*Discussion about Mark Haddon’s novel The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time.*

*Option #1: What message or theme does the novel present about lying? You might consider the following questions in developing your interpretive argument:*

*What does the novel suggest about the causes and effects of lying?*

*Does the novel distinguish among different types of lies?*

*Does the novel offer a judgment about lying?*

*How do Christopher’s beliefs and behavior complicate the novel’s message about lying?*

*What does the novel help us understand about lying and human relationships, communication, motives, values, and/or capacity for self-knowledge?*

*Support your argument with evidence from the novel, other readings, and your personal observations and experiences as relevant.*

*Option #2: What do we learn from Christopher’s story and perspective? What do we learn from his mother’s and father’s perspectives? What do we learn from synthesizing multiple perspectives? Consider the extent to which the character’s various perspectives—and their collective impact—reveal truths or insights about human nature. Support your argument with evidence from the novel, other readings, and your personal observations and experiences as relevant.*

*Option #3: How does Christopher define love and truth? Do these definitions change over the course of the novel? How do other characters define these concepts? To what extent do you agree or disagree with these definitions? (question of definition)*

*Option #4: Ursula Le Guin says that “a novelist’s business is lying.” What does this mean? To what extent do you agree or disagree with her characterization of novelists and novel writing? Support your position with examples from The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time, as well as from other sources and your own experience as relevant. (question of definition)*

*Option #5: To what extent is an exceptional perspective an advantage? Discuss the drawbacks and/or benefits of being able to see things differently from other people, using examples from The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time, as well as from other sources and your own experience as relevant. (question of quality).*

*Option #6: In “The Ways We Lie,” Stephanie Ericsson challenges the assumption that, in some cases, the truth will cause more harm than a lie. She condemns white lies as an act of arrogance: “[…] in effect, it is the liar deciding what is best for the lied to. Ultimately, it is a vote of no confidence. It is an act of subtle arrogance for anyone to decide what is best for someone else” (181). Write an argumentative essay in which you evaluate whether or not Christopher’s father was justified in lying to his son in Mark Haddon’s novel The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time. Consider Ericsson’s criticism of white lies, and establish your own ethical criteria for making this judgment. For instance, do you believe the end justifies the means? Or do you think there are absolute ethical principles we must follow regardless of the outcome? In other words, are some things always right or always wrong? Include an analysis of Christopher’s father’s reason for lying about Christopher’s mother. Support your position with evidence from the novel, the other reading in this module, and your personal observations and experiences as relevant. (question of quality)*