**What test is Christopher going to sit? What evidence is there to show how his father feels about Christopher, about Swindon? Are Christopher’s plans for the future realistic?**

Christopher is going to sit the A level maths exam. His father believes that maths is something that Christopher is good at. He states it in page 57 “Jesus, this is the one thing he is really good at”. His father says in page 58 “Swindon is the arsehole of the world” this shows that he want to leave maybe because of bad memories. We do not believe that Christopher’s plans for the future are realistic because we don’t see Chris finding a woman to marry or making a lot of money because of his personality and not being able to socialize well.

**What was his mother and father’s relationship like? What is Christopher Diagnosed as having? Christopher reveals some self-awareness in this chapter. Explain this. There is a tension between how Christopher regards his own “Behavioural Problems” and his lack of awareness of the effect he has on his parents. Explain this, backing up your ideas with evidence from the chapter. What is your reaction to his parents at this point in the book?**

Christopher’s parents didn’t have a very good relationship because of the stress that their son’s illness caused. Christopher has Asperger’s syndrome that is characterized by significant difficulties in social interaction, alongside restricted and repetitive patterns of behavioural problems and interests. From these difficulties that Christopher’s parents endured every day, this had a huge impact on their relationship. Page 59, ‘I used to think that mother and father might get divorced… this was because of the stress of looking after someone who has behavioural problems like I have’. Page 60, father would say “Christopher, if you do not behave I swear I shall knock the living day lights out of you” Page 61, or mother would say “You are going to drive me into an early grave” By these statements Christopher developed an impression that he was the reason his parents had so much conflict between them. We think that because of the huge stress that would have built up along the journey of dealing with Christopher’s illness, it a fair point to agree that this would have an immense impact on the relationship between his parents which sadly did result in a divorce.

**How does father react to the mentioning of Mr Shears? What do father’s actions and speech tell you (in detail) you will need to read between the lines. Why won’t Christopher eat the broccoli and ham? After reading the chapter, explain the significance of the explanation at the beginning and Christopher’s final statement**.

When Christopher mentions Mr Shears his father responds angrily suggesting that something has gone on in the past between them although we do not know what it is and neither does Christopher which confuses him to why his father would get get so angry. Page 63 “Father banged the table with his fist really hard so that the plates and his knife and fork jumped around”. He also says “That man is evil” which again shows something has taken place which has made Christophers father think of Mr Shears in such a hateful way. Christopher does not eat the broccoli and ham because when his father bangs the table they moved to touch each other which means Christopher won’t eat it anymore as we can see on page 59 in his list of behavioural problems he says “Not eating food if different sorts of food are touching each other”. Christopher’s final explanation on page 64 “I promise” is significant because of his behavioural problems from his Asperger’s he cannot lie as he doesn’t understand lies and why people would want to so making a promise to his father he knows that he cannot break it although it leaves us thinking how Christopher will find out the mystery about who killed the dog now that he has made this promise to his father.

**Why does Christopher think he would like to be an astronaut? Why would**

**Christopher makes a good astronaut? What does Christopher discover about Mr Shears from Mrs Alexander?**

He thinks he has the necessary skills to be one such as being intelligent and understanding machines. On page 65 Christopher says, “To be a good astronaut you have to be intelligent and I’m intelligent. You also have to understand how machines work and I’m good at understanding how machines work. He also tells us that you need to like being alone which you would be for a very long time out at space and he would be okay with that if he was alone. He would make a good astronaut as being alone far away from civilisation means he doesn’t have to face the things he doesn’t like anymore and it would be like living in his own world where everything is right for him. When Christopher questioned Mrs Alexander about Mr Shears he ends up finding out more than first planned. He finds out that his mother is really not dead, but that Mr Shears and his mother had an affair which resulted in the breakup of his mother and father. It also answers why his father got so upset whenever Christopher mentioned Mr Shears as it brought back bad memories.

**In what ways does Siobhan show patience and understanding of Christopher? The chapter ends with Christopher experiencing two ‘Black Days’, what do we learn about the connection between Christopher’s sense of order and his emotions?**

Siobhan shows patience as she can answer all of his questions without getting frustrated or annoyed as she knows he cannot interact well with others and by communicating back to him knowing how to talk to him Christopher feels like he can talk to Siobhan easily. We can see on page 68 where she says “I’m sorry Christopher I wish I could answer all these questions but I simply don’t know” which shows a bit about her personality staying calm while dealing with all the questions he has for her although she has no idea. From his Asperger’s when Christopher sees 4 yellow cars in a row he sees this as almost a punishment and he doesn’t allow himself to be happy. On page 68 he says, “I didn’t speak to anyone and for the whole afternoon I sat in the corner of the library groaning with my head pressed intot he join between the two walls, and this made me feel calm and safe” this shows that when he experiences a ‘black day’ then he feels like he has to punish himself which makes him feel at ease. After two black days in a row he is allowed to close his eyes all the way to school which maybe suggests that his sense of order goes in threes.

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