

Student Name

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### Feeling Fear

Imagine having no emotional response to a situation or experience in life. Imagine not being able to cry at the death of a family member, smile when a goal is achieved, frown on a rainy day, or laugh at a funny joke. Christopher Boone is not a typical teenage boy and does not experience any of these feelings because of his autism. His world revolves around writing a murder mystery novel as he tries to solve the death of a neighbor's dog. Through this mystery, he learns of the lies and deceit of his father, as he discovers his mother never died of a heart attack and his father is a murderer. At this moment, Christopher begins to feel afraid, one of the only emotions he is capable of experiencing. In *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*, author Mark Haddon demonstrates that betrayal leads to courage through situational irony and the autism of the 15-year-old Christopher Boone.

Unfortunate experiences and unexpected situations frighten Christopher and force him to grow up, which is depicted through the situational irony of the novel. When Christopher discovers the dishonesty of his father, he "screams(x) and yells(y)" him, refusing to speak with him (Haddon 120). The irony of this situation is that Christopher's father had once represented the only safe haven for him in life. However, discovering his father's dishonesty forces Christopher to realize that even his father is not safe and is not perfect. His father's deceit sets up the ironic situation that traps Christopher to face his fear of leaving his neighborhood. As Christopher learns from his most safe home, he concludes that there is "nothing he [can] do which