



Hello World Literature Student,

We welcome you back to St. Joseph Catholic Academy's fine tradition of excellence.

This year, you will encounter a number of adventurous learning experiences. In World Literature, you will have the opportunity to enrich your vocabulary, improve writing and grammar skills, and explore various works and genres of literature from all over the world.

The main thematic topic driving our curriculum this year is the individual and society; it will run throughout our various readings. The examination of this theme and our characters will allow us to discover many new aspects about our world and ourselves.

**To prepare for our year together, your first requirement is to begin your summer assignments. All reading is to be done during the summer. All assignments are expected to be complete and ready to turn in on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of class.**

## **Summer Text:**

*Life of Pi* by Yann Martel

- During the first week of school, students will need a version of the summer novel readily available, whether it is print or digital; we are going to do a graphic organizer art exhibit!
  - If a student would like to purchase and use their own text(s), they are more than welcome.

Sincerely,

SJCA English Department



*Life of Pi* by Yann Martel

Answer the following questions on paper (in a notebook or on loose-leaf, not laptop, unless your accommodation requires typed work); be sure to answer all questions. You do not have to rewrite each question; simply label your answers and **be sure to cite the page.**

Note: Answer length varies by question; some can be answered with one short paragraph (4-7 sentence), but some can be answered in just a sentence. Do your own work – some answers will vary.

Enjoy the book! It's a great read!

**Questions--**

Author's Note

Who do you think is writing the author's note? Is this part of the fiction of *Life of Pi*, or separate from the story?

PART ONE

Chapter 1

What does the sloth symbolize to Pi?

Chapter 2

Why do you think the author interrupts the story with this chapter?

Chapter 4

Pi states that the common belief that animals in the zoos are unhappy is "nonsense" (16). What response does he give to prove the contrary?

Chapter 7

What is the difference between atheists and agnostics? Why does Pi feel that atheists have faith? Why does he dislike agnostics?

Chapter 12

How was tension and suspense created in this chapter?

Chapter 13

Why is a super-alpha male? What is the difference between an alpha and a beta? Why is this important to a lion trainer? Explain.

Chapter 16

What did Pi mean when he said, "But we should not cling! A plague upon fundamentalists and literalists"?



Chapter 17

This chapter dealt with the essence of Christianity. What do you think Pi appreciated the most about the Christian faith?

Chapter 19

What did Pi like about the Islam religion? Why?

Chapter 20

Recount Pi's meeting with God.

Chapter 25

How did Pi cope with the attitudes of other faith believers from the religious institutions?

Chapter 28

By the end of this chapter, how many religions was Pi practicing? Does this seem strange to you? Explain.

Chapter 32

What did the story of the dogs and dolphins suggest about animal-human relationships?

Chapter 36

What do you think is the significance of Pi's statement, "this story has a happy ending"? Why does Martel inform the reader of this now?

PART TWO

Chapter 37

How does Martel immediately create tension at the beginning of this chapter?

Chapter 41

What surprises does Pi discover on the lifeboat? In Pi's opinion, why did the sailors throw him into the lifeboat?

Chapter 50

In point form, provide an accurate description of the lifeboat.

Chapter 52

Pi made a complete list of the items on the lifeboat. If you could have only five of these items, what five items would you choose? Please rank them in order of importance to you.

Chapter 56

In Pi's opinion, what is life's only true opponent? Why?



Chapter 60

How did Pi demonstrate his faith in this chapter?

Chapter 61

What did Pi mean when he stated, “But in point of fact the explanation lies elsewhere. It is simple and brutal: A person can get used to anything, even killing”?

Chapter 70

What did Pi decide to do on the lifeboat to ensure his rights?

Chapter 76

What psychological bullying was Pi playing with Richard Parker? What was Pi’s purpose for doing this?

Chapter 85

How does the description of nature in this chapter differ from the previous chapters? Explain.

Chapter 86

What was ironic about Pi’s statement (“I love you”) to Richard Parker?

Chapter 89

Comment on Pi’s last few diary entries. How are they different than previous ones?

PART THREE

Chapter 97

If you were one of the two men, would you believe Pi’s story? Why or why not?

Chapter 99

In Pi’s new story, who were the orang-utan, the zebra, the hyena, and the tiger?

Chapter 100

Do you think Mr. Okamoto believed Pi’s original story? Why or why not?