observations, comments, and reflections.



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Summer Reading Annotations (Record Your Annotations along with the Page Number from Your Book)

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