Chapters 179–211

This marks the beginning of the second part of the novel. Explain how you know this. Why does Christopher say he can’t live in the house with father anymore? What is your reaction to this? What is clear to the reader that Christopher doesn’t understand when he decides to live with Mrs Shears? When Christopher makes the decision to go to London, what obstacles does he face/ What characteristics does he show as he overcomes each obstacle?

* Christopher thinks he cant live in the house with his dad because he is violent and Christopher thinks his father will eventually hurt him. The reaction we got was that we were shocked, surprised that he would think that of his father after all the years he has cared for him.
* When Christopher takes the trip to London there are many obstacles he faces while doing this. Such as his fear of lots of people around him, not being able to understand instructions 100 per cent, and plainly being confused as to where he is because he has never been out of the house without his father, “this was frightening because I was lost and because I do not forget things”. A characteristic he shows while doing this is that he is determined in some way, even though he was very frightened he didn’t give up and turn around, he was so focused on living with his mum, just shows how scared he was of his father( even though he shouldn’t be because in my opinion his father is more of a parent than his mother, a parent does not give up when things get hard). “…father finding me and that made me feel even more frightened and when I thought about that i felt like I was going to be sick again”

Why doesn’t Christopher like new things? How long had Christopher been sitting in the café? How had the lady described him? Christopher often refers to ‘other people’ and the way they think as ‘silly’. Why is Christopher so critical or dismissive of others? What is your reaction to his criticism?

* Christopher prefers to stick with things he knows otherwise he would get scared.
* He had been sitting in the café for 2 and a half hours. A lady there had tried talking to Christopher but he was in a complete trance. I think this had happened because he was confused and he couldn’t get things organised in his mind, everything felt boggled in his brain.
* Christopher is so critical of others because in my opinion they are not like him, they do not think like him or act like him, but people that would be like him wouldn’t be considered as ‘other people’.

Why does Christopher like timetables? This policeman speaks very differently to the previous officer. What is Christopher’s response to the policeman? What is yours? Why does Haddon introduce two such different policemen? In the first section of the book Christopher is in a familiar and (relatively) safe environment. Although we learn of many of his disabilities, he also displays his remarkable abilities. What do we realise in this second section of the novel?

* Christopher likes timetables because he feels organised, and he can think properly without getting confused.
* Christopher’s felt safe with the policeman “I started feeling better because I like policeman” but then again he got scared because he didn’t want to get arrested or taken home back to his father, who he thought would try and hurt him. The reaction we got was that reassuring feeling for Christopher, now that there is a policeman watching we as the readers know nothing bad will happen to him.
* In this second section of the novel we realise he is capable of doing stuff he thinks he is afraid of, that they are possible for him.

Why doesn’t he like it on the train? What did he do when younger to avoid too many people around him? What happens when Christopher sees too many new things? Why would getting in the shelves calm Christopher down?

* The train is to noisy.
* “a train is like a room and you cant get out of it when its moving”
* He got in the shelves because it was dark and quite, with no one around him.

What does the presentation of the signs show us about Christopher sees

things? Why does Christopher groan? What do the descriptions of the train

station tell us about Christopher’s memory? ‘And I thought I can do this

because I was doing really well and I was in London and I would find my mother.’

What is your response to Christopher’s journey so far? What is your response

to Christopher’s confidence?

* The response to Christopher’s journey to London was as if he is bringing back the past in some way, how he use to act, because he has not changed the way he is yet, he has not overcome any fears.
* The response to Christopher’s confidence was that he was being brave, not in a huge way, but for him it was a huge improvement, although he was still scared and did not overcome those particular fears of being around people, he still managed to leave the house, and that’s huge for him.