



Summer Assignment, 2017-18

Humanities

English 12

Gleicher

LEARNING INTENTION

Students will be able to identify the stages of a quest narrative and better understand the characteristics of Asperger's Syndrome. Students will have the option to submit a draft of their college essays to work on with the instructor so that they are better prepared for the application process this fall.

DESCRIPTION OF ASSIGNMENT

Part 1: Students will read *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime* and respond to one of the following prompts in the form of an analytical essay.

1. How does Christopher see the world around him? What is his attitude toward people (ones he knows and ones he does not know), places (his home, school, nature, the town and neighborhood where he lives), objects, animals, etc.?
2. Explain the ideal parent/child interaction and communication. How is Christopher's interaction different from the ideal?
3. What is the definition of lying? Explain Christopher's feelings about lying. How does this relate to his use of the literary devices *metaphor* and *simile*? How do his feelings about lying lead Christopher to leave home? (A *metaphor* is the use of a word or phrase to refer to something that it isn't, implying a similarity between the word or phrase used and the thing described, and without the words "like" or "as". A *simile* is like a metaphor; it is the comparison of two unlike objects using the words *like* or *as*.)
4. What impact does a narrator have on a story? How does Christopher being the narrator affect how the story is told? How would the story be different if a different character told the story?
5. Is the ending of the novel happy, sad, or both? Support your answer with examples from the novel.

Your response should be in standard MLA format with formal language. Please do not use first or second person. In addition to a clear thesis statement, your essay should incorporate an introduction, conclusion, and several body paragraphs. Direct evidence (quotations!) should be used to support your argument. Logical topic sentences and appropriate transitions will be essential to your success.

Part 2: Students have the option of submitting a draft of their college essay to work on independently with the instructor. These won't be graded, but will be critiqued with the intent to improve the student's chance for admission at the college of their choice.

Essays may be submitted as printed copies or digitally on the first day of class. Please feel free to reach out to rachel.gleicher@woosterschool.org if you have any questions or concerns.