

Extract: THE CURIOUS INCIDENT OF THE DOG IN THE NIGHT-TIME (a novel by Mark Haddon)

This is a murder mystery *novel*¹. Siobhan said that I should write something I would want to read myself. Mostly I read books about science and maths. I do not like proper novels.... Siobhan has long blond hair and wears glasses which are made of green plastic. And Mr. Jeavons smells of soap and wears brown shoes that have approximately 60 tiny circular holes in each of them. But I do like murder mystery novels. So I am writing a murder mystery novel. In a murder mystery novel someone *has to*² work out who the murderer is and then catch them. It is a puzzle. If it is a good puzzle you can sometimes *work out*³ the answer before the end of the book. Siobhan said that the book should begin with something *to grab people's attention*⁴. That is why I started with the dog. I also started with the dog because it happened to me and I find it hard to imagine things which did not happen to me.

Questions

1. What advice did Siobhan give the *narrator*⁵?
 - a) To write a murder mystery novel
 - b) To write about a dog
 - c) To start the book in an interesting way

2. Which of the following is true?
 - a) The narrator reads lots of novels.
 - b) The narrator likes one particular type of novel.
 - c) The narrator dislikes all types of novels.

3. Which of the following is false?
 - a) A murder mystery novel is like a puzzle.
 - b) The narrator's novel describes an event from his life.
 - c) The narrator finds it easy to understand other people.

SEE ANSWERS OVERLEAF

¹ Novel: a long story written about imaginary characters and events

² Has to: infinitive "have to" – expresses obligation (have to = must)

³ Work out: find/discover

⁴ To grab someone's attention: to attract attention

⁵ Narrator: the character who tells the story



COMPREHENSION B1: 1

Answers

1. c
2. b
3. c