

To write a book, authors have the choice between two types of narration: the first & third person narration. On the one hand, there is first person narration. The aim is to be in the main character's mind and be aware of their thoughts and feelings. But readers can't know the other characters' points of view. On the other hand, there is third person narration. This type of narration is much more neutral: Readers know every characters' thoughts, or none of them.

In his book, "*The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*", Mark Haddon decided to use the first person narration through a young, autistic boy, Christopher Boone, who is writing a mystery novel.

The first person narration is usually used to make readers more sympathetic toward the main character, and make the story more realistic. In this case, it's a really good idea because, as an autistic boy, Christopher gives a lot of detailed descriptions; that are useful in a mystery novel. For example, on page 175, Christopher says '*There are 19 cows in the field, 15 of which are black and white and 4 of which are brown & white.*' It's interesting because readers can discover autistic minds with a narrator who is autistic. As Christopher says on page 19, '*I find people confusing.*'

It's also cleverer to use a first-person narration for a mystery novel. In this way, readers can't know which character is the murderer!

But there are disadvantages, too. Most of the time it's because readers only know about the narrator's experiences. In the book, descriptions can change into a disadvantage. We know that Christopher does great and detailed descriptions, but never about the most important things. On page 223, he'd rather describe a man's clothes than his facial expression: '*It was a man who was wearing a green raincoat...*'. But the author gets round it with the dialogue that Christopher reports in his book, as the narrator.

We think that it is a really good choice by Mark Haddon to use the first person narration for his book, because it shows the mind and thoughts of an autistic boy, and it's very interesting to solve a murder with all the advantages or disadvantages that an autistic narrator brings. According to us, a third person narrator would have been less interesting and less fun.