

Christopher's way of solving problems

Christopher Boone is a special boy – he is autistic. His way of being is different from ours. He is not different because of his looks or style of clothes but because of his way of understanding the world and his way of reaction. His way of looking upon this human world is very rational and logical. This is why he copes every-day problems in a rational, almost mathematical way.

There are a lot of beautiful illustrations of this peculiar feature of his in the novel. However, the most powerful one is his trip to London. On this trip he encounters a lot of new problems that he is not familiar with and is forced to resolve.

He has a hard time being surrounded by new things because his way of perception of novelties is different from ours. He is forced by the very nature of his being to analyse everything new that he comes across with. That is why an excessive amount of novelties causes a stressful psychological situation in him. He is not able to absorb all information and analyse it regularly (sproti?). In his own words, he feels like a computer that broke down because of an excess of information.

To facilitate this process of analysis Christopher uses some quite mathematical techniques to solve his problems. He, for example, draws an imaginary map of train station in his head to be better aware of where he is and where he has to go. When he already knows into which direction he wants to go, he draws an imaginary red line on the floor towards his goal and follows it not to get disturbed by too many new things that surround him on his way.

Another example of his peculiar mathematical way of solving problems is his way of making decisions. When he finds out that Father murdered Wellington he has to decide what he is going to do. He makes a mindset (miselni vzorec) with all the possibilities he can come up with which include "living with Mrs Shears", "going home", "staying in the garden", "going to live with uncle Terry", "going to live with Mother". He looks for arguments for and against each possibility and decides upon this arrangement (ureditev).

Christopher's autism makes his problem-solving more complicated and stressful for him. He has to analyse everything that crosses his mind which demands a lot of his energy and attention which exhausts him intensively. He copes with his problems in a very rational, logical way. His very character forces him to analyse everything that he perceives which disables him to face all the novelties that he encounters.