Chapters 97–109

Why does Christopher decide he can ‘chat’ to Mrs Alexander? What was

so hard for Christopher when Mrs Alexander put the poo in the

bin? What does Christopher find out about his mother? What is his

reaction and what do you think of his reaction?

Christopher thought he could talk to Mrs Alexander because it was a super good

Day “Then I thought that this was a super good day and something special

hadn’t happened yet so it was possible that talking to Mrs Alexander was the

special thing.” Page 70-71

It was hard for Christopher when Mrs alexander put the poo in the bin because he doesn’t like things that are brown and a brown thing went into one of his favourite colours which made him fell funny, “She walked to the little red box on a pole next to the gate to the park and put Ivor’s poo into the box, which was a brown thing inside a red thing which made my head feel funny so I didn’t look.” page 73

Christopher found out that his mother Judy Boone, had an affair with Mr Shears, Mrs Alexander said, “Your mother, before she died, was very good friends with Mr Shears…No Christopher….I mean that they were very good friends, Very, very good friends”…”Do you mean that they were having sex?” “Yes, Christopher. That is what I mean.” Christopher was taken back a bit or shocked about the news he was told and changed from wanting to talk to Mrs Alexander to leaving the park, “I’m scared of being in the park with you because you’re a stranger.” page 77

What are the two decision-making tools Christopher is mulling over?

Explain the irony of Christopher saying “… intuition can sometimes get

things wrong… But logic can help you work out the right answer.” How is

Mr Jeavons wrong about Christopher’s love of maths?

The two decision making tools Christopher is mulling over is the diagram of the

possible outcomes and the math form of the possible outcomes.

Mr Jeavon’s is wrong about Christopher’s love of math because sometimes its very complicated and not very straightforward and because its better to use logic than your intuition because your intuition is sometimes wrong. “And this shows that intuition can sometimes get things wrong. “it also shows that Mr Jeavons was wrong and numbers are sometimes very complicated and not very straightforward at all…”- page 82

What does Christopher’s Dad do? Christopher says he doesn’t like it when

Rhodri laughs at him. Why, in fact, does Rhodri laugh? Siobhan encourages

Christopher to “include some description of things … so that people could read

them and make a picture in their own head.” Read Christopher’s description. Is

his writing effective? Is it unique?

Christopher’s dad Ed Boone does heating maintenance and boiler repairs.

Christopher doesn’t like it when Rhodri laughs at him because he laughs at him a lot “I don’t like it when Rhodri laughs at me. Rhodri laughs at me a lot.” page 84

It makes his writing effective and unique because it describes a lot of detailed stuff that others won’t find important.

What is Christopher’s favourite book? Why is Christopher like Sherlock

Holmes? What connection does Christopher believe he has with Sherlock

Holmes? What is Christopher unaware that he needs if he is to be a

successful detective?

The Hounds of the Baskervilles is Christopher’s favourite book because “it’s a detective story which means that there are clues and Red Herrings” and because Christopher likes Sherlock Holmes.

Christopher is like Sherlock Holmes because he notices little things which nobody else would notice, “The world is full of obvious things which nobody by any chance ever observes.” Also because if Christopher is really into something he just puts his mind to that and doesn’t notice anything else, “Sherlock Holmes had, in a very remarkable degree, the power of detaching his mind at will.” Which means Christopher “gets really interested in something, like practising maths, or reading a book about the Apollo missions, or Great White Sharks, I don’t notice anything else and Father can be calling me to come and eat my supper and I won’t hear him.” Page 92

The connection that Christopher thinks he has with Sherlock Holmes is that if he was a proper detective he would be like Sherlock Holmes “...Very intelligent and solves mysteries” e,g like how Christopher is solving the mystery of who killed Mrs Shears dog, Wellington.

Why Christopher is not sad about finding out his mother had an affair? How is

this ironic? Christopher has a very distinctive way of retelling conversations.

Describe his technique with references to the text. Why does he retell

conversations this way, and what is the effect? How is it different to the

language used to introduce ‘normal’ literary dialogue? Haddon often juxtaposes

exciting and/or emotional moments with very mundane descriptions of events.

Give an example from this chapter. What is the effect?

Christopher is not sad about finding out that his mother had an affair because he said “Mother is dead. And because Mr Shears isn’t around anymore”, and he thinks its stupid to be sad at something “that isn’t real or doesn’t exist.” Page 95